

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 Theodos (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 26, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPROVE ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN SCHOOLS  
3 IN LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS, TO POWER SCHOOLS WITH  
4 SOLAR ENERGY, AND TO REPLACE COMBUSTION-POWERED SCHOOL BUSES  
5 WITH ELECTRIC-POWERED SCHOOL BUSES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

12 (1) One billion dollars (\$1,000,000,000) to make needed improvements to all  
13 school buildings for energy efficiency, including the following:

14 a. Installing high-efficiency lighting.

15 b. Replacing pipe insulation.

16 c. Weatherizing doors, windows, and other internal and external  
17 openings.

18 d. Repairing, replacing, and upgrading heating, ventilation, and air  
19 conditioning systems, including programmable thermostats, chillers,  
20 boilers, and fuel-switching systems.

21 e. Upgrading plug load management systems.

22 f. Repairing, replacing, and upgrading water and wastewater systems  
23 and controls.

24 g. Upgrading electric water coolers.

25 h. Installing open-platform, internet-based controls for building  
26 management systems.

27 (2) Two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) to install solar photovoltaic  
28 panels on each school building that would benefit from solar photovoltaic  
29 panels and to make necessary roof repairs to support the installation of solar  
30 photovoltaic panels.

31 (3) Two hundred fifty million dollars (\$250,000,000) to replace all qualifying  
32 school buses with new school buses that are operated exclusively on electric  
33 fuel and assembled in the State. For purposes of this subdivision, a qualifying  
34 school bus is a school bus owned by a local school administrative unit that  
35 meets all of the following criteria:



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.