Providing students with the opportunity to receive a sound basic education is evaluated in numerous ways, such as the quality of instruction, growth indicators, and standardized scores. It is also reflected in how the state prioritizes education funding. Here is a snapshot of the ways state lawmakers have allocated education spending over the past decade:

**SINCE 2011:**

- **The Average Teacher Salary Has Grown by 20%,** and in 2021-22 that average included an additional $2,800 in bonuses for most teachers.
- **North Carolina’s Average Teacher Salary Went from 7th to 3rd in the Southeast.**
- **Inflation-Adjusted State Expenditures Increased by over $1,000 per Student Through 2021.**
- **NC’s Share of State-Level Funding for K-12 Public Education (61.6%) Is Significantly Higher Than the National Average (47%).**

In 2021, 104 of NC’s 115 school districts spent more than $10,000 per student.

When it comes to student success, education spending is only one part of the equation. NC taxpayers continue to fund our public schools at an exceptional rate. More funding is not a silver bullet.

Teacher salary is an important component of education spending. The Value of Teacher Benefits ($24,091) has increased 80 percent.

The Percentage of the North Carolina General Fund Dedicated to K-12 Education Has Increased Almost Every Year.

In 1997, the North Carolina Supreme Court concluded that “every child of this state [is guaranteed] an opportunity to receive a sound basic education in our public schools.” *(Leandro v. State)*

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