



Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire 2020

What education positions are supported by Public Schools First NC?

- ▶ **Public Schools First NC** is a statewide nonpartisan, nonprofit organization focused solely on Pre-K –12 public education issues.
- ▶ We **collaborate** with parents, students, teachers, business leaders, civic leaders, and communities across North Carolina to **advocate** for an effective public education system that will prepare each child for productive citizenship.
- ▶ We believe that **strong public schools** are essential for strengthening our economy and maintaining the vitality of our communities.
- ▶ Our goals are to **educate** and **inform** North Carolinians about the critical issues that affect our schools, our teachers, and our students and to **engage** all stakeholders in supporting a quality public education system that serves all of our students.

What is the Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire?

- ▶ **PSFNC** is a nonpartisan, statewide organization; we understand that sound public policy supporting public education must be enacted and funded by all elected officials.
- ▶ **PSFNC** advocates for enactment of specific policies and resource levels that are critically important for public education in NC.
- ▶ **PSFNC** supports the analysis of policies, legislation, funding, and outcomes to educate and inform citizens regarding issues impacting public education in NC.
- ▶ **PSFNC** supports the power of well-informed citizens to advocate for education policies that reflect their values and positions when engaging with candidates and/or elected officials.
- ▶ Accordingly, **PSFNC** supports the dissemination of information on all elected officials and candidates' positions regarding public education policies and funding.
- ▶ **To inform citizens, we offer candidates for public office the opportunity to respond to the Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire consisting of 10 simple position statements.**
- ▶ **PSFNC will share those responses on our website, social media platforms, and other media channels.**



Why Take the Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire?

- ▶ **Citizens need to understand candidates' and elected officials' positions on the critical issue of public education**
 - Candidates' responses help citizens understand how well-aligned candidates' positions, priorities, and commitments are with their own
 - Clear, published positions enable accountability for those who enact public policy and determine funding and resource levels
 - Citizens and constituents can contact elected officials based upon whether and how they choose to respond, and how they demonstrate commitment to their supported positions
- ▶ The **Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire** is **non-partisan**
 - The Questionnaire reflects policy positions of elected officials and candidates, not their political parties
 - Elected officials and candidates should **only** state the office they hold or seek, **not** their party
 - All elected officials and candidates for public office are invited to respond
- ▶ The **Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire** is **simple and easy to answer**
 - It includes **10 statements**, and requires only **YES or NO** responses
 - Responses may vary on specific statements; responders may select YES or NO to all, or some combination
 - Responders may include optional, additional comments to provide more context for their positions
- ▶ **PSFNC will publish the responses, if submitted timely, from elected officials or candidates** for NC House, NC Senate, NC statewide offices that directly impact education, and county commissioners from our 100 counties

Public Schools First NC

Education Position Questionnaire

Item #	No	Yes	MY POSITION FOR NC <i>(OR FOR MY DISTRICT if I'm running for local office)</i>
1		yes	I SUPPORT raising per pupil funding for all public schools to at least the national average.
2		yes	I SUPPORT raising pay for public school teachers to at least the national average and reinstating master's and other relevant advanced degree pay. Furthermore, I SUPPORT additional pay for teachers who achieve nationally recognized certifications and pay for teachers who take on additional duties and responsibilities (such as coaching or tutoring after school).
3		yes	I SUPPORT increasing the numbers of school counselors, school psychologists, school social workers, and school nurses for all public schools to at least the recommended national ratios per pupil.
4		yes	I SUPPORT providing full public funding for pre-K for all eligible children in North Carolina.
5		yes	I SUPPORT providing full funding for K-5 enhancement teachers for art, music, physical education, and world languages.

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Education Position Questionnaire

Item #	No	Yes	MY POSITION FOR NC <i>(OR FOR MY DISTRICT if I'm running for local office)</i>
6		Yes	I SUPPORT increasing per pupil funding for textbooks and other instructional resources (digital and hard copies), supplies, etc. to at least pre-recession levels.
7		Yes	I SUPPORT programs that have been demonstrated to reduce the achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged students, including programs to improve public school equity, integration, and inclusion.
8		Yes	I SUPPORT fair and equitable evaluation of teachers and schools using a variety of metrics for student and teacher performance, not just standardized test scores.
9		Yes	I SUPPORT phasing out school vouchers for private schools, and ensuring that existing private schools receiving public voucher funds meet the same accountability and performance standards as public schools.
10		Yes	I SUPPORT a moratorium on new charter schools until stronger accountability standards and better authorization mechanisms are implemented; including empowering local school boards with the ability to create charters and keep them under their governance.

Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire

Item #	Please feel free to add comments to explain or elaborate on your positions on specific items, if desired (<i>OPTIONAL</i>)
	I have attached responses top each of your ten items

Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire

			TCR	Type text here
My Signature			TCR	
Date			4/17/2020	
My Printed Full Name			Ted Remington	
I Hold Or Seek The Office Of			NC H ouse 85th District	

THANK YOU for sharing your positions on these public education issues with NC citizens!

Please add your legibly printed name and the elected office you hold or for which you are running (including county or district number if applicable, but do not include your political party). You can save this document with your name in the file name and email to us or you can print and mail to us at the address below.

