



Registration/Coffee and Book Signing

8:00am

Legislative Roundtable

9:00am

NC Legislators Rosa Gill, Tom Murry, Paul Stam, and Josh Stein will provide an update on pre-K –12 public education in NC and offer their perspectives on likely issues to be addressed in the upcoming legislative short session.

Moderator:

Joel Rosch, Senior Research Scholar, Center For Child and Family Policy, Duke University

Keynote Speaker

David Kirp

10:00am

Professor of Public Policy, University of California at Berkeley
Author of the award-winning book, *Improbable Scholars: The Rebirth of a Great American School System and a Strategy for America's Schools.*

Are there “improbable scholars” in North Carolina, students doing well in public schools regardless of their school’s zip code or their family's income level? Insights about what it takes to create strong public schools in the Tar Heel State.

Moderator:

Edward Fiske, education writer and consultant, former education editor, New York Times



Panel I: Effective and innovative programming

11:00am

There are many attractive choices within the public school system: magnet schools, charter schools, traditional neighborhood schools, career and technical academies, cradle-to-career community initiatives, and more. What are some of the programs that are working well in North Carolina and what can we learn from them? How are the diverse needs of North Carolina’s students and families being served by our schools? Panelists will discuss some examples of effective innovation within the public school system and explore some creative ideas for the future.

Moderator:

Minnie Forte-Brown, Vice Chair, Durham Public Schools

Panelists:

Nora Carr, Chief of Staff, Guilford County Schools

Tony Habit, President, North Carolina New Schools

David Reese, President and CEO, East Durham Children’s Initiative

Lunch and Book Signing

12:00pm

Panel II: Adequate school funding & accountability

1:00pm

School funding is a complex topic. How are public schools funded in North Carolina and how does the funding of our public schools compare to other states? What are the existing inequities within our state and what steps can be taken to address them? Panelists will discuss these questions as well as the issue of accountability: how to ensure that public dollars are well spent within the public school system.

Moderator:

Mike Ward, President of The MEWs Educational Consulting, Inc. and former State Superintendent of Public Instruction of North Carolina

Panelists:

Ricky Lopes, Associate Superintendent, Cumberland County Schools

Keith Poston, President and Executive Director, Public School Forum of North Carolina

Philip Price, Chief Financial Officer, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction



Panel III: High quality teaching environments

2:00pm

We know that one of the single most important factors in the quality of a child's education is the quality of his or her teacher. What attracts highly qualified candidates to the profession of teaching and what motivates them to stay? What are the necessary ingredients for a high-quality teaching environment? Our panelists will explore some of the strengths of NC's teaching force as well as some of the challenges teachers currently face.

Moderator:

Mark Jewell, Vice President, North Carolina Association of Educators

Panelists:

Suzzette Acree, Teacher at Lacy Elementary in Wake County

Alesha Daughtrey, Partnerships and Professional Learning, Center for Teaching Quality

Karyn Dickerson, NC Teacher of the Year

Helen Ladd, Distinguished Professor, Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University

Adjourn

3:00pm