

Legislature Cuts Instructional Funds

Fred Beyer
fbeyer@nc.rr.com



[\(Download printer-friendly pdf version\)](#)

Legislature Cuts Instructional Funds

While our representatives and senators bragged about being good to the schools in a time of fiscal crisis they quietly cut the financial rug from under classroom teachers. During the last session of the legislature our representatives cut 44 million dollars from discretionary funds allocated to each school system in our state. The cut was based on Average Daily Membership (ADM) and kept a carefully guarded secret. As a result, this may be the first time you have heard anything about the reason your instructional supply funds been cut or eliminated all together.

Discretionary funds may be used any way a school system thinks will be of the most benefit to students. In most systems at least some portion of the funds provide instructional supplies. For those of us working in science that means the money to purchase chemicals, prepared slides, dissection specimens and, if we are lucky, some balances, microscopes or other equipment. So, in a time when the congress has mandated science testing and the proposed Standard Course-of-Study requires more student engaged learning in the form of inquiry based lab investigations, our legislators have eliminated the money we need to equip and support the instruction our students must have to do well on the new tests.

If you feel science is being short changed, why not write your legislators, your state and local board of education members, and your local newspaper editor. Ask them why no one has heard about this cut. Ask them how science teachers are supposed to meet the new curriculum standards without equipment and materials for students to use for inquiry based activities. Ask them what kind of message this cut sends to the citizens of your community, county and state about the importance of quality science education.

Before you write look at the list of cuts below. The list will give you a better understanding of the damage done, particularly in small and low wealth school systems. You can use the following two links to secure the names and addresses of your legislators [<http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/NCGAInfo/Directories/emailinfo.html>] and to locate the name and address of your local newspaper's editor [<http://newsdirectory.com/news/press/na/us/nc/>]. Remember to write a well organized letter.

Tell your representatives how the cuts are affecting your classroom. Be firm, but reasonable, make sure they know that the science program is the only program being tested where a lack of equipment will make it difficult if not impossible to do your job and how frustrating that is for you and your fellow science teachers.

If we don't speak up, no one will speak for us. It is up to all the science teachers in North Carolina to demand the resources we need to educate our students in a safe and effective manner. Ask that funds be designated for instructional supplies and equipment so that every school in our state will someday have the resources to provide an effective inquiry based science experience for every student.

[\(Download this table as an Excel Spreadsheet\)](#)

LEA No.	LEA Name	ADM	Discretionary Reduction
010	Alamance County	21,551	\$ (710,840)
020	Alexander County	5,535	(182,567)
030	Alleghany County	1,483	(48,915)
040	Anson County	4,460	(147,109)

050	Ashe County	3,207	(105,780)
060	Avery County	2,399	(79,129)
070	Beaufort County	7,276	(239,992)
080	Bertie County	3,488	(115,049)
090	Bladen County	5,682	(187,416)
100	Brunswick County	10,691	(352,633)
110	Buncombe County	24,624	(812,200)
111	Asheville City	3,928	(129,562)
120	Burke County	14,681	(484,240)
130	Cabarrus County	21,765	(717,899)
132	Kannapolis City	4,448	(146,713)
140	Caldwell County	12,795	(422,032)
150	Camden County	1,459	(48,124)
160	Carteret County	8,144	(268,622)
170	Caswell County	3,483	(114,884)
180	Catawba County	16,734	(551,956)
181	Hickory City	4,401	(145,163)
182	Newton-Conover	2,849	(93,972)
190	Chatham County	7,405	(244,247)
200	Cherokee County	3,678	(121,316)
210	Edenton/Chowan	2,512	(82,856)
220	Clay County	1,248	(41,164)
230	Cleveland County	9,667	(318,857)
231	Kings Mountain	4,738	(156,279)
232	Shelby City	3,199	(105,516)
240	Columbus County	7,059	(232,835)
241	Whiteville City	2,712	(89,453)
250	Craven County	14,480	(477,610)
260	Cumberland County	52,329	(1,726,025)
270	Currituck County	3,514	(115,906)
280	Dare County	4,725	(155,850)
290	Davidson County	19,292	(636,329)
291	Lexington City	3,235	(106,704)
292	Thomasville City	2,545	(83,945)
300	Davie County	6,073	(200,312)
310	Duplin County	8,836	(291,447)
320	Durham County	30,639	(1,010,600)
330	Edgecombe County	7,630	(251,669)
340	Forsyth County	47,346	(1,561,665)
350	Franklin County	7,961	(262,586)
360	Gaston County	30,671	(1,011,655)
370	Gates County	2,004	(66,100)
380	Graham County	1,174	(38,723)
390	Granville County	8,742	(288,347)
400	Greene County	3,325	(109,672)
410	Guilford County	65,407	(2,157,391)
420	Halifax County	5,642	(186,096)
421	Roanoke Rapids City	3,091	(101,954)

