



# Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire 2024

# 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		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> raising per pupil funding for all public schools to at least the national average and I support fully funding <b>LEANDRO</b> .
2		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> raising pay for public school teachers to at least the national average and reinstating master's and other relevant advanced degree pay. Furthermore, <b>I SUPPORT</b> 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		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> 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		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> providing full public funding for pre-K for all eligible children in North Carolina.
5		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> providing full funding for K-5 enhancement teachers for art, music, physical education, and world languages.

# 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>
6		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> increasing per pupil funding for textbooks and other instructional resources (digital and hard copies), supplies, etc. to at least pre-recession levels.
7		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> 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		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> fair and equitable evaluation of teachers and schools using a variety of metrics for student and teacher performance, not just standardized test scores.
9		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> 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		✓	<b>I SUPPORT</b> 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 (OPTIONAL)
1	FUND LEANDRO! If we funded it we would be able to raise the per pupil & Teacher Pay as well as support local Boards.
2	Our Teachers are the backbone for Public Education and deserve to be paid on all levels including advance studies
3	Our children deserve services that help and protect their mental health and safety.
4	Early childhood development is important and I believe it's beneficial for Pre K to be funded in NC
5	Without extracurricular activities we are not helping the whole child. We need the arts & sciences as well as libraries & gym
6	Our per student captial needs to increase. Our teachers are paying for supplies out of their own pockets and still need more.
7	EVERY student is important. Your economic status shouldn't be the deciding vote if you pass or fail.
8	Just like students, not every teacher "tests" well. We shouldn't rely on standardized tests to decide if a teacher is competent.
9	***next page
10	Charter schools need guard rails and should be held at the same standard as P.E.




# Public Schools First NC

## Education Position Questionnaire

Item #	CONTINUED...Please feel free to add comments to explain or elaborate on your positions on specific items, if desired (OPTIONAL)
9	<p>Vouchers! I am a huge opponent to the School Choice Voucher Program in NC. The original use was to help struggling families from our lower income areas find a better option for schooling since in most cases their home school was underfunded and didn't have the resources needed. A better answer to vouchers in that case would be to invest and raise up those lower Title 1 schools and invest back into our communities. Sadly the voucher program has been hijacked by a group of people who want to defund Public Education and destroy the very institutes that protect them. There is a bigger problem when we have a state government that wants to fund Private Christian schools with our tax dollars meant for Public Education.</p> <p>As we know many of these "schools" do not have to follow the same guidelines as our public ones do. Families who have different needs can be discriminated against. ADA compliance, LGBTQIA discrimination, Race and economic discrimination. These Christian Private schools don't pay taxes so they don't reinvest in their local economies. These same schools don't have to hold the same high standard for teachers so many do not even have certified teachers on staff. They do not have to teach the same curriculum and many are very faith based.</p> <p>In order to have the best Public Education in North Carolina we need to do a few things: We need to stop funneling money into the Voucher, we need to PAY OUR TEACHERS and we need to invest in our children. It is in our State Constitution that each child has the right to a free and equitable education in the state of North Carolina! Let's bring it back to that and FUND Public Education.</p>
**	<p>I would also like to add that every elected official should have their child in Public Schools. We are allowing the people who make the decisions about funding for Public Education to dictate where the money goes while not having any skin in the game!</p>



# Public Schools First NC Education Position Questionnaire

<b>My Signature</b>			
<b>Date</b>	June 21, 2024		
<b>My Printed Full Name</b>	Jen Sanders		
<b>I Hold Or Seek The Office Of</b>	I am running for District 2 school Board member in UCPS (Union County)		

**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

PO Box 37832  
Raleigh NC 27627

Email: [info@publicschoolsfirstnc.org](mailto:info@publicschoolsfirstnc.org)



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](http://www.PublicSchoolsFirstNC.org)