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North Carolina
House of Representatives

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**2016 Short Session
School Choice Summary
August 2016**

Charter Schools – HB 242

- Provides the same Low-Performing School standard passed last year for all public schools.
- Provides the SBE more flexibility to approve charters who request greater than 20% growth when undergoing a capital expansion.
- Requires LEAs to report their charter school funding calculations to the SBE by November 1.
- Allows Charters to give lottery preference to students who attend charters that do not offer their next grade level.
- Defines a vacant LEA school available to a charter school
- Sets a October 15 deadline for SBE approval of fast-track applications.
- No change in local funding

Opportunity Scholarships

- Provides \$24.8M in funding for approximately 6,000 students for 2016-17.
- Establishes an “Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve” with initial funding of \$34.8M. This will provide funding for approximately 2,000 additional students per year.
- Enrollment priority for students who attended a Department of Defense school or are the child of a parent or legal guardian who is on full-time military status. Increases the number of new scholarships that can be awarded to Kindergarten and First grade students from 35% to 40%.

Special Needs Scholarships

- Provides \$10M in funding for 2016-17 for Special Needs Scholarships, an increase of \$5.8M. This will provide scholarships for approximately 1,250 students.
- Schools may choose to have tuition paid up-front or reimbursed to the parent.
- Enrollment priority for students who attended a Department of Defense school or are the child of a parent or legal guardian who is on full-time military status.
- If funds are remaining, students domiciled in North Carolina for at least 6 months and meet eligibility criteria may be awarded a scholarship.

For more info, go to www.paulstam.info