422	Weldon City	1,074	(35,425)
430	Harnett County	16,696	(550,703)
440	Haywood County	7,845	(258,760)
450	Henderson County	12,047	(397,359)
460	Hertford County	3,799	(125,307)
470	Hoke County	6,433	(212,187)
480	Hyde County	681	(22,462)
490	Iredell-Statesville	19,131	(631,019)
491	Mooresville City	4,285	(141,337)
500	Jackson County	3,673	(121,151)
510	Johnston County	24,766	(816,884)
520	Jones County	1,437	(47,398)
530	Lee County	9,024	(297,649)
540	Lenoir County	10,138	(334,393)
550	Lincoln County	11,146	(367,641)
560	Macon County	4,153	(136,983)
570	Madison County	2,594	(85,561)
580	Martin County	4,544	(149,880)
590	Mcdowell County	6,582	(217,101)
600	Mecklenburg County	112,656	(3,715,857)
610	Mitchell County	2,359	(77,809)
620	Montgomery County	4,451	(146,812)
630	Moore County	11,650	(384,265)
640	Nash-Rocky Mount	18,061	(595,726)
650	New Hanover County	21,922	(723,077)
660	Northampton County	3,380	(111,486)
670	Onslow County	21,806	(719,251)
680	Orange County	6,498	(214,331)
681	Chapel Hill-Carrboro	10,649	(351,248)
690	Pamlico County	1,743	(57,491)
700	Pasquotank County	5,928	(195,530)
710	Pender County	6,897	(227,491)
720	Perquimans County	1,714	(56,535)
730	Person County	5,841	(192,660)
740	Pitt County	21,003	(692,765)
750	Polk County	2,377	(78,403)
760	Randolph County	18,431	(607,930)
761	Asheboro City	4,418	(145,724)
770	Richmond County	8,398	(277,000)
780	Robeson County	24,012	(792,014)
790	Rockingham County	14,697	(484,767)
800	Rowan-Salisbury	20,884	(688,840)
810	Rutherford County	9,967	(328,753)
820	Sampson County	8,105	(267,336)
821	Clinton City	2,739	(90,343)
830	Scotland County	6,854	(226,073)
840	Stanly County	9,961	(328,555)
850	Stokes County	7,500	(247,381)

860	Surry County	8,545	(281,849)
861	Elkin City	1,157	(38,163)
862	Mount Airy City	1,900	(62,670)
870	Swain County	1,752	(57,788)
880	Transylvania County	3,792	(125,076)
890	Tyrrell County	691	(22,792)
900	Union County	26,794	(883,776)
910	Vance County	8,260	(272,449)
920	Wake County	107,302	(3,539,260)
930	Warren County	3,202	(105,615)
940	Washington County	2,221	(73,258)
950	Watauga County	4,727	(155,916)
960	Wayne County	19,049	(628,314)
970	Wilkes County	10,147	(334,690)
980	Wilson County	12,283	(405,144)
990	Yadkin County	5,957	(196,486)
995	Yancey County	2,513	(82,889)
	LEA Total	1,321,203	(43,578,694)
	Charter Schools	21,603	(712,554)
	Total Including Charters	1,342,806	\$ (44,291,248)

[Current Issue](#) | [Archives](#) | [NCSTA](#)

The Science Reflector
 Newsletter of the North Carolina Science Teachers Association
 PO Box 1783, Salisbury, NC 28145
[Elizabeth Snoke](#), Editor