

Summary - Governor's Priorities

Making North Carolina the nation's leader in education innovation to build a skilled workforce prepared to compete in a global economy.

- Ensure a debt-free college education for all students whose family income is less than 200% of the federal poverty level.
- Provide expanded opportunities for at-risk youth and children of deployed military to ensure they are equipped with the skills necessary to succeed in school.
- Recruit and retain the best teachers for our classrooms by exceeding the national average in teacher pay by 2009.
- Reform middle schools and high schools in order to improve math achievement and reading literacy and to increase graduation rates.
- Maximize access to higher education through expanded online coursework and by increasing internet connectivity for students across the state.

Creating jobs, supporting business innovation and growing the economy.

- Use smart, targeted, performance-based incentives to attract new business and to grow existing businesses in North Carolina.
- Remain a national leader in biotechnology to expand economic growth in cutting edge fields.
- Invest in our infrastructure to ensure that growth is accommodated in an effective manner and to support the changing needs of businesses and citizens across the state.

Protecting and helping our most vulnerable populations.

- Expand the Children's Health Insurance Program to cover additional children from working families.
- Reduce child care subsidy waiting lists to assist families in need.
- Invest in community-based resources that enhance services for the mentally ill, aged, blind and disabled populations to help them achieve a better quality of life.

Preserving the environment and promoting conservation.

- Implement response and enforcement efforts that will assist in reducing energy and water consumption statewide.
- Invest in the Farmland Preservation Trust Fund to promote a sustainable agricultural economy and retain agricultural-related jobs.
- Expand wetland and stream protection programs to protect and restore water quality throughout the state.

Increasing the safety of our communities.

- Provide court system and investigative resources to ensure justice is administered swiftly and correctly.
- Invest in local programs to reduce juvenile delinquency and the occurrence of gang-related crimes.
- Improve emergency preparedness and training efforts for those on the front lines.

Making government more effective and efficient.

- Invest in information technology projects that streamline program operations or expand e-government opportunities for the public.
- Implement internal audit reviews to ensure public funds are spent appropriately.
- Enhance the state's results-based budgeting initiative to directly tie program resources to outcomes and to promote public accountability.

Promote preservation and development of cultural and natural resources to enhance the quality of life for citizens of and visitors to North Carolina.

- Improve access to history, arts and cultural resources statewide through the use of digital and web-based technologies and expansion of the Cultural Caring and Sharing Program.
- Enhance cultural opportunities statewide through support to historic sites, museums, local arts organizations and libraries.
- Provide access to outdoor recreational opportunities by maintaining and developing the State Parks System.

[Governor's Priorities – Full description](#)