



# HOUSE BILL 859: Classroom Supplies to Teachers.

2019-2020 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations, Education. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	April 30, 2019
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Saine, Elmore	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kara McCraw Committee Counsel
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H859-CSTC-21		

**OVERVIEW:** *The 1st edition of HB 859 would require a portion of funds from the Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies/Equipment allotment be used for the North Carolina Classroom Supply Program (Program) to provide classroom teachers an allotment of \$400 to be used to supplement classroom materials and supplies.*

*The PCS for HB 859 would replace the requirements of the 1st edition with a new Teacher Directed Classroom Supplies Allotment of \$15 million to provide classroom teachers with \$145 through a classroom teacher electronic account for materials and supplies to supplement supplies otherwise available to the teachers. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) would establish categories of purchases to allow comparisons to purchases from the Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies/Equipment allotment and report those comparisons to various committees of the General Assembly.*

**CURRENT LAW:** Currently, the Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies/Equipment allotment in the State Public School Fund provides funds for instructional materials and supplies, instructional equipment, and testing support.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS for HB 859 would do the following:

- A new allotment would be created in the State Public School Funds called the Teacher Directed Classroom Supplies Allotment (Allotment), funded by a nonrecurring appropriation of \$15 million for 2019-2020 and 2020-2021.
- The Allotment would fund the North Carolina Classroom Supply Program (Program). The Program would provide eligible classroom teachers with \$145 annually through an electronic account to purchase supplemental instructional materials and supplies.
- To be eligible for the program, a teacher must be a school-based classroom teacher employed by a public school to teach students in kindergarten through twelfth grade. Central office positions, instructional support personnel, and school-based administrators would not be eligible.
- All local school administrative units, except for the Renewal School System, would be required to participate in the program. All other public schools units, such as charter schools, regional schools, and laboratory schools, could elect to participate in the program and receive the funding. Public school units must elect to participate no later than August 1, annually.

Karen Cochrane-Brown  
Director



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- DPI must contract with a vendor, preferably the same system as used for the Personal Savings Account Program by the State Education Assistance Authority, to create the classroom teacher electronic accounts as a virtual e-wallet platform and e-commerce marketplace for teachers that has the ability to restrict purchases, automation for the capture of purchase receipts, and the ability to crowd-fund certain products.
- DPI must make the platform for the classroom teacher electronic accounts available for use by teachers by January 15, 2020, and must conduct training for teachers as soon as practicable in the 2019-2020 school year.
- Funds in the Program are to be used to supplement, not supplant, materials and supplies otherwise available to classroom teachers. Public school units may not mandate, direct, or encourage teachers to purchase specific materials and supplies or categories of materials or supplies. The funds may not be used to purchase electronic devices or be expended for administrative purposes. Items purchased are property of the public school unit and, if not consumed during the school year, should be made available in the following school year to classroom teachers.
- DPI must establish categories for purchases from the Allotment for comparison to purchases made through the Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies/Equipment allotment. The Superintendent of Public Instruction must report, by May 15, 2020, on purchases made through both allotments, including comparison of purchases from each allotment by each public school unit, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, Fiscal Research Division, the House Appropriations Education Committee, and the Senate Appropriations on Education/Higher Education Committee.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** HB 859 would become effective July 1, 2019, and would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.