



# SENATE BILL 449: Fisc Resp & K-20 Tech Plan/Centr Offic Salary.

2025-2026 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	June 17, 2025
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Sens. Lee, Corbin, Overcash	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Drupti Chauhan
<b>Analysis of:</b>	Third Edition		Committee Counsel

**OVERVIEW:** *Senate Bill 449 would require all public school units, community colleges, and constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina (UNC) to evaluate long-term costs when buying new technology. Public school units would also be required to report on the break/fix rate of school technology devices. Additionally, SB 449 would add the provisions of HB 56 which would require local boards of education to publish total compensation and position information for central office employees on their websites.*

## **PARTS I through IV: K-12 Technology Cost Considerations and Reports on Break/Fix Rates and Community College and UNC Technology Cost Considerations**

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 115C-102.9 requires the State Board of Education to establish and maintain an electronic dashboard to publicly display information related to digital learning, including in-school digital device access, out-of-school digital device access, and out-of-school internet connectivity.

**ANALYSIS:** Sections 1-4 would require the State Board of Education, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the Board of Governors of UNC to adopt rules requiring all public school units, community colleges, and UNC constituent institutions to evaluate the following when acquiring technology, computer hardware, and software:

- The long-term cost of ownership, including costs of repairing the technology, computer hardware, and software.
- Any flexibility for innovation during the life of the technology, computer hardware, or software.
- Any anticipated resale value of similar technology, computer hardware, or software as a percentage of the initial cost of purchase.

Each public school unit would be required to report on the break/fix rate of school technology devices by August 15 annually. School technology devices are any electronic or computerized equipment provided for educational purposes. The break/fix rate is defined as the percentage of school technology devices that have been reported as malfunctioning or requiring repair prior to the life cycle period not covered by insurance.

The State Board of Education would be required to report annually by November 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the break/fix rate of school technology devices across all public school units using the reports submitted by the units and recommend ways to reduce break/fix rates.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Sections 1-4 would be effective when it becomes law and apply beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year. The first reports required would be due in 2026.

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## **PART V: Publication of Total Compensation and Position Information for Central Office Employees**

**CURRENT LAW:** Each local board of education must maintain a record of each of its employees, showing the following information for each employee: name; age; date of original employment or appointment; the terms of any contract by which the employee is employed if the board has the contract; current position; title; current salary, date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary with that local board; date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or other change in position classification with that local board; date and general description of the reasons for each promotion with that local board; date and type of each dismissal, suspension, or demotion for disciplinary reasons taken by the local board; and the office or station to which the employee is assigned. G.S. 115C-320(a).

Subject to the local board's rules on safekeeping of records, persons in custody of the records must generally allow the records to be inspected, examined, and copies made by any person during regular business hours. Any person who is denied access to a record has the right to compel compliance in a court of law. G.S. 115C-320(c). All other information contained in a personnel file is confidential and must not be open to inspection except to specified persons in limited circumstances. G.S. 115C-321.

**ANALYSIS:** Section 5 would create a definition for "central office employees[.]" No later than August 15, 2025, and annually after that, each local board of education would be required to publish and maintain on its website the following information for each central office employee:

- Total compensation from all funding sources, including at least salary and reimbursements and allowances for travel.
- Position title.
- Position description.
- Date the position was created.
- Department, unit, or office of the local school administrative unit in which the position is located.

Each local board of education would be required to publish and maintain on its website:

- Title of each central office employee position in the local school administrative unit and the number of positions associated with that title.
- For each department, unit, or office of the local school administrative unit:
  - The number of central office employees in that department, unit, or office.
  - The number of central office employees for each position title.

Section 5 would clarify that the definition of "salary" includes supplements, and would require each local board of education to maintain a record for each employee showing current total compensation (instead of salary) and date and amount of each increase and decrease in total compensation (instead of salary).

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** Section 5 would be effective when it becomes law.

**PART VI: EFFECTIVE DATE:** Except as otherwise provided, the bill would become effective when it becomes law.

*\*Samantha Yarborough and Hillary Woodard, Counsel to the House Education K-12 Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.*