For Immediate Release May 14, 2013





Sound the Alarm—Public Schools Matter! Does this ring a bell? Remember when State Lawmakers Valued Public Education? Press conference Wednesday in Asheville

This Wednesday afternoon, the Asheville City Schools Foundation, local parents, educators and community leaders will join former Congressman and State Superintendent Bob Etheridge and Public Schools First NC for a press conference in Asheville in support of strong public schools.

Strong public schools have been a key part of creating the modern North Carolina—a wonderful place to do business and raise a family. Unfortunately, after years of budget cuts and other right-wing policy changes North Carolina's public schools are in danger.

For example, state lawmakers are putting the squeeze on elementary schools. They want to jam 30 or more students into a classroom. They want fewer teacher assistants. And they want voucher money drained from public schools. Students will have less one-on-one time with their teacher. And teachers will have fewer resources like technology and text books to make up for it.

Let's stop the race to the bottom.

WHO:

Bob Etheridge: Former Congressman and State Superintendent Betsey Russell, parent and board member of Asheville City Schools Foundation Patsy Keever, Retired Teacher and Former NC Rep. Chip Craig, Owner, Greybeard Realty Anna Austin: President Buncombe Co. NCAE

WHAT: Press conference

WHERE: Pack Square amphitheater Asheville, NC

WHEN: Wednesday, May 15 1 PM

For questions, contact Bob Etheridge at <u>919-452-2248</u> or Lynn Michie at 828-273-7984.