

Principals' pay

It must have seemed a good idea at the time, but the bill that passed in 2016 that changed how North Carolina principals are paid will have unhealthy consequences for our public schools.

Starting in school year 2017-18, one important part of how principals' salaries are determined changed from a state pay scale based on experience to a basic state pay scale plus an equation based on results from student test scores. Because of this equation, principals can no longer depend on a regular salary and have no incentive to go from a succeeding to a struggling school because, for instance, their salaries could drop over a two-year period more than \$14,000.

As teachers can tell you, the quality of leadership in a school is very important to the culture/morale of the school. Our communities need to show respect for educators, and a prime way to show respect for any profession is by salary — a dependable salary.

Evaluating the success of principals should always remain the duty of the local school community. The state should not be tying principals' salary increases or decreases to testing. Please contact your state legislators to address these hurtful problems with principals' salaries.

Linda Miller, Hendersonville