

Overview of *Leandro v. North Carolina*

Case Background of *Leandro v. North Carolina*?

1994

Leandro v. North Carolina is a lawsuit filed in 1994 by five low-wealth school districts who claimed that they did not have enough money to provide an equal education to their students.

1997

In 1997, the NC Supreme Court ruled that the state's students have a constitutional right to a "sound, basic education."

The courts subsequently ruled that to meet its constitutional duty, the state must:

- Staff each classroom with a competent, well-trained teacher
 - Staff each school with a competent, well-trained principal
 - Identify the resources necessary, including access to early education, to ensure that all children, including those at-risk, have an equal opportunity to obtain a sound, basic education.
- » **These resources include access to early education.**

2000s

The suit has continued over time, with Superior Court regularly reviewing state efforts to comply with the constitutional requirements.

2017

In 2017, the parties agreed to work toward a resolution in the case.

The court hired a consultant, WestEd, to develop recommendations to achieve compliance, and Gov. Roy Cooper additionally created a Commission on Access to a Sound Basic Education to assist in creating a plan for the state to meet the *Leandro* requirements.

2019

Late in 2019, WestEd and the Commission each released their recommendations for the state, with WestEd recommending \$1.1 billion in new investment for early childhood over eight years. The court then ordered the parties to develop a joint plan based on those recommendations.

2020

In June 2020, the parties filed their first action plan outlining actions for FY 20-21 for North Carolina to meet its obligation to provide a sound, basic education.

Key Early Childhood Actions for FY 20-21 to Provide a Sound, Basic Education

