

# The People First Agenda

The EDUCATION LAW (EdLaw) project works to improve public education so that all students—especially those who face additional barriers—can receive a high-quality education that allows them to flourish.



## OUR 2026 GOALS

**Complete funding for a high-quality education for all students by advocating to fully implement the *Leandro* Comprehensive Remedial Plan. This would:**

- ▶ Expand North Carolina Pre-K to ensure all eligible students can attend a high-quality, full-year pre-kindergarten program by the 2027–2028 school year.
- ▶ Increase teacher pay to make it competitive with other degree-requiring professions.
- ▶ Secure additional education funding to recruit and retain classroom teachers, hire instructional support personnel such as school nurses and psychologists at recommended levels, restore funding for teacher assistants, and adequately fund textbooks and supplies.
- ▶ Eliminate the wait list for the child care subsidy and increase the reimbursement rates for child care providers.
- ▶ Expand supplemental funding for students from families with low incomes, students with disabilities, English learners, and students in low-wealth districts.
- ▶ Pass a statewide school construction bond to give more students access to safe, healthy learning environments.

**Implement universal free breakfast and lunch and universal pre-K access.**

**Mitigate harms of declining public school enrollment by capping charter school growth and eliminating NC's wasteful voucher programs that predominately benefit wealthy families.**

**Integrate schools by mandating the merging of city and county school districts, incorporating segregation measures into school performance grades, and providing financial incentives for district integration efforts.**

## **Protect Students from Harmful Legislation**

- ▶ Remove law enforcement and immigration enforcement from NC's public schools to ensure schools become safe for NC's children, and specifically for historically marginalized Black, brown, and immigrant families who experience a disproportionate share of police violence.
- ▶ Block harmful legislation that seeks to remove mental health support, prohibit historically accurate lessons on racial discrimination, and ban access to books or instructional materials.



## **OUR 2025 HIGHLIGHTS**

### **Outreach, Advocacy, Research and Publications**

- Advocated for the most pressing issue facing North Carolina's schools: the urgent need for adequate and equitable funding.
- Continued to organize, grow, and engage advocates through Communities for the Education of Every Child NC, a coalition of organizations, parents, teachers, and students working to uphold children's constitutional rights to a fully funded education.
- Hosted advocacy days to pressure lawmakers to fully fund the *Leandro* Plan, end discriminatory school discipline practices, avert the childcare funding cliff, and suspend the use of public funds for private school vouchers.
- Ensured research-based, community-supported policies stayed at the forefront of budget conversations and public awareness, with a focus on full implementation of the *Leandro* Comprehensive Remedial Plan.
- Performed outreach to local advocates to engage and mobilize them in response to state-level policies impacting their schools.
- Published reports and policy briefs that critically analyzed the state's record teacher shortage, inadequate and inequitable funding, ongoing efforts to privatize education, and the growing challenges associated with declining enrollment.

