

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 424

Short Title: Fully Fund School Counselors & Psychologists. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators McKissick, Peterson, and Mohammed (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 1, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO FULLY FUND SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS  
3 OVER THREE YEARS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
6 adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 115C-316.2. Appropriation for school counselors and psychologists.**

8 (a) Beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year, there is appropriated from the General  
9 Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for the following fiscal years the following amounts  
10 to the instructional support allotment:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
2019-2020	\$87,300,000
2020-2021	\$174,700,000
2021-2022 and each subsequent fiscal year thereafter	\$262,000,000.

15 (b) When developing the base budget, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year  
16 specified in subsection (a) of this section, the Director of the Budget shall include the  
17 appropriated amount for that fiscal year.

18 (c) Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be allocated to local  
19 school administrative units to increase positions for school counselors and school psychologists  
20 in the following fiscal years to the following statewide ratios of personnel to students:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Counselors</u>	<u>Psychologists</u>
2019-2020	1:322	1:1,234
2020-2021	1:282	1:895
2021-2022 and each subsequent fiscal year thereafter	1:250	1:700.

25 (d) School counselors hired from funds provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this section  
26 shall have, as a first responsibility, preventative and responsive services, as provided in  
27 G.S. 115C-316.1(a)(3), including mental health counseling."

28 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-316.1(a)(3) reads as rewritten:

29 "(3) Providing preventative and responsive services through consultation with  
30 students, families, and staff; individual and small group counseling; crisis  
31 counseling; referrals; and peer facilitation."

32 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.

