

Durham County Local Legislative Goals
2025 General Assembly Session
November 12, 2024

Goal Title: Amend legislation to add Durham County to the local governments contained in G. S. § 132-1.11A.

Goal Description: Resources for Youth Success & Empowerment (RYSE) Assessment Center, based in our Durham County Youth Home, provides a non-threatening, inclusive atmosphere for parents who are simply looking for information for their youth who are exhibiting social, emotional, or behavioral challenges. The RYSE Assessment Center is a community-focused program that connects youth and their families to a plethora of resources in Durham County. To support this work, they are asking that Durham County be added to this legislation:

§ 132-1.11A. Limited access to identifying information of minors participating in local government programs and programs funded by the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., or a local partnership in certain localities.

(a) A public record, as defined by G.S. 132-1, does not include, as to any minor participating in a program sponsored by a local government or combination of local governments, a program funded by the North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc., under G.S. 143B-168.12, or a program funded by a local partnership under G.S. 143B-168.14, any of the following information as to that minor participant: (i) name, (ii) address, (iii) age, (iv) date of birth, (v) telephone number, (vi) the name or address of that minor participant's parent or legal guardian, (vii) e-mail address, or (viii) any other identifying information on an application to participate in such program or other records related to that program. Notwithstanding this subsection, the name of a minor who has received a scholarship or other local government-funded award of a financial nature from a local government is a public record.

(b) The county, municipality, and zip code of residence of each participating minor covered by subsection (a) of this section is a public record, with the information listed in subsection (a) of this section redacted.

(c) Nothing in this section makes the information listed in subsection (a) of this section confidential information.

(d) This section applies to the County of Chatham, the Towns of Apex, Cary, Fuquay-Varina, Garner, Holly Springs, Knightdale, Morrisville, Rolesville, Wake Forest, Wendell, and Zebulon, and the City of Raleigh only. (2008-126, s. 1; 2012-67, s. 1; 2012-139, s. 1(a), (b); 2012-194, s. 70.5(a), (c).)

Name, title of person submitting goal: Christy Malott, Senior Assistant County Attorney

Goal Title: Seek funding of \$30 million to enhance Utility System and upgrades to support ongoing Economic Growth in RTP service area

Goal Description: Seek increased funding to support the Utility System upgrades to support ongoing Economic Growth in the Research Triangle Park Service area. This will include additional work for Phase IV as well as identified collection system work. Additionally, it will support feasibility studies for expansion to ensure appropriate timing/planning for RTP growth needs.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Jay Gibson, Director Engineering

Goal Title: Increase Funding for Community College System

Goal Description: Seek increased funding to support the 58 campuses of the North Carolina Community College System, and to provide high quality, accessible educational opportunities for an increasing numbers of students

Name, title of person submitting goal: Chair Nida Allam

Goal Title: Increase state funds for Economic Development

Goal Description: Continue to seek legislation to grow North Carolina's statewide economy through state investments, including public infrastructure funding, competitive incentives, and coordinated efforts with county economic development services.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Vice Chair Nimasheena Burns

Goal Title: Increase the minimum wage/living wage for all state and local government workers.

Goal Description: Seek legislation to increase the minimum wage for all state and local government workers. The increase can be aligned with current data as found in the NC Budget and Tax Center latest report now listed as \$18.50.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Commissioner Heidi Carter

Goal Title: Support Transit Funding for Urban and Rural Communities

Goal Description: Support increased state funding for existing and new transportation construction and maintenance needs, and support legislation to ensure that the Strategic Transportation Investments (STI) funding formula recognizes that one size does not fit all and that projects in both rural and urban areas are prioritized and funded.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Commissioner Wendy Jacobs

Goal Title: Support increased State funding for Women, Children and Families

Goal Description: Seek additional funding to increase access to high quality childcare, early childhood education, child welfare services, adult protective services and guardianship, including grant funding to local health departments for critical services like maternal health, child health and women's health services.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Commissioner Brenda Howerton

Goal Title: Increase the minimum wage/living wage for all state and local government workers.

Goal Description: Seek legislation to increase the minimum wage for all state and local government workers. The increase can be aligned with current data as found in the NC Budget and Tax Center latest report now listed as \$18.50.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Commissioner Heidi Carter

Goal Title: Increase the compulsory school attendance age from 16-18

Goal Description: Seek legislation to increase mandatory school attendance age from 16-18.

Pilot programs exist currently in our state, and a possible implementation strategy might be to make the increase over a period of 3-5 years. Students who stay in school longer and finish have statistically better life outcomes. They can receive job training, avoid a life of poverty and contribute positively to our society.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Vice Chair Nimasheena Burns

Goal Title: Seek legislation to increase funding for childcare funding structures that provide affordable childcare to help workers remain in the work force.

Goal Description: According to the NC Chamber, when employees don't have access to reliable, affordable care, they can't work. In fact, 20% of working parents quit or reduce their working hours due to lack of child care, resulting in costly productivity losses for employers. Providing assistance to parents and increasing salaries for childcare workers benefits our entire economy.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Commissioner Wendy Jacobs

Goal Title: Seek legislation to reduce the expansion of private school vouchers and prioritize investing in the state's public schools.

Goal Description: We have seen that expanding private school vouchers is disproportionately impacting rural North Carolina counties, where access to private education is limited and public schools serve as the backbone of communities. Data indicates that nearly ¼ of our counties, or all rural counties, have no or just one private school participating in the voucher program. By diverting public funds to wealthier urban areas, private school vouchers are deepening the resource gap and undermining the educational opportunities for rural students. Funds should be prioritized to improve our public schools and requisite teacher pay instead.

Name, title of person submitting goal: Commissioner Heidi Carter