

OUR CAROLINA PROMISE

A STