FISCAL FACTS

The 101 on education needs that North Carolina should be funding during the pandemic

What N.C. needs right now

23 Number of years that N.C. courts, under the Leandro case, have found that state leaders are failing to provide all children the education they are owed under our state constitution.¹

50th N.C.’s school funding effort — the share of our economy spent on public schools — ranks dead last among all states.²

35% Share of economically disadvantaged high school juniors achieving the minimum ACT score necessary to gain attendance to UNC schools, compared to 68% of their higher-income peers.³

What it takes to fund these N.C. needs

$3.7 billion Increase in state spending necessary to provide all children with a sound basic education.⁴

$427 million Court-recommended increase this year to put N.C. on an eight-year path toward providing all children with a sound basic education.⁵

What N.C. is actually spending

$0 Amount of recurring funding the General Assembly put towards the court-recommended plan to comply with Leandro.⁶

North Carolina dedicates a smaller share of its state economy to public schools than any other state in the country. Public school spending in North Carolina accounts for just 2.7 percent of our state economy. In the average state, school spending accounts for 3.4 percent of the state economy. If North Carolina made the school funding effort of the average state, school funding would increase by $4.3 billion.⁷

For more information about this and other budget topics in a COVID-19 context, visit NCJustice.org/statebudget
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**FISCAL FACTS**

Link to related bills

HB 1129 Ensure a Sound Basic Education
HB 1130 Invest in a Sound Basic Education

More resources

1. [https://www.ednc.org/leandro-litigation/](https://www.ednc.org/leandro-litigation/) In 1997, the North Carolina Supreme Court reversed the Court of Appeals in a unanimous opinion authored by Justice Burley Mitchell, stating, “[w]e conclude that Article I, Section 15 and Article IX, Section 2 of the North Carolina Constitution combine to guarantee every child of this state an opportunity to receive a sound basic education in our public schools.”

2. Author’s calculations


5. [https://www.slideshare.net/educationnc/leandro-fy2021-planrev06152020-final](https://www.slideshare.net/educationnc/leandro-fy2021-planrev06152020-final)


7. Author’s calculations

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More information

- [everychildnc.org](http://everychildnc.org)
- [ednc.org/leandro-litigation/](http://ednc.org/leandro-litigation/)
- [wested.org/wested-news/sound-basic-education-for-all-an-action-plan-for-north-carolina/#](http://wested.org/wested-news/sound-basic-education-for-all-an-action-plan-for-north-carolina/#)
- [slideshare.net/educationnc/leandro-fy2021-planrev06152020-final](https://slideshare.net/educationnc/leandro-fy2021-planrev06152020-final)
- [edlawcenter.org/research/school-funding-data](http://edlawcenter.org/research/school-funding-data)
- [schoolfinancedata.org](http://schoolfinancedata.org)

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