

School Business Systems Modernization

Strengthening District Capacity and Efficiency

Dr. Vanessa Wrenn
Chief Information Officer

October 19, 2026

Agenda

- The Opportunity for North Carolina
- Business Systems Modernization
- Statewide ERP Transition
- Current ERP Landscape



The Opportunity for North Carolina

Schools depend on technology for instruction and administrative operations, payroll, finance, student records, bus transportation, feeding students and daily operations.

Separate systems duplicate efforts, costs and create uneven support capacity; while hindering opportunities for automation and analytics.

Centralize Data/Streamline Business Processes

Reduce duplicate efforts, automate reporting, improve business processes alongside the technology.

Connect Financial and Workforce Data

Provide relationship data between financial and workforce information.

Strengthen Analytics and Visibility

Strengthen transparency, improve data sharing across education and other State systems.

Serving North Carolina's Public Schools

The scale of our schools makes dependable systems and statewide support essential.

1.5M
students

~110,000
educators

115
school districts
100 county / 15 city

2,504
district schools
LEA schools

213
charter schools

Different sizes. Shared operational needs.

471
Hyde County students

161,461
Wake County students

NC's Rich History: A Foundation for Statewide Modernization

1980s

Common Reporting

Uniform Education Reporting System established and standardized student information and financial reporting.

2013

NCEdCloud

Single point of secure access to agency and PSU resources

2018

Legislative Support and Modernization Funding

Directed to modernize systems and state investment began the replacement of aging business systems..

2023

Broader Modernization

The portfolio included PSU ERP, student information, licensure, IAM, unified data warehouse and agency finance modernization.

2026

Statewide ERP Direction

A single statewide contract becomes the next phase of business systems modernization.

SL 2026-41 Sec. 7.46

Business Systems Modernization

Integrated systems that strengthen school and agency operations

Goal of Systems Modernization is to Transform Business Process and Data Analytics

1 Streamlined Processes and Enhanced User Experience

Transition legacy on-prem systems to flexible cloud architectures that scale and simplify work

2 Process Automation and Efficiency

Reduce duplicate entry and manual reconciliation, reduce human errors

3 Connected information

Consolidates fragmented data across departments and creates a single source of truth

4 Real time visibility and advanced analytics

- Dashboards, predictive forecasting, data visualizations

The NCDPI Strategic Plan: *Achieving Educational Excellence*

Pillar 5: Optimize Operational Performance

Modernize and integrate core business systems to improve transparency and decisions informed by data.

Student information

All PSUs live on NCSIS, powered by Infinite Campus, with minimal critical incidents in the first full year.

Finance and HR

Establish a baseline and increase PSU adoption of modernized finance and HR systems.

Data, Analytics and Visualizations

Establishing a single data environment for operational and historical data to increase use of analytics for student, finance, and business decisions.

Strategic plan measures guide the implementation and service improvement

Business Systems Modernization Requirements

- [SL 2017-57 \(Section 7.16\)](#), **IMPROVE EDUCATION FINANCIAL AND INFORMATION TRANSPARENCY**, directs DPI to modernize the following:
 - State and local education financial, human capital, and school information systems
 - Provide for a common reporting system and analytics system
 - Integrate financial, payroll, human resources, and related human capital systems through the use of a new software as a service enterprise resource planning (ERP) solution
 - Make enhancements to existing local systems, or both
 - Link the State licensure system with the upgraded local systems

Systems Modernization Portfolio

Student Information System

- Status** NCSIS implementation completed June 30, 2026. Contract awarded to Infinite Campus in 2023.
- Benefit** Streamlined data, effective school administration, parent & student access
- Next** Ongoing training and K12 data reporting

Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP)

- Status** 16 LEA cloud implementations as of Feb. 1, 2026, decommissioned 22 PSU mainframes (AS400)
- Benefit** Integrated finance, HR, payroll, and purchasing
- Next** Complete the statewide ERP transition plan by June 30, 2031

Data Integration and Reporting

- Status** DART dashboards, reports, new UERS Payroll Summary file, and centralized data platform
- Benefit** Common standards, streamlining
- Next** Further automate and streamline reporting, data dashboard expansion

Agency Systems

- Status** Finance system enhancements, transitioned from mainframe, revised payroll summary file
- Benefit** Improve NCDPI operations and service to schools
- Next** RFI released September 1, 2026

