

## Summary of Select Provisions

### HB259: 2023 Appropriations Act

The House of Representatives released its proposed budget on March 29, 2023. It passed its third reading in the House on April 6, 2023.

Read [the full text of the bill](#).

#### NC Child Priorities in the Budget



##### Expand Medicaid

Medicaid expansion has already passed both chambers of the General Assembly and been signed into law by the Governor. It will be fully enacted once the state budget passes.



##### Increase the child care subsidy reimbursement rate

The House budget allocates \$11.15 million in recurring funds for fiscal year 2024-2025 to increase the state's child care subsidy rate, below the \$24 million that would be needed to raise subsidy rates to the latest, 2021 market rates.



##### Create a child care subsidy reimbursement rate statewide floor

This is not in the House budget.



##### Address children's mental health and prevent child suicide

The House budget makes the following investments:

- \$10 million in recurring funds for a cyberbullying and suicide prevention program via two online services
- \$10 million in nonrecurring funds for child and adolescent mental health facility planning
- \$347.4 million each year of the biennium to hire 120 new school support personnel, school nurses, counselors, or psychologists



### Provide no-cost school lunches

The budget provides \$7.8 million in nonrecurring funds for fiscal year 2023-24 to reduce school lunch debt. It does not make school lunches no-cost for all students.

## Additional Appropriations of Interest in the House Budget

### Smart Start

The budget allocates \$5 million in recurring funds for Smart Start.

### Safe sleep

The House budget allocates \$120 thousand for a safe sleep campaign to reduce infant deaths.

### Paid family leave for public school staff

The House budget allocates \$10 million in recurring funds to support paid family leave for public school staff.

### Kinship care

The House budget allocates \$5.1 million in recurring funds in the 2023-2024 fiscal year and \$10.2 million in recurring funds for fiscal year 2024-2025 to provide assistance payments to individuals who are not licensed foster parents who are providing kinship care to a child in foster care and to provide training to those individuals, in addition to other provisions.

### Tri-Share Child Care Pilot

An amendment to the budget would establish a tri-share child care pilot program to increase access to high-quality, affordable child care with a third being paid by the state, a third paid by the eligible employee, and a third by the participating employer. The bill allocates \$900 thousand for fiscal year 2024-2025 and \$900 thousand for fiscal year 2025-2026.

### Child Care Teacher Subsidy Eligibility and Certification Scholarships

This creates a pilot program in which full-time child care teachers (working 35 hours per week) would automatically be eligible for early childhood education child care subsidies for their children 8 weeks to 5 years of age. The bill would allocate \$10 million dollars for fiscal year 2024-2025, nonrecurring, to create the program. This program also seeks to address the early childhood educator worker shortage by offering scholarships to those without an Early Childhood Education Infant/Toddler

Certificate or Child Development Certificate to pursue one. Certification must be completed within 18 months.

### Wonderschool Pilot

This pilot program would receive \$1.05 million in nonrecurring funding in fiscal year 2024-2025 to create up to 300 new in-home child care programs in partnership with the organization Wonderschool.