

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*)

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.**

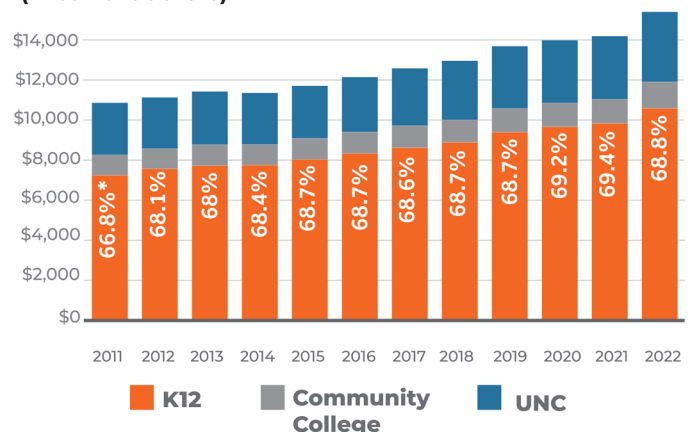


Teacher salary is an important component of education spending. **THE VALUE OF TEACHER BENEFITS (\$24,091) HAS INCREASED 80 PERCENT.**



THE PERCENTAGE OF THE NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL FUND DEDICATED TO K-12 EDUCATION HAS INCREASED ALMOST EVERY YEAR.

Appropriation Expenditures (In Millions) (In current dollars)



SOURCE: APPROPRIATION EXPENDITURES IN EACH FISCAL YEAR FROM OFFICE OF THE STATE CONTROLLER MONTHLY REPORTS
* PERCENTAGE OF GENERAL FUND

ULTIMATELY

WHEN IT COMES TO EDUCATION, IT'S NOT JUST HOW MUCH YOU SPEND, BUT IT'S HOW WELL YOU SPEND IT.