2026 Modernization Projects

Project	Milestone or direction
Statewide licensure	Contract award targeted for December 2026
Identity and access / SSO	Late 2026 target. ClassLink named in July 2026 legislation.
NCDPI financial systems	RFI released September 1, 2026 to inform
PSU ERP	Continue underway implementations
Statewide ERP	Plan the transition to a single platform
Unified Data Platform	Agency consolidated data ecosystem

Statewide ERP Transition

New Statewide Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) Direction

One ERP platform under a single statewide contract

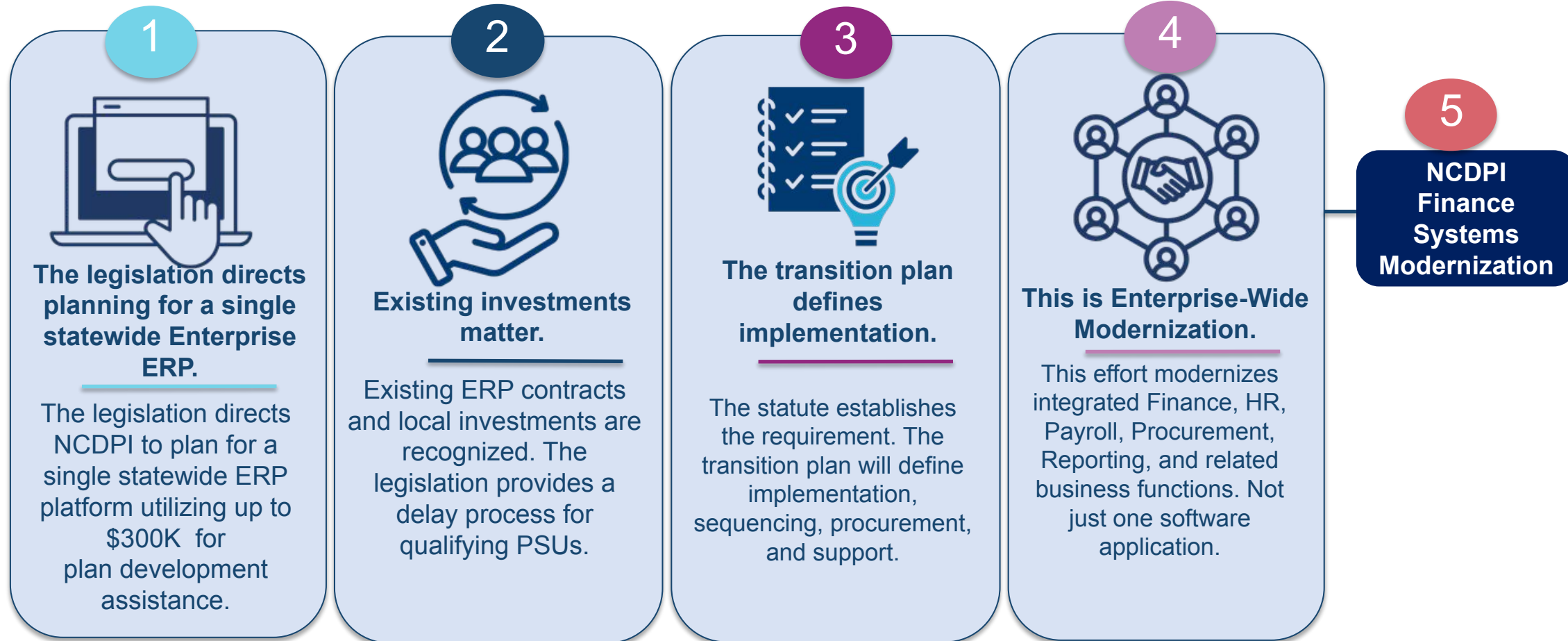
Legislative Direction

S.L. 2026-41, Senate Bill 257, Section 7.46 directs NCDPI to develop and execute a statewide strategy to transition every public school unit to a single Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform under a statewide contract by June 30, 2031.

Planning Partner

Public Consulting Group (PCG) was awarded a contract on 9/27/26 to help develop the transition plan. Plan development is underway.