Public Schools First NC

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Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire responses will be shared via our website, newsletters, Facebook, Twitter, and local NC news sources.



www.PublicSchoolsFirstNC.org

1. Per pupil funding:

If elected I will propose a comprehensive review of how NC funds schools at the present, with particular focus paid to creating a single taxpayer source for all K-12 education in the state. I have always wondered why there are two different funding sources, state and local. The local funds come primarily from property taxes, which means that portion of the tax is extremely regressive, particularly in many of our more rural counties where there are a lot of fixed-income retirees who live on land they may have inherited from prior generations.

I would replace ALL other educational taxes with a specific tax called K-12 funding tax. It would be graduated, based on an individual's or couple's Federal adjusted income. Those with less than \$10K in income per person would pay 1%, those with less than \$25,000 would have a tax of 2%. At \$50,000 there would be a 3% levy. For \$100,000 the tax would be 4%, while those over \$250,000 would pay 7.5%. There would be no ifs, ands, or buts about this tax on AGI. No matter what other tax deductions, reductions, credits, the taxpayer WILL pay this for K-12 funding.

We need to establish a goal for our spending levels. It is obvious that throwing money at K-12 education, in conjunction with other measures, will bring better outcomes. At this point I would look favorably on a requirement that per pupil spending be at least the average of the top 20 states, regardless of population. We cannot catch up if we don't do anything.

2, Pay for public school teachers:

I will propose or support legislation which would peg teachers' pay to the average of the top 20 states. I would vote against any legislation which allowed local school boards to provide supplemental pay to teachers because of a perception that the cost of living is higher in one area or another. It is absolutely vital that all teachers receive the same pay across the state; in some small way that may encourage teachers to move to and work in more remote areas.

I would also propose legislation that gives each school district annual grants based upon number of students, with the provision that each district will use the grants only to fund educational materials, supplies, etc. This grant should be at least \$50 per student. Thus, a teacher with 24 students would get \$1,200 to spend as he or she wishes for supplies, etc.

3. Counselors, nurses, psychologists, social workers. We need more of all of these, but we also need to make sure that each teacher have a teaching assistant working full time in individual classrooms.

Another thing we need to do is concentrate on the prevention of bullying at all school levels. All of us have seen the horror stories of students who committed suicide because of bullying. THIS MUST BE DEALT WITH.

4. Public funding for all children. All children who reside in North Carolina, regardless of their immigration status, are children who need education from K to 12. They should not bear an onus because of what their parents may have done. Where they came from is of no importance to me. It is where they go in life that matters, whether it be here or in some other country.

5, Public funding for K-5 enrichment teachers. Yes. To all. In addition, every child shall be required to have a working knowledge of another language before promotion to the 6th grade. Students in 7-12 should be able and encouraged to continue with this second language or to add a third.

6. Increasing funding for student study materials, textbooks, etc.

This is no-brainer. I have seen what the schools are trying to use; it's disgusting. Among other things it instills in young minds the idea (which is not far from the truth) that North Carolina's school systems don't really want the students to succeed.

For too many years the purchasers of schoolbooks for Texas have "ruled the roost" when it comes to what is included AND excluded from textbooks. We can and must stop that. Modern publishing methods, including internet publication, on-demand printing, etc., can break this stranglehold. If elected, I will propose legislation to set up a multi-state task force that will give back to ALL of the states control over affordable textbooks.

7. Reduce achievement gaps.

There is no easy answer to this. My bottom line is: every child should be educated to function at the best of his or her abilities. I don't have any answers, though I do believe we should seek the answers not from the legislature but from skilled professionals.

8. Fair and equitable evaluation.

Another tough one. But certainly necessary. It is unfair to evaluate teachers on how well their students perform, particularly where at-home support by parents is lacking or even where it's just a matter of not having an affordable ISP available for a household. It is also unfair to the taxpayers not to evaluate them at all or even just have the appearance of not evaluating. The one thing that I can think of that is fair is to ensure that a teacher uses lesson plans that follow the instructional requirements for each subject matter. For example, if the requirements include an segment on World War II the teacher must have that in his or her lesson plan and should document its completion. Documentation need not be extensive, perhaps a single check mark on a lesson plan spreadsheet.

9. Phasing out school vouchers for private schools

I would end this yesterday. If people want private education for whatever reason they should write checks for the total. Tax dollars for education DO NOT BELONG in private hands. Also, I would not continue vouchers for those private schools that might be grandfathered in. No means No.

10. Moratorium on new charter schools.

To say that I dislike charter schools is an understatement. They may not be the work of the devil, but they are heading down that slippery slope. I have had personal experience with a charter school my children attended in Colorado. First and foremost, that charter school did not have to pay the prevailing wages for teachers inside the school system. No matter what, this is unconscionable. There was no bus service. Of course it was going to be cheaper. But better? Absolutely no way.

My younger daughter was in their preschool program and came home crying every day. EVERY DAY. Finally she told us she hated it because they did not let her read during "quiet time", which the director of the program called "nap time." State law, I was told. I said, "How stupid is a state law that says you have to make a three-year old take a nap?" The reality is they wanted the kids to sleep so they didn't have to supervise them for an hour. Then they told me, "If we let (daughter) read then we will have to let all the children read." I said, "How many parents do you think will complain that their three-year-olds want to read rather than nap?" I withdrew her immediately. This is the sort of thing that happens in

charter schools, where education Nazis make up rules as they go along. If you put them under the full control of the school board they cease to be charter schools. Put them out of our children's misery. Do away with them NOW.