

OPPORTUNITY &amp; PROSPERITY FOR ALL

# Education

The EDUCATION & LAW PROJECT believes every child should have the opportunity to access a quality education in a safe, supportive, and caring environment.

## OUR WORK, OUR IMPACT:

Our core goals are to strengthen support for investing in public schools; help limit privatization of public education with increased transparency, accountability, and oversight of existing school privatization; and ensure all North Carolina students, especially those with low incomes and students of color, are able to achieve high levels of academic success.

- We helped **bring together a group of committed advocates from across the state to form the Communities for the Education of Every Child NC**, a coalition of organizations, parents, teachers, and students who advocate for every child's constitutional right to a sound, basic education. The coalition's work focuses on promoting equity so that race, ethnicity, economic background, regional location, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, immigration status, and language are not barriers to educational opportunity.
- We successfully **advocated for the Governor's budget to include funding for the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan**.
- Through the coalition, **we filed an amicus brief outlining the shortfalls in North Carolina's education system**. Over 140 education, civil rights, philanthropic, and community-based organizations signed on.

THE EDUCATION & LAW PROJECT seeks to improve public education by ensuring public schools have the resources they need to provide every child—particularly children of color, those with low incomes, students with disabilities, and English learners—with a high-quality education through access to excellent schools from prekindergarten through high school.

We advocate for improved policies regarding funding, accountability, increased instructional programming to overcome learning losses, school discipline, wraparound supports, student assignment, teacher quality, and equitable access to resources and programming.





## MOVING FORWARD

- **Advocate for improved local policies and increased state-level funding at the local level through the Every Child NC coalition.** The coalition, convened in 2020, focuses on parent organizing; know-your-rights trainings; and district, local, and statewide advocacy. We will continue to ensure Every Child NC has representation on the *Leandro* monitoring body, work toward growth geographically as well as among education advocates and the business community, increase public awareness, and lobby for the NCGA to fund the *Leandro* plan.
- **Engage in community outreach** to inform vulnerable immigrant families, families with low incomes, Black communities, and communities of color of their rights. We will reach out to Spanish-speaking English language learners, work to help families overcome barriers to school enrollment, and advocate for access to improved educational services that will help children overcome language barriers.



- **Oppose state legislation that increases privatization, cuts public school funding, or promotes segregation.** We will work with coalitions of education advocates at the legislature to propose and support legislation that will expand pre-K, improve accountability for the school voucher program, and increase the number of nurses, counselors, and therapists. We will also advance legislation designed to improve educator diversity, building on the recommendations of the Governor's Developing

a Representative and Inclusive Vision for Education (DRIVE) Task Force, in which we participated.

- **Conduct research analysis on important education issues, and disseminate to policymakers, advocates, and parents,** including the community-level benefits of implementing the *Leandro* plans. We will promote a comprehensive, proactive vision for meaningful public education reform in North Carolina that is community-driven and based on input from our partners who work most closely with impacted families and children. We will also continue to create and disseminate research on resegregation and the benefits of school integration.
- **Enforce, protect, and expand the rights of students in North Carolina through litigation.** We will continue our litigation efforts in *Students for Fair Admissions, Inc. v. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, et. al.*, where we have intervened in the case on behalf of current and future students to defend against a challenge to UNC-Chapel Hill's use of race as one factor in undergraduate admissions decisions. We will also continue to support the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights as consultants in the *Leandro* case.



LET'S WORK TOGETHER to end poverty, build power, and share prosperity across North Carolina!



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