Key Points



*** Public Consulting Group
Planning Consultant and Partner*

*** No statewide ERP provider has been selected.*

Statewide ERP Transition Plan Requirements

1

Selection criteria

Requirements for evaluating the statewide provider

2

Procurement strategy

RFP and contract approach

3

Implementation timeline

Schedule through full implementation

4

Delay request process

Process for qualifying PSUs with applicable contracts

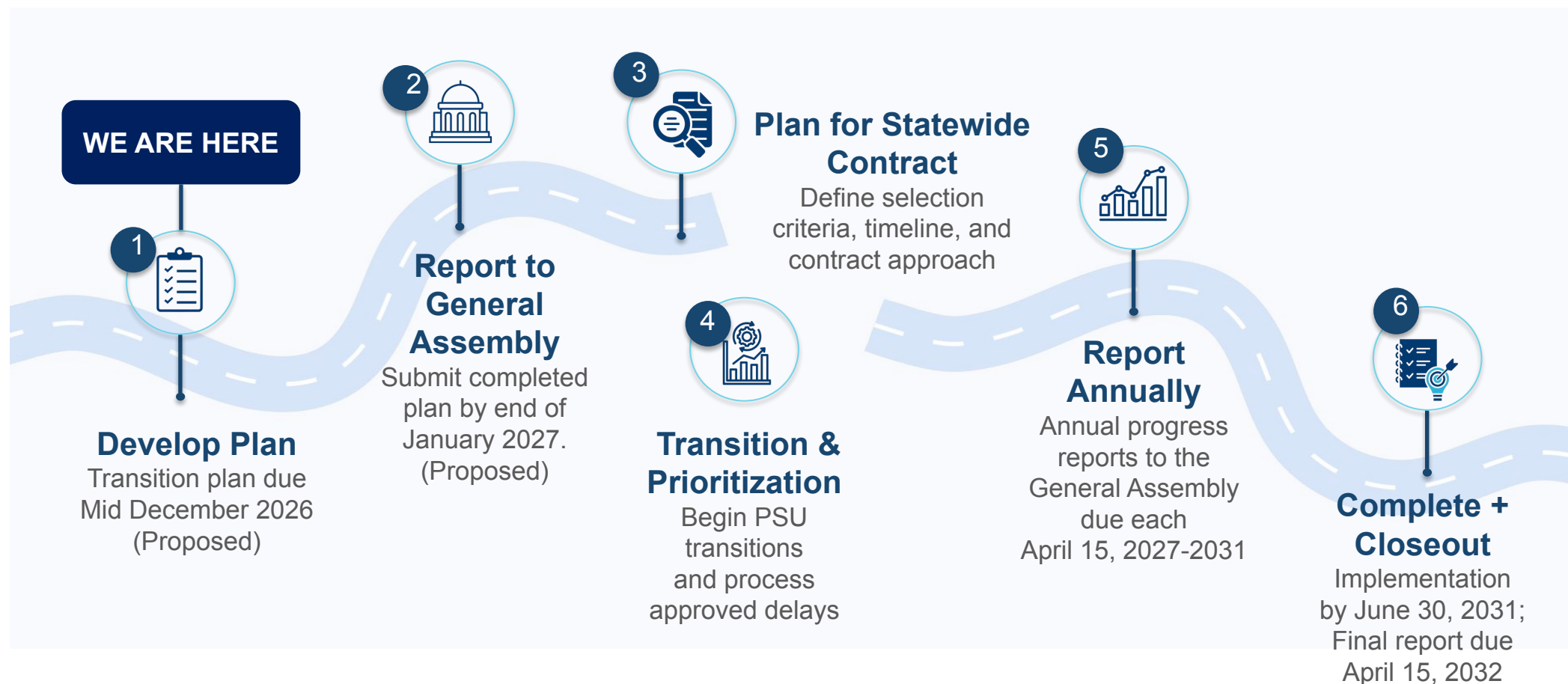
5

Transition prioritization

Sequence based on existing contract expiration

The transition plan defines the procurement and implementation approach

Roadmap to Completion



Current PSU ERP Landscape

Current LEA Financial Systems

Financial System	LEAs	Percentage
LINQ V6	79	65.8%
SunPac Financials	16	11.7%
LINQ NC ERP	10	8.3%
Tyler Munis	7	5.8%
SylogistEd	6	5.0%
Oracle	3	2.5%
AS400	1	0.8%

Source: NCDPI School Business Systems Modernization Survey, 2026

Note: SunPac may lose support on June 30, 2028.

