

DESCRIPTION OF 2015-16 LEGISLATION WITH IMPACT ON SCHOOL DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

HB 86 *“Utility Line Relocation / School Board”*

DOT to pay for relocation of school existing utility lines within the road right-of-way, when relocation is required by DOT. [SL 2015-111, effective July 1, 2015.]

HB 97 *“2015 Appropriations”*

Many provisions impacting funding. [SL 2015-241]

HB 255 *“Building Code Regulation Reform”*

Miscellaneous changes regarding permits and inspections [SL 2015-145]

HB 561 *“Resolving education funding disputes between local boards of education and boards of county commissioners”*

The Program Evaluation Division shall study the procedure for resolving education funding disputes between LEAs and county commissioners, to include a historical review of funding for capital and current expenses; encumbered and unencumbered fund balances held by LEAs and county commissioners; frequency of use of mediation and litigation to resolve funding disputes; and processes in other states. Report to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee no later than May 1, 2017. [SL 2016-116, Ratified July 1, 2016] (See also SL 2016-18 and SL 2016-19.)

HB 742 *“Employment of licensed school maintenance plumbers”*

The State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors may issue a *technician* license to persons who do not possess a *contractor* license, but wish to engage in the installation, repair, or replacement of plumbing or heating work solely as an employee of a State or local government agency. A licensed technician may perform plumbing or heating work only for the state or local government agency in which he or she is employed. No work can be performed by the state or local government agency in reliance upon the technician license when the licensee is not present. [SL 2016-105, Effective Oct 1, 2016]

HB 1030 (2016 Appropriations Act), Section 8.33.(a) *“K-3 class size allotment ratios”*

The average class size allotment ratio shall be...

- Kindergarten: one teacher per 18 students
- First Grade: one teacher per 16 students
- Second Grade: one teacher per 17 students
- Third Grade: one teacher per 17 students

Formerly, the class size ratios were determined according to the State Initial Allotment Formulas, which currently are...

- Kindergarten: 1:18
- 1-3 Grades: 1:17

This legislation sets the average class size for K-3 grades specifically. [Effective beginning with the 2017-18 school year] [SL 2016-94]

HB 1030 (2016 Appropriations Act), Section 12B.1 *“Clarify pre-kindergarten building standards”*

Public schools and private child care facilities may use existing classrooms for pre-kindergarten if the rooms comply with G.S. 115C-523.1; otherwise, facilities must comply with standards of the Division of Child Development and Early Education. [SL 2016-94, Effective July 1, 2016]

HB 1030 (2016 Appropriations Act), Section 25.1 *“School construction needs study”*

The Program Evaluation Division shall contract with an outside entity to perform an independent assessment of school construction needs and determine which LEAs have the highest facility needs in relation to their capacity to raise revenue to meet those needs. [Report due on or before March 15, 2017] [SL 2016-94]

SB 315, *“School Playgrounds....”*

Local boards of education may make outdoor playgrounds available for public use. [SL 2015-64]

SB 330 *“Regarding Change Orders on School Construction Projects”*

Each LEA shall adopt a policy governing the process of approving a change order and the dollar limits of individual’s authority. [SL 2016-58, Effective Oct 1, 2016]