

# Teaching programs face uncertain future

By Stirling Little  
Staff Writer

When the first Republican majority at the N.C. General Assembly since 1898 convened in January, leaders said state spending would have to be cut across the board to fill a prospective budget shortfall of \$3.7 billion.

Seven months later, the impact of those cuts has been felt by many state programs — especially in education, which comprises almost 60 percent of the budget.

Teaching programs have been hit particularly hard.

State funding for the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program, the North Carolina Teacher Academy, the North Carolina Teacher Cadet Program and the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching was reduced or eliminated in the budget that went into effect in July.

Julia Kron, director of the Teacher Academy, said legislators decided to target teachers in their education cuts.

"Anything with the word 'teacher' in it was attacked," she said. "It's like a war on teachers."

Program directors said the loss of these programs will have far-reaching implications for the

state. Jo Ann Norris, an administrator of the Teaching Fellows program, said the budget's phase-out of the program by 2012 punishes students in a state experiencing demographic change.

"If the phase-out is permanent, it would be a dramatic loss for this state, which desperately needs teachers to accommodate the growing population," she said.

But proponents of the legislators' cost-cutting measures said defunding programs is a necessary step to restoring fiscal discipline in the state.

Bob Luebke, senior policy analyst at the John W. Pope Civitas Institute, a conservative policy organization, said programs should seek outside sources of funding in a cash-strapped state.

"It would be more prudent for a number of state-funded entities to go over to the private sector," he said.

Some program directors have already reached out to other potential sponsors.

Jim Hart, president of the Governor's School Alumni Association, organized fundraising events in July to seek donations from the 30,000 alumni of Governor's School, which also had all of its state funding eliminated.

Governor's School is a six-week summer residential program held at campuses in Winston-Salem and Raleigh for rising high school seniors. The program began charging students \$500 in tuition to offset cuts last year.

But the option of making the program entirely tuition-based — at a cost of \$1,800 to \$2,000 per student — has been all but ruled out by state education officials who suggest it should be discontinued until state funding is restored.

Michael McElreath, director of the campus in Raleigh, said he hopes to continue the school's operations despite its tradition as one of the few programs in the state that did not require students to pay tuition or fees.

"If they say we need to charge tuition then we will," he said. "But we think the program will be very different if everyone has to pay \$2,000 to come."

The Governor's School Foundation raised \$23,814.17 through its events in July. The foundation would need to raise \$1.5 million to fully fund the program for 800 students.

Contact the State & National Editor at [state@dailytarheel.com](mailto:state@dailytarheel.com).

## EDUCATION PROGRAM CUTS IN STATE BUDGET

Several education programs had state funding reduced or eliminated in the budget that went into effect in July. Millions of dollars in cuts were enacted for programs, some that have existed for almost 50 years.



### Governor's School of North Carolina

- Six-week summer residential program held at Salem College in Winston-Salem (began in 1963) and Meredith College in Raleigh (1978).
- State funding remained available for the summer 2011 program, but a cut of **\$849,588** eliminates all future funds and could make the program completely fee-based.
- <http://www.ncgovschool.org>
- Donations for Governor's School can be made at <http://www.ncgsfoundation.org/>.



### N.C. Teacher Cadet Program

- An activity-based curriculum for high school juniors and seniors that are considering teaching as a profession. Students teach in preschool, elementary, middle school and high school settings.
- All **\$340,000** in state support was eliminated for the program.
- <http://www.ncteachercadet.org>

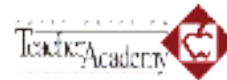


### N.C. Teaching Fellows Program

- Provides a \$6,500 per year scholarship for four years to 500 high school seniors. Each scholarship recipient is required to teach for four years in a N.C. public school after graduating from college. Established in 1986.
- Funds for administrative costs were cut by \$210,000 in 2011-12, but the program will be phased out in 2012-13 after a cut of **\$3,475,000**.
- <http://www.teachingfellows.org>

### N.C. Teacher Academy

- Professional development program for teachers. The academy focuses on improving school leadership, instructional methods and use of technology in the classroom.
- All **\$4,762,874** in state funding was eliminated for the program.
- <http://www.teacheracademy.org>



### N.C. Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Center

- Provides educational initiatives, resources, policy forums, leadership seminars and technical assistance for teachers in the science, mathematics and technology fields. Established in 2002.
- All **\$100,000** in state support was eliminated for the program.
- <http://www.ncsmt.org>



### N.C. Science Olympiad

- Nonprofit organization that hosts interscholastic competitions at schools across the state. First event was held in 1974.
- All **\$127,500** in state support was eliminated for the program.
- <http://www.sciencenc.com>



### N.C. Center for the Advancement of Teaching

- Residential seminars and programs are provided to almost 5,000 teachers each year. Established in 1985.
- State support for the center was reduced by **\$3,000,000**.
- <http://www.nccat.org>



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