



## Statement from Public School First NC on U.S. Congress

# Passing (H.R.1) Budget Reconciliation Bill

July 4, 2025

This past Thursday, the U.S. Congress voted to slash funding to multiple public education programs that our most vulnerable students and most of our rural communities rely on to ensure that all students can fairly and fully access public education. **This disastrous and unprecedented legislative act** by the U.S. Congress harms our children. Pleas across America for Congress to not make these cuts were ignored.

One of the most tragic and callous impacts of the budget bill is that over **500k NC children no longer qualify for school meals (part of the 1.4 million North Carolinians that will lose food assistance through SNAP)**. No child can be expected to pay attention in school when they are hungry. Many of these same children and their families will no longer have health care. In addition, the devastating cuts to Medicaid funds that provide school-based health services, reimburse schools for services provided to students with disabilities and low-income students will further harm to our students.

At the same time, this budget allows for massive tax cuts for the wealthy and super-wealthy. It also establishes a federal tax credit school voucher scheme with no spending cap. This is on top of the \$731 million that the NC legislature has already earmarked for private school vouchers in NC.

Study after study shows how vouchers do not provide civil rights protections, they undermine segregation, decimate public school budgets, and do not improve student outcomes. You have heard PSFNC use the phrase: Public education is the cornerstone of our democracy many times. This federal legislation is clearly intended to weaken and erode our public schools, which will impact the communities, especially rural communities, that depend on these economic and social anchors.

Public Schools First NC will continue to fight vouchers and the negative impact they have on our public schools by providing information to keep public education and child advocates informed. Over the next weeks, we will provide details on the portions of H.R. 1 that impact our Pre-K – 12 education programs.

**We need your help to make sure this information is widely shared!** Please forward our newsletter to your contacts and urge them to sign up. It is more critical than ever that we share information with those who value our public schools, educators, and students.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us ([info@publicschoolsfirstnc.org](mailto:info@publicschoolsfirstnc.org)) in the coming months with your questions or suggestions. Together, we will work to support and protect public education, communities across the state, and the 1.5 million students and families that rely on our public schools.