
PUBLIC EDUCATION

Our state constitution requires a quality education for all NC children, and they're not getting it - thanks to the Republicans in control. [Public Schools First NC](#) identifies four major challenges we face and two goals we should be striving for if we truly want to provide a quality education for all NC children.

Challenges:

- [Privatization of public schools](#) through diverting tax dollars to less-regulated, largely for-profit private and charter schools.
- [Innovative School District](#), a statewide district run by a superintendent who would choose charter school operators to run these existing schools, leaving the locally elected school board with no control over them.
- [School vouchers and educational savings accounts](#) can be used by families to pay educational expenses for their children if they opt out of public schools, at taxpayer expense.
- [Charter schools](#), although funded by taxpayers, are exempt from most of the rules and regulations that govern public schools. A 2011 NC law removed all limits on the growth of these schools, which have burgeoned, despite [concerns about their quality](#).

Goals:

- [Education justice](#), supporting free, fair, integrated public schools that are the basis for equality of opportunity for every child.
- [Adequate funding and teacher support](#), including improving teacher pay, reinstating career status for veteran teachers, protecting the right of teachers to speak up for their students, fixing the teacher pipeline, [repairing aging schools](#), and providing [adequate school supplies](#). Despite a mass education rally in May, Republicans [largely ignored the teachers' requests](#).

Learn More:

<http://strongernc.org/education-toolkit-risks-privatization/>