

NCRSP

Includes members who have retired from the Public School System, Community Colleges, Higher Education, and Educational Support Personnel

Our purpose is to promote issues concerning the professional, social, and economic welfare for all school retirees in NC.

NCRSP MEMBER INPUT

To involve school retirees in the legislative process at all levels.

To encourage each district and local unit to sponsor a legislative event each year to inform our legislators about our position on retiree issues and needs

To encourage Local and District legislative committees to take frequent opportunities to thank our legislators for their efforts on behalf of retirees in NC

To participate in grassroots lobbying through the use of telephone, email, letter writing, interviews, and personal contacts for both state legislators and Congressional members

LEGISLATIVE GOALS

The following legislative goals have been adopted as essential to the improvement of the welfare & security of retired school personnel:

Full funding for the State Health Plan with no decrease in benefits

An increase in the State contribution rate to the Teachers' & State Employees' Retirement System (TSERS) to at least 6.7% or the Annual Required Contribution Rate. (ARC)

A Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) at least equal to the average salary increase granted to active employees, but no lower than the rate of inflation.

Support continuation of defined benefit pension programs for school personnel and state employees, and oppose any trend toward defined contribution programs.

Support funding existing educator positions and programs in our public schools.



STATE HEALTH PLAN

The State Health Plan has experienced premium increases in all of the recent years. The projections are for the premiums to increase almost 10% per year for the next two years provided there are no reductions in benefits. We strongly recommend full funding for the Health Plan with no reductions in benefits for retirees.

THE COLA QUESTION

The table below shows a cumulative gap of 4.5% between retiree COLAs and the Consumer Price Index for the past seven years. It is hoped that gains in the Pension Fund will show an increase in the next two years. These gains could be used for a COLA. Smart investments and state appropriations to the Pension Fund are necessary to make a difference in gains for TSERS. Most experts say that investments alone will not be enough. We are going to need significant state funding for TSERS as well.

<u>Yr.</u>	<u>COLA</u>	<u>CPI</u>	<u>Cumulative Gap</u>
2004	1.7%	1.9%	-0.2%
2005	2.0%	3.3%	-1.5%
2006	3.0%	3.4%	-1.9%
2007	2.2%	2.5%	-2.2%
2008	2.2%	4.1%	-4.1%
2009	0	.1%	-4.2%
2010	0	.3%	-4.5%
Totals	11.1%	15.6%	= -4.5%

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Vicky Rogers, Chairperson

1210 Francis Farm Road.
Waynesville, NC 28786
828-456-1830
E-Mail vrogers12@att.net

Kever Clark

132 Armstrong Dr.
Jacksonville, NC 28540
910-455-3000
E-Mail keshe@embarqmail.com

Linda Gunter

107 Cromwell Ct.
Cary, NC 27513
800-662-7924 ext. 210
E-Mail linda.gunter@gmail.com

Bob Severs

1508 Berwick Rd.
Winston-Salem, NC 27103
336-768-1237
E-Mail rsevers@aol.com

Dr. Lacy Presnell, Jr. (Lobbyist)

5317 Edgewood Rd.
Raleigh, NC 27609
919-782-1586
E-Mail lacypresnell@hotmail.com

Pam Deardorff (Lobbyist)

P. O. Box 27347
Raleigh, NC 27611
1-800-662-7924 Ext. 244
E-Mail pam.deardorff@ncae.org

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

NCRSP's greatest legislative influence comes from the relationships members build with legislators at the local level. Once this has been done, ask your legislators

- What is your position on the needs regarding continued funding of the State Health Plan? Do you support keeping the existing benefits structure intact?
- Will you support increasing the State's contribution rate to TSERS to a level that will once again make it self sustaining? Will you agree in general terms to work toward generating gains to cover adequate COLAs, without supplemental appropriations from the General Fund?
- The State's actuary has indicated that a State contribution of 6.71%, the employer contribution rate, is necessary to sustain the TSERS. Will you support a State ARC of 6.71%?
- Will you support a retiree COLA equal to the average salary increase for active employees?

2010-2011 LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM



*North Carolina
Retired School Personnel
A Division of
NCAE/NEA*

**P.O. Box 27347
Raleigh, NC 27611**

**Frances Cummings, President
John Hoffman, Vice President**

Pam Deardorff, Executive Director

**1-800-662-7924
www.ncrsp.org**