



# NC'S PATH TOWARDS PRIVATIZATION

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## Private school vouchers come to NC

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**Excerpt from Liberty Christian Academy handbook, a NC voucher school receiving taxpayer funds.**

"BIBLICAL MORALITY STATEMENT LCA believes that God's plan for human sexuality is that it is to be expressed in a monogamous lifelong relationship between one man and one woman within the framework of biblical marriage. This is the divinely designed relationship for the birth and rearing of children and is a union made in the sight of God, and takes priority over every other human relationship."

## Teaching profession attacked in 2013-15 budget

- Career status eliminated
- Due process rights eliminated
- Longevity pay eliminated
- Masters pay eliminated
- Lifetime salary capped at \$50K

## Virtual charter schools come to NC

Despite overwhelming evidence of failure in other states, NC lawmakers award K-12 Inc. & Connections Academy contracts to operate in NC.

In 2019, the NCGA renewed contracts for K-12 Inc. & Connections Academy through 2024. These contracts were extended despite both charters being low performing schools since they opened. For the fourth year in a row, students failed to meet growth goals on state tests.

## Innovative School District (ISD) comes to NC

This school takeover scheme, modeled after a failed experiment in TN, starts by taking over one elementary school in Robeson County & turning it over to a for-profit, out of state charter company. The local school board had two options: let the state takeover or close the school.

## Education Savings Accounts (ESAs) come to NC

Another form of a school voucher, ESAs provide incentive for parents of special needs students to leave the public school system for private schools where they may not have access to needed services.

## Class Size Chaos

NC lawmakers reduce class sizes in grades K-3 without the necessary funding for extra classroom space or teaching positions.

School systems across NC were unable to comply with the new class size limits due to lack of resources. Schools were forced to choose between eliminating art, music and P.E. to have the funds to hire additional K-3 teachers or put 30-35 students in 4th and 5th grade classes. Public outcry forced some relief in the 2018 budget.

## Cumulative Funding by 2019-2020

Vouchers funded at \$1.2B and charters funded at ~\$5B.

2010 approved Charter Schools

Traditional public schools perform as well or better than private and charter schools.

## NC lawmakers remove cap on charter schools

The number of charter schools that could operate in NC was limited to 100. State lawmakers eliminated this cap, allowing explosive growth in charter schools across NC.

## NC Teaching Fellows eliminated

NC's nationally acclaimed scholarship teacher education program is eliminated by the NCGA.

Strong public reaction led NC lawmakers to create a smaller, less robust version of NC's Teaching Fellows program in 2018. Down from 500 annual scholarships in the former program, the current version provided only 110 scholarships in 2018 and just 133 scholarships in 2019.

## A-F school letter grades come to NC

NC starts grading schools using a flawed formula: 80% test scores & 20% growth. Grades significantly correlate with poverty rates.

A-F school letter grades harm a school's image in the community, making it harder to attract and retain teachers and students. Since 2014, numerous bipartisan efforts have been made to improve the formula. All have failed.

## NC teacher pay ranks 46th in the US

State lawmakers prioritize huge tax cuts for the wealthy and corporations over NC's teachers.

## Taxpayer dollars for vouchers more than triples in 3 years

Voucher funding increased from \$15M in 2015 to \$55M in 2018. Projected cost is \$145M in 2027.

## Towns and cities allowed to operate charter schools

HB514 becomes law, allowing four majority white suburbs in Mecklenburg County to fund and operate their own district schools with taxpayer funds.

This action sets a dangerous precedent for NC. It is a form of secession from more integrated, county-wide school systems.



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