



Legislative Update

February 10, 2017

Committee meetings have become more frequent as this year's legislative session continues to build momentum. As in years past, legislators' attention remains focused on education issues, as indicated by a flurry of bills dealing with school-related matters. These bills address a vast array of issues, including school calendar flexibility, charter schools, school bus cameras, and when beginning drivers are permitted to drive back and forth to school activities. It promises to be a very busy session.

However, garnering the most attention this week in education was HB 13, a bill that would make changes to class size ratios in grades K-3. In 2016, the General Assembly moved to reduce class sizes; however, some school officials have expressed concerns regarding funding for additional teachers and classroom space. In order to address this problem, legislators have proposed giving schools more flexibility in their class sizes. HB 13 would allow LEAs to have classes with an average size of up to three students above the funded student-teacher ratio. Additionally, individual classes would be permitted to exceed the aforementioned ratio by up to six (up from three, previously). The House Education Committee and the House Appropriations Committee approved HB 13 this week.

Relevant Bills with Action This Week

Please see link in the email for the list of relevant bills with action.

Committee Meetings/Session: February 13-16

Monday, February 13

- 3:00 House Convenes
- 4:00 Senate Convenes

Tuesday, February 14

- 8:30 AM House and Senate Joint Appropriations, 643 LOB
- 10:00 AM House Education K-12, 643 LOB

Contact Information:

Martez Hill
Executive Director
State Board of Education
919-807-3404
Martez.Hill@dpi.nc.gov

Robb Jansen
State Board of Education
Policy Analyst & Legislative Liaison
919-807-3407
Robb.Jansen@dpi.nc.gov

Anne Murtha
Legislative Specialist
919-807-3403
Anne.Murtha@dpi.nc.gov

Sarah Sturdivant
Legislative Intern
Sarah.Sturdivant@dpi.nc.gov