

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 (Optional)

1	NC's per pupil funding needs to be increased to at least the national average. The cost of tangible and human resources and student needs continue to increase but the amount allocated by the state of NC has not kept up. NC continues to rank as having one of the lowest per-pupil expenditures. If we are going to provide a basic quality and equitable education to our students, we have to provide the funding. Public schools should have the funding to meet the needs of the students who are attending. The Leandro case makes it clear that every child has a constitutional right to a sound, basic education. Raising the per-pupil funding could be the first step in following the NC Constitution and Leandro.
2	There is a decrease in the number of students entering the education programs. We have to find ways to recruit and retain classroom teachers. Teachers deserve to earn a salary where they do not have to work a second job to provide for the basic needs of their family. I wholeheartedly agree with the reinstatement of masters and other relevant advanced degree pay. When teachers and other educators take the time to advance their knowledge and skills, they deserve to be paid for that increased knowledge. When a teacher goes beyond the scope of their classroom, they should receive monetary compensation.
3	Some students have physical, social, and emotional issues as a result of social economics, trauma, domestic concerns, and issues going on in their community. Often the school is the first people who notice changes in a child/children. Students often trust the adults at school and may confide in the nurse, social worker, counselor, or psychologist. Keeping the ratio of students to these professionals could increase the amount of time and attention they can provide each of the students. They can assist them with addressing issues of concern promptly. These professionals could assist families with connecting with providers outside of the school setting.
4	Research has shown that students who come to school with their foundation knowledge do better in school. Students who do not attend a pre-k program or receive foundational education, are behind their peers. They start school in a deficit and have to work hard to close the learning gap. We need more pre-k programs in order that children can enter school with basic knowledge.
5	The enhancement classes help students to use other parts of their brains and explore other talents and interests. Students who may not be able to "shine" in their academics may find success in the enhancement courses. These classes can also be used to help the student to connect with their other classes.
6	Students need to have access to tangible supplies and resources to access the curriculum and participate in their learning. There has to be funding to replace and update the resources and supplies.
7	There has been talk for years about closing the achievement gaps for economically disadvantaged students. There must be time and attention given to the programs that have demonstrated effectiveness. The programs have to be implemented with fidelity.
8	There must be more than one method and metric used to evaluate teachers and schools. There cannot be a heavy focus on any one area or day. Any evaluation must take into account that teachers are educating human beings and they are impacted by what is going on around them and how they are feeling. The day of the test is only a snap shot of what was going on with the student that particular day.

9) If a school is receiving public dollars it should have to comply with the same expectations, accountabilities, and performance standards of public schools. Private schools should not get the public dollars. If they are not going to be held responsible for providing the services that public schools must provide. Public schools are not receiving the per pupil funding at the level needed but they are having to give portions of their inadequate funding to the school voucher program. Private schools still have another revenue source of private and direct payment from families.

10) There has to be accountability for all schools receiving public dollars. Charter Schools seem to have grown quickly and the purpose seems to have been lost. Some Charter Schools are religious and some are very selective concerning who they will allow to enroll. A moratorium would allow time to put systems in place to better monitor the schools. Since public schools are already monitored by the state the charter schools created by them would only be an extension of the school system and provide flexibilities.

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My Signature

Date

My Printed Full Name

I Hold Or Seek The Office Of

Frank Mays

11/1/2004

Frank Mays

NC State Senate District 31 - candidate

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.

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