

Education

Our EDUCATION team believes every child should have the opportunity to access a quality, equitable education in a safe, supportive, and caring environment.



OUR WORK HAS 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 programs; and ensure all North Carolina students, especially those with low incomes and students of color, are able to achieve high levels of academic success. As part of our recent initiatives to provide educational opportunities in public schools for all children, we have:

- Helped bring together and anchor 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.
- Successfully advocated for the Governor's budget to include funding for the *Leandro* Comprehensive Remedial Plan.
- Through the coalition, 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 team 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 educational opportunities in public schools from prekindergarten through high school.*
- ▶ *Advocate for improved policies regarding adequate and equitable funding, accountability, increased instructional programming to overcome learning losses, school discipline policies that reduce the use of exclusionary discipline, wraparound supports, student assignment, teacher quality, and equitable access to resources.*

MOVING FORWARD WE WILL:

- **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 anchor and provide technical support to ensure Every Child NC has representation in the multifront effort to uphold children's constitutional rights, work toward growth geographically as well as among education advocates and the business community, increase public awareness, and lobby for the North Carolina General Assembly 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 work with advocates for Spanish-speaking English language learners 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 early childhood programs, deal with the impact of the expiration of federal COVID relief funding, improve accountability for the school voucher program, and increase the number of nurses, counselors, and therapists to address students' burgeoning mental health needs. 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 historically marginalized families and children. We will also continue to create and disseminate research on resegregation and the benefits of school integration.

- **Support the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights** as consultants uplifting the community voices of Every Child NC in the *Leandro* case.

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

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