Governor Cooper Announces Nearly $40 Million to Connect Students / Plan to Vote

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Monday, September 14, 2020 4:03 PM

To: Steve Johnston

September 14, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed
District 99 - Mecklenburg County

Governor Cooper Announces Nearly $40 Million to Connect Students and Communities to High-Speed Internet, Help Educators With Remote Learning

Peace. Last week Governor Roy Cooper announced nearly $40 million in funding for NC Student Connect, a new partnership created to address internet connectivity gaps that are a barrier to remote learning for many North Carolina students. When school resumed in August, superintendents estimated that at least 100,000 students still lacked a reliable internet connection at home.

Many North Carolina students are currently attending school remotely and need reliable internet access to be able to connect with their teachers and access their lessons. Students who are attending school onsite may also need internet access at home to be able to complete assignments.

NC Student Connect investment includes:

- $30 million to distribute 100,000 wireless high speed hot spots for students to connect with their remote learning classes.
- $8 million to create accessible sites in convenient locations across the state such as school parking lots, municipal areas, and state parks, museums and historic sites. These NC Student Connect sites will provide free high-speed internet for students to connect to the Internet to download lessons and complete assignments offline.
- $2 million for educator professional development, parent training and student involvement in a spectrum of activities that go into effective remote learning. More than 1,300 educators from rural North Carolina already participated in a virtual conference focused on remote learning to help them be better prepared to teach throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Extra Credit Grant Program for Parents FAQs
The latest round of COVID-19 relief includes a $335 payment to parents with children. Here are some answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the grant.

Who gets the $335 grant?
Eligible individuals who report at least one qualifying child on their 2019 state individual income tax return. Spouses who file a joint state return count as one individual.

I'm a parent with a child. How do I get the payment?
If you filed a state tax return in 2019, you do not have to do anything to receive the grant.

If you did NOT file a state tax return in 2019, you will need to fill out a grant application by October 15, 2020. There is no grant application yet, but it should online here soon. When the grant application is available, I will help spread the word about it to families who may be eligible.

I have more than one child. Do I get multiple $335 grants?
No. The grant is $335 regardless of how many children you have.

When will I get the money?
We do not know for sure, but no later than December 15, 2020.

Is the credit available to everyone with children?
The grant program is tied to the federal tax credit for children. The income cutoff for the federal tax credit is $400,000 for married couples and $200,000 for other filers. If you are near this cutoff, you may want to talk with a tax professional.

I am a North Carolina resident now, but was not in 2019 when I filed a tax return in another state. Do I get the credit?

Again, I recommend talking to a tax professional about your personal circumstances, but the General Assembly's fiscal staff analysis states you must be a North Carolina resident in 2019 to receive the grant.

How much is this costing taxpayers?
No state revenue is being used. The program will cost $440 million in federal COVID-19 funding that could have been used for other purposes like teacher and public employee bonuses.

Plan to Vote
Here is your voting guide

First Thing You Must Do is Register

Requirements to Register:

- Be a US Citizen.
- Live in the county where you wish to register to vote for at least 30 days.
- Be 18 years old by Election Day, November 3rd, 2020.
- Not be serving a sentence for a felony conviction, including probation, parole or post-release supervision. Once all sentence conditions are served you may vote again.

How to Register:

You may register by any of the following ways anytime between now and **October 9th:**

- Stopping by your Board of Elections Office and registering in person.
- Filling out the North Carolina Voter Registration Application online.
- Using N.C. Division of Motor Vehicles (NCDMV) services:
- Selecting the option to register to vote while applying for a vehicle license or ID.
- Submitting the voter registration application online through the DMV.

Same Day Registration:

During Early Voting between **October 15 - October 31** individuals who are not registered but are otherwise qualified to vote in a county may register in person at any of their counties' Early Voting sites during the voting period. After registering, the newly registered voter can immediately vote at the same site on the same day.

Voters must offer proof of their residence by showing any of the following documents with their name and address:

- NC Driver's License
- Other photo identification issued by a government agency. Any government-issued photo ID is acceptable, provided that the card includes the voter's name and address.
- A copy of a utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or other government document showing the voter's name and address.
- A college/university photo ID card paired with proof of campus habitation.

Voting Absentee by Mail:

You may vote by absentee ballot any time from now until Election Day, November 3rd. The deadline for requesting an absentee ballot is **5 PM on Tuesday, October 27, 2020**. Absentee ballots have to either be received or postmarked by Election Day to be counted.

Early Voting One Stop:

In 2020, the in-person Early Voting period begins **Thursday, October 15**, and ends **Saturday, October 31**, including two Sunday opportunities. During Early Voting, you may cast a ballot at any Early Voting site in your county. If you are not registered or you need to modify your registration you can do it at that time. This is often referred to as "one stop" voting because you can register and vote at the same time during this period. It is different from Election Day when only previously registered voters can vote, and must vote at their previously assigned precinct.

Know Your Polling Place:

To find your polling place, use the link **here**. Once you've found your polling place, all you have left to do is be sure **you're registered** and **to vote.**

Polling places are open from 6:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Election Day. Any voter in line at 7:30 p.m. will be able to vote. The busiest times tend to be early in the morning and just before the polls close. Avoid longer lines by voting at off-peak times or plan ahead and vote absentee or during the Early Voting period.
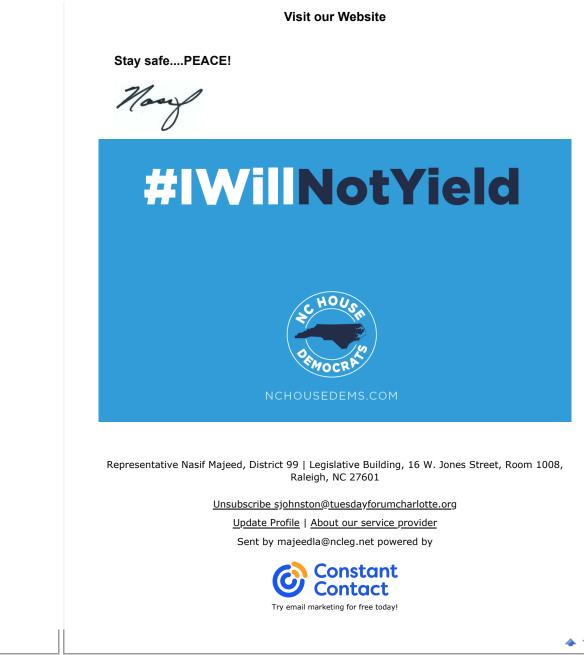
Polling Places Will Be Safe:

Significant precautions will be made to protect voters and election workers against the transmission of COVID-19. These include:

- Enforcing social distancing at polling places and Early Voting sites
- Providing hand sanitizer and masks for voters and election workers who do not bring their own.
- Providing gloves and face shields for election workers.
- Erecting barriers between election workers and voters at check-in tables.
- Providing single-use pens in counties that use hand-marked paper ballots and Q-tips for voters who use ballot-marking devices.
- Frequently cleaning surfaces and equipment in polling places and Early Voting sites.
- Recruiting poll workers who are less vulnerable to the virus.

For more information on how COVID-19 may impact your voting experience, visit the NC Voting and Coronavirus page.

Join Our Mailing List &
Follow Me on Facebook

It's easy to join our mailing list! Just send your email address by text message:
Text MAJEEDN to 22828 to get started.

Visit our Website

Stay safe....PEACE!

#IWillNotYield

NCHOUSEDEMS.COM

Representative Nasif Majeed, District 99 | Legislative Building, 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1008, Raleigh, NC 27601

Connected to Microsoft Exchange