

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023**

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**HOUSE BILL 526**

Short Title:   Turning High Achieving Students into Teachers. (Public)

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Sponsors:   Representatives Ball, Prather, G. Brown, and T. Brown (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

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Referred to:   Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

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March 30, 2023

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPROVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEACHER  
3 PIPELINE.

4           Whereas, teacher effectiveness is the most important factor in delivering positive  
5 student outcomes; and

6           Whereas, North Carolina is experiencing an increasing crisis of recruitment and  
7 retention of highly qualified teachers as further impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

8           Whereas, there is a particular need for diverse, high-quality teachers, especially in  
9 low-performing schools and rural schools; and

10          Whereas, the North Carolina Teacher Cadet Program (NCTCP) is a successful  
11 program that encourages high-achieving high school students to attend college and eventually  
12 teach in North Carolina public schools; and

13          Whereas, building early interest in the teaching profession is critical to building a  
14 robust teacher pipeline; and

15          Whereas, NCTCP actively engages in the following strategies:

- 16          (1)   Maintaining strong partnerships with higher education institutions, including  
17                The University of North Carolina, and collaborative relationships with local  
18                boards of education.
- 19          (2)   Offering a curriculum developed by highly qualified, licensed public school  
20                teachers, including high school honors credit, approved by the Department of  
21                Public Instruction.
- 22          (3)   Providing learning through hands-on teaching methods and field experiences  
23                delivered by educators who are required to complete teacher cadet curriculum  
24                training; and

25          Whereas, the NCTCP has a well-regarded and established record of helping rural and  
26 economically distressed counties to grow their own teachers from students who were born, raised,  
27 and received a high school education within the same county; and

28          Whereas, the NCTCP has quickly transitioned to an online program and is able to  
29 operate flexibly in response to changing learning conditions; and

30          Whereas, in recent school years, about twenty-one percent (21%) of public school  
31 teachers identified as persons of color, and the NCTCP enrolled a substantially greater portion  
32 of teacher cadets who identified as persons of color at forty-two percent (42%); and

33          Whereas, the NCTCP Program has also successfully addressed the shortage of male  
34 teachers by having about twenty-five percent (25%) of enrollees identify as male; Now, therefore,  
35 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:



1           **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
2 Public Instruction the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in nonrecurring funds for  
3 each year of the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to be provided to the nonprofit organization known  
4 as the North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children to be used for the North Carolina  
5 Teacher Cadet Program. The funds shall be used for the following services related to expansion  
6 of the educator pipeline:

- 7           (1)     Statewide curriculum training workshops for teachers with options for  
8                   in-person and online ongoing support.
- 9           (2)     Expansion of services in counties designated as development tier one areas.  
10                   For schools located in counties identified in this subdivision, the North  
11                   Carolina Teacher Cadet Program shall prioritize schools with the highest  
12                   teacher attrition rate from the 2021-2022 school year.
- 13           (3)     Continued development and training for persons in underrepresented teaching  
14                   demographics, including cadets who are male and cadets who are persons of  
15                   color. To the extent possible, the training shall draw on past and current cadets  
16                   who are classroom teachers, postsecondary students pursuing a degree in  
17                   education, and seniors in high school.

18           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.