Current LEA Payroll Systems

Payroll System	LEAs	Percentage
LINQ V6 Payroll	80	66.7%
SunPac Payroll	18	15.0%
LINQ NC ERP	10	8.3%
SylogistEd	6	5.0%
Tyler Munis	3	2.5%
Oracle	2	1.7%
Lawson	1	0.8%

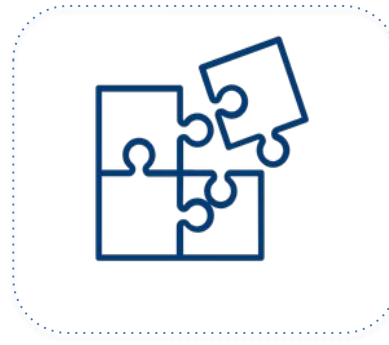
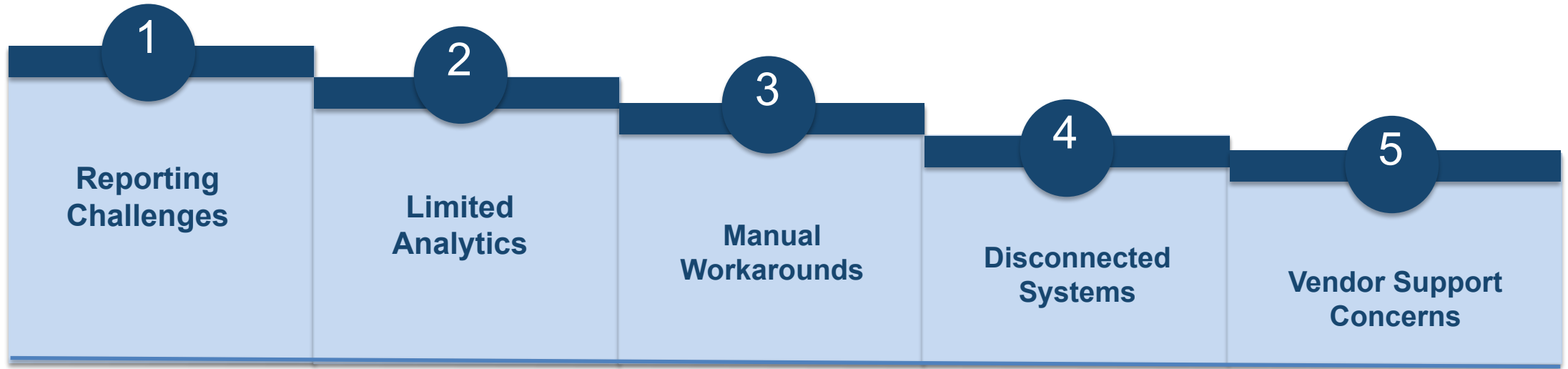
Source: NCDPI School Business Systems Modernization Survey, 2026

Current LEA Human Resources Systems

HR System	LEAs
LINQ V6 HR	23
DPI HRMS	14
LINQ NC ERP	3
Tyler Munis	2
Frontline	2
Oracle	1
SylogistEd	1

Source: NCDPI School Business Systems Modernization Survey, 2026

Why LEAs Are Considering Change



Source: NCDPI School Business Systems Modernization Survey, June 2026.

Challenges

LEAs identified key challenges to ERP adoption

LEA TOP 4 BARRIERS

1



62%

Cost

Upfront costs and ongoing maintenance fees are a major concern.

2



48%

Migration Time

Time required to implement and migrate data could impact day-to-day operations.

3



44%

Confidence ERP Will Meet Needs

Uncertainty about whether the new system will meet unique requirements.

4



40%

Staffing Resources

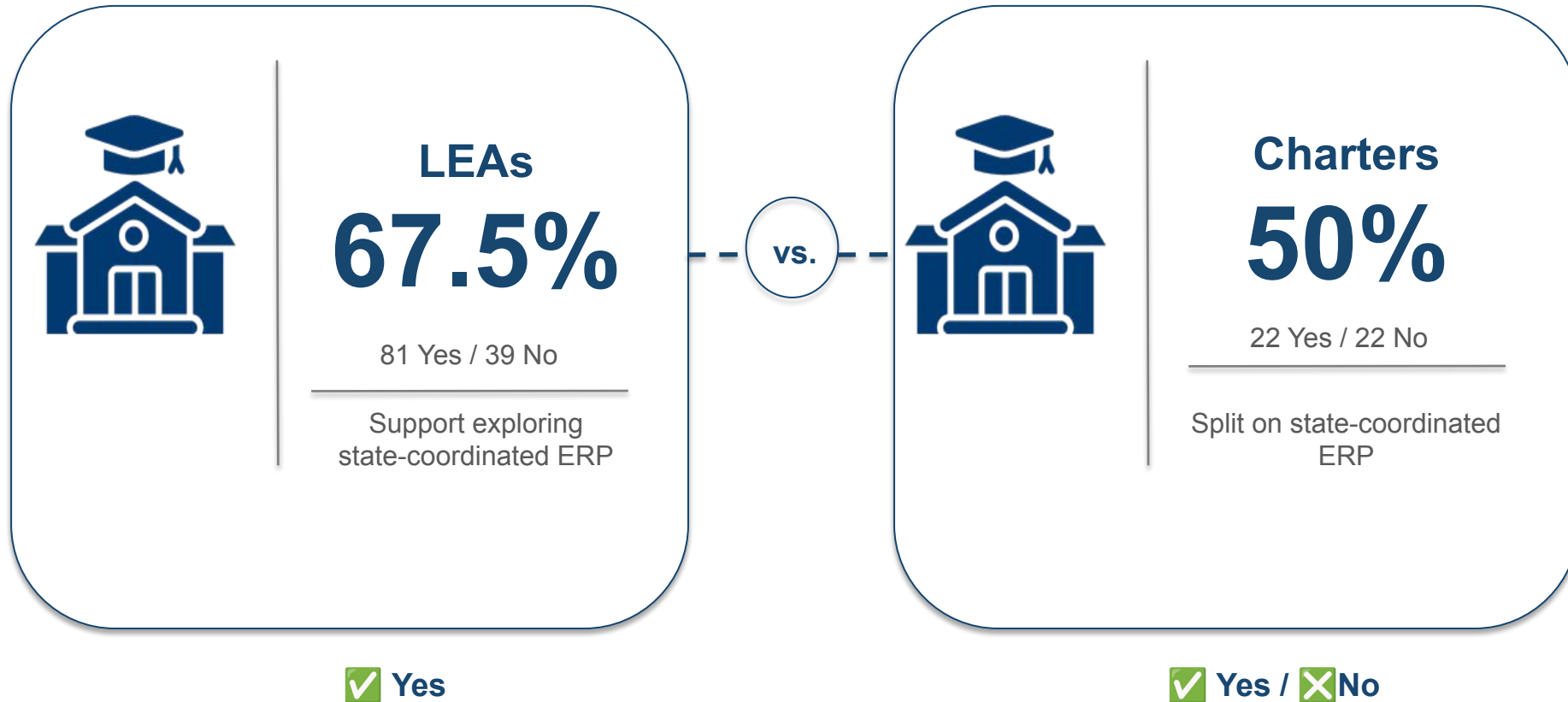
Limited staff capacity to support selection, implementation, and ongoing use.



Charter Feedback

Cost and staffing remain top concerns.

Interested in State-Coordinated ERP



What We Heard Stakeholders Need



Integrated Systems

Connected finance, payroll, and HR workflows



Vendor Leverage

Statewide buying power and stronger support



Reporting

Clear, reliable data and analytics



NC Specific Functionality

Designed for North Carolina requirements



Shared Training & Support

Implementation help, training, and ongoing guidance

Survey of CFOs and HR Directors June 2026

Questions?²⁵

Appendix: Systems Modernization Program History and Funding

Milestone	Funding or scope
2018 initial funding	\$29 million
2019 PSU ERP procurement	Oracle (IBM, formerly CherryRoad) and Tyler Technologies
2021 next phase funding	\$86.5 million
2019–20 original budget projection	\$169 million overall, including \$108 million for LEA ERP

Integration supports efficiency, financial transparency, validated data, and risk controls

Appendix: More Consistent Accounting and Reporting Accomplishments

1 Accounting standards

Adopted the required Chart of Accounts and Grant Year Accounting.

2 Payroll reporting

Implemented a new UERS Payroll Summary file for accurate reporting.

3 Simpler reporting

Replaced months allocated with days allocated for reporting and auditing.

Ongoing work: automate and streamline reporting

Appendix: Finance Systems Stabilization and Enhancement

- 1 Cash requests** State and federal Cash Request System
- 2 Time and effort** Time and Effort Process
- 3 Allotments** Allotments System
- 4 Licensure and salary** LicSal reconciliation system
- 5 Business analytics** DART standardized reports of PSU finance data