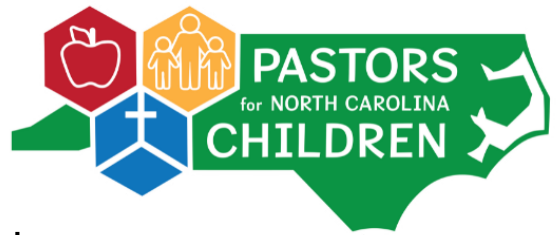


Pastors for NC Children

Mobilizing Faith Communities For Public Schools



Principles for Public Education Advocacy

Pastors for NC Children's mission is to mobilize faith communities in support of public schools across North Carolina. This work of advocacy and justice flows out of our commitment to loving our neighbors and participating in building the beloved community on earth as it is in heaven (Luke 10, Matthew 6, Matthew 25).

Additionally, PNCC is guided by the following principles and commitments in our work:

- We are committed to an approach that holds together charity and justice for social transformation. While charitable support of our schools (supply drives, food donations, etc) is needed, charity alone will never be enough. We are committed to addressing the root causes of problems in public education at the macro level for statewide systemic change.
- We focus on traditional public schools - those who are part of one of NC's 115 school districts with democratically-elected school boards - as they support the vast majority (80-90%) of children in the state.
- We believe public schools are not failing, but instead are underfunded, under-appreciated, and undervalued as a result of a push to privatize education.
- We believe public tax funding should only go to public schools that are required to serve all children and are regulated by a democratically-elected school board. We support a high wall of separation between church and state in order to ensure public money is not used to fund unregulated private and religious schools.
- We believe enacting the Comprehensive Remedial Plan ("Leandro Plan") is an essential step to reaching an adequate level of state support to fulfill the NC Constitutional requirement to provide a "sound basic education" for every child. It is the best way to ensure equitable educational opportunities for children regardless of race, ethnicity, economic background, regional location, disability, gender identity and sexual orientation, immigration status, and language(s) spoken.
- Since public schools are a main social safety net for children in our country, advocating for public education means attending to the needs of the most vulnerable children and paying attention to the forces outside the classroom which hinder the flourishing of all children. To that end, we advocate for poverty-reducing federal education programs such as free and reduced lunch and for adequate support professionals (counselors, nurses, social workers, psychologists, etc.) in our schools. We also believe in the importance of dismantling the prison/deportation pipeline, eliminating discriminatory high stakes testing, instituting culturally responsive teaching, and practicing restorative justice.
- We believe educators need to feel valued and trusted to do the jobs they are trained for and that they should be compensated as the professionals they are. These measures will benefit not only the teachers and children, but our communities as a whole. As public schools are the top employer in almost all NC counties, strong public schools are an investment in the future of North Carolina.
- We believe in building coalitions and seeking out partnerships. Statewide systemic change can only happen when people with shared power and the political will to make needed changes come together. Thus we seek out partnerships and coalition connections to enable the change we wish to see.

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