

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025**

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SENATE BILL 644

Short Title: Green Schools Save Money. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Meyer, Garrett, and Theodros (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 26, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SCHOOLS
IN LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS, TO POWER SCHOOLS WITH
SOLAR ENERGY, AND TO REPLACE COMBUSTION-POWERED SCHOOL BUSES
WITH ELECTRIC-POWERED SCHOOL BUSES.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for the 2025-2026 fiscal year the sum of one billion five hundred million dollars (\$1,500,000,000) in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to local school administrative units on the basis of average daily membership to make improvements to public school buildings as follows:

- (1) One billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) to make needed improvements to all school buildings for energy efficiency, including the following:
 - a. Installing high-efficiency lighting.
 - b. Replacing pipe insulation.
 - c. Weatherizing doors, windows, and other internal and external openings.
 - d. Repairing, replacing, and upgrading heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems, including programmable thermostats, chillers, boilers, and fuel-switching systems.
 - e. Upgrading plug load management systems.
 - f. Repairing, replacing, and upgrading water and wastewater systems and controls.
 - g. Upgrading electric water coolers.
 - h. Installing open-platform, internet-based controls for building management systems.
- (2) Two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) to install solar photovoltaic panels on each school building that would benefit from solar photovoltaic panels and to make necessary roof repairs to support the installation of solar photovoltaic panels.
- (3) Two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) to replace all qualifying school buses with new school buses that are operated exclusively on electric fuel and assembled in the State. For purposes of this subdivision, a qualifying school bus is a school bus owned by a local school administrative unit that meets all of the following criteria:



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- 1 a. Is more than 10 years old by model year as of the effective date of this
2 act.
3 b. Is operated in whole or in part on motor fuel, as defined in
4 G.S. 105-449.60(31).
5 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025.