

Dear Public Education Allies,

As strong advocates for public schools, we are writing to ask you to join us in acting **now** to urge legislators in the North Carolina General Assembly to amend the state budget when they meet in the short session beginning on May 18.

Call or email your legislator **now. Every legislator has a constitutional responsibility to make sure that public education is fully funded so that all children in North Carolina have an effective teacher to support their learning.**

Tell your legislators that you are deeply concerned about what is happening in our schools and what is **not** happening in the North Carolina General Assembly. The state budget funds only about half of the Comprehensive Remedial Plan which was designed to ensure an effective education for all children. Urge your legislators to amend the budget to fully fund the plan because we need to…

* Increase teacher compensation and expand teacher preparation programs to address the critical shortage of teachers.
* Provide professional development and coaching to help teachers and leaders be effective in ensuring that all students get “on track” academically after significant COVID learning loss.
* Provide targeted funding for the personnel and resources needed to support our neediest students—students with disabilities, limited English proficiency, or whose families are economically disadvantaged.
* Fund additional social work, nurse, and psychologist positions to ensure that students’ social and mental health needs do not impact their academic learning.

The damage from decades of inadequate funding of public schools is now evident. The General Assembly needs to act now in the short session to fully fund public schools. The funds are available, and the state surplus continues to grow.

* **What can we do?**
Communicate your concerns: send a letter/email or call your legislators. Compose your own letter using the key points or use the attached sample letter. Find your legislators here: <https://www.ncleg.gov/FindYourLegislators>
* Vote in the primary on May 17. We need leaders who will make it a priority to fully fund our public education system in North Carolina. [Vote411.org](https://www.vote411.org/) is a robust resource to help voters know where candidates stand on the issues.

Sincerely,

Suzanne (Schweikert) Elsberry, President LWVCM
Jeanne Smith and John Lee, Co-Chairs of the LWVCM Education Committee

Attachment: Sample Letter