

NCAE North Carolina Association of Educators

Colleagues:

We look forward to seeing you on Wednesday, May 16, for the March for Students and Rally for Respect. Below is a list of our "Respect for Public Education" priorities that are being shared today with the media.

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Educators Announce "Respect Public Education" Priorities in Advance of the March for Students and Rally in Raleigh

Thousands of educators from across the state submitted personal days on May 16 to advocate for better classroom funding

RALEIGH, N.C. – On May 16, the North Carolina Association of Educators will hold a March for Students and Rally for Respect as part of its annual Advocacy Day. Thousands of educators are expected. However, May 16 is the beginning. It's the beginning of a six-month stretch of time to hold our legislators accountable for prioritizing corporate tax cuts, instead of our classrooms. The ultimate goal is electing more pro-public education leaders in North Carolina to return our state back to a beacon for public schools.

Gov. Cooper released a budget last week that makes critical investments in our students, educators, and families. There are investments in textbooks, supplies, school infrastructure, and significant educator raises that get North Carolina back on track to reach the national average in four years.

In advance of the March for Students and Rally for Respect, public school educators are announcing the following specific expectations of North Carolina's elected legislators:

- Per-Pupil Spending to the National Average in Four Years
- A Multi-Year Professional Compensation and Benefits Plan for ALL Educators that includes:
 - Ending Experienced Educator Pay Discrimination
 - Average Teacher Pay to National Average in Four Years
 - Significant and Livable Raises for ALL Public School Employees
 - Restoring Advanced Degree Pay
 - Restoring Longevity Pay
 - Annual Cost-of-Living Increase
 - Enhanced and Protected Health Insurance and Pension
 - Ending Pay for Performance Based on Test Scores, Including for Administrators
 - Reinstating Career Status

- Real Dedicated Planning Time and Lunch Time
- Investing in the Health and Well-Being of our Students and Making Schools Safer including:
 - At least 500 additional school nurses, social workers, and counselors this year
 - Improve health options for our most vulnerable students by expanding Medicaid
- Fix Our Crumbling Schools and Large Class Sizes With a \$1.9 Billion Statewide School Construction Bond
- No Corporate Tax Cuts Until Per-Pupil Spending and Teacher Pay Reach the National Average

“North Carolina public school educators, parents, and our communities demand better for our students,” said NCAE President Mark Jewell. “These specific public education priorities will give every student an opportunity to succeed and help recruit and retain educators as we face a critical shortage in our classrooms and school buildings.”

In North Carolina, per-pupil spending is \$2,400 behind the national average and average teacher pay is about \$9,600 behind the national average, both in the bottom tier of states. When accounting for inflation, our students and educators lag even further behind.

NCAE is the state’s largest education advocacy organization for public school employees, and represents active, student, and retired members.

In Unity,



Mark Jewell, NCAE president



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