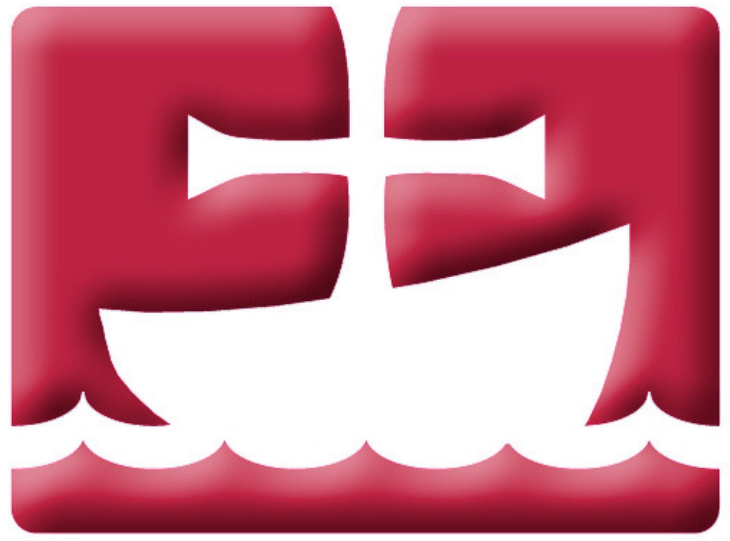


Legislative
Bulletin

An
Unwavering
Commitment to
North Carolina
Public Schools



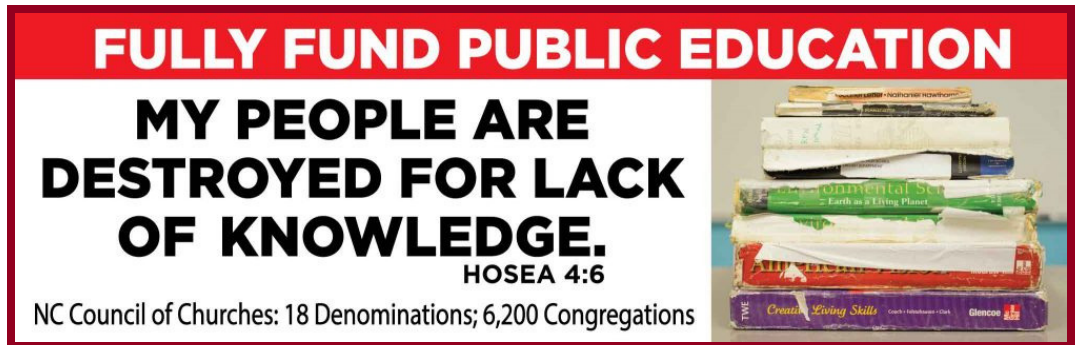
NORTH CAROLINA COUNCIL OF CHURCHES



Faith and Public Education

What scripture says about education:

- Train children in the right way, and when old, they will not stray. Proverbs 22:6
- We all have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophesy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach... Romans 12:6-7
- God has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8



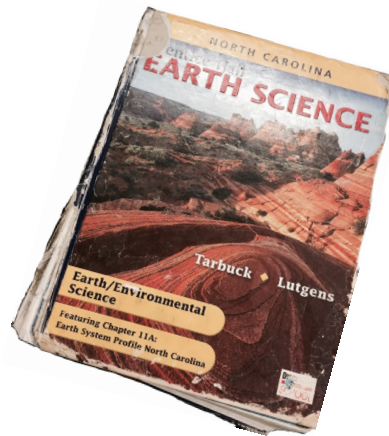
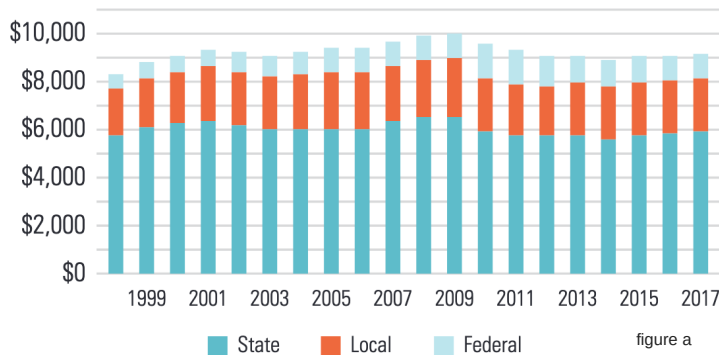
The Council's Statement on Public Schools

- We call on our elected officials to stop diverting tax dollars intended for public education to schools that are not accountable to locally, democratically elected boards of education.
 - We stand against funding charter schools that are parent run, corporate-run, or some combination of the two.
 - We support the repeal of State Statute GS 115C-75.6 establishing Innovative School Districts (ISDs) which strip local control of low-performing schools giving management powers to a corporate entity.
- We stand against public monies going to private schools, religious or secular, through the Opportunity Scholarship Program, also known as school vouchers.
- We call on elected officials to stop grading schools districts on the single criteria of test scores.
- We call on the North Carolina General Assembly to put the needs of all North Carolina children first.
 - Increase per pupil spending to the national average in all due haste.
 - Provide funding that supports development of the whole child by funding art, music, and physical education.
- We call for the treatment of teachers as professionals including:
 - increased salaries,
 - promotion of teachers' organizations, and
 - leadership development opportunities.

Public Education in North Carolina

- North Carolina continues to rank in the bottom 10 states in average teacher pay and per-pupil funding.¹

Per Pupil Expenditures for North Carolina K-12 Public Schools, Inflation Adjusted to 2017 Dollars

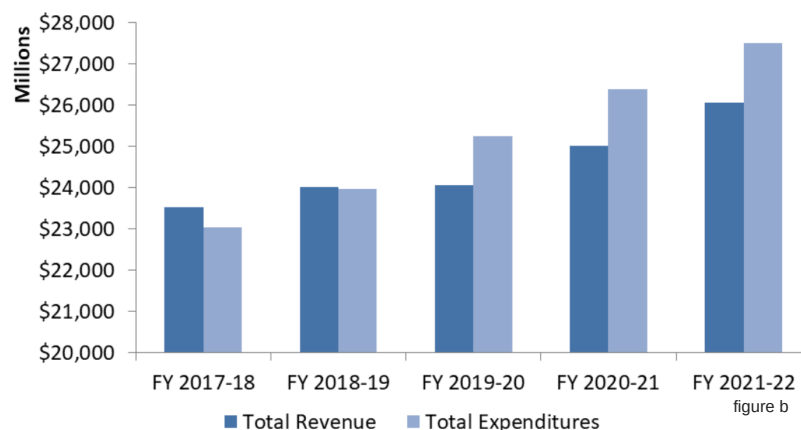


PUBLIC EDUCATION STATISTICS IN NORTH CAROLINA

- In 2017-2018, there was **one school counselor for every 370 students** in North Carolina public schools. The American Counseling Association recommends a maximum ratio of **one counselor for every 250 students**.²
- In 2016-17, there was **one school nurse for every 1,073 students** in NC public schools. The National Association of School Nurses recommends **one school nurse for every 750 students** without special health needs.³
- There are also far fewer counselors, therapists, school psychologists, and other supports than nationally recommended ratios.⁴
- North Carolina faces a shortfall of \$79 million in order to reach the recommended ratios for school nurses.⁵

North Carolina's experiment with tax cuts will make it difficult to keep investing in our communities

Estimated Difference Between Projected Revenues and Expenditures



- The constant under-funding of public schools makes it difficult for North Carolina to live up to constitutional responsibility to provide each student with a sound basic education.⁶
- North Carolina legislators' record of tax cuts in recent years has greatly reduced revenue for public investments, resulting in public schools that lack adequate resources to ensure all students receive a quality education regardless of where they live in the state.

Hope Lies in Your Hands

What Legislators can do:

- Invest in state-wide infrastructure for public schools.
- Pursue policies that promote healthy, safe communities around our schools.
- Restore the respect teachers deserve as professionals.

The Facts:

- Charter schools and opportunity scholarships dilute funding for public schools.⁸
- School integration has positive impacts on low-income students and students of color.
- School district boundaries are still used to maintain segregated school systems.⁹

Council Work:

Since its inception nearly 85 years ago, the Council has been actively pursuing a platform of peace and social justice across the state. One of the founding issues for us in 1935 was opposition to segregation and support for racial justice; the Council has long supported the rights of vulnerable and excluded people.



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Legislative
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NORTH CAROLINA
COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

1. The NC Justice Center, Adequate and Equitable Funding to Educate Every Child from Early Years to Careers, 2018

Figure a. Best NC, Facts and Figures: Education in North Carolina, 2018

2,3. Best NC, Fact and Figures: Education in North Carolina, February 2019

4,5,6,7. The NC Justice Center, Adequate and Equitable Funding to Educate Every Child from Early Years to Careers, 2018

Figure b. The NC Justice Center, January tax cuts set the stage for two-year budget development, January 2019

8,9. The NC Justice Center, Stymied by Segregation: How Integration can Transform North Carolina Schools and the Lives of Its Children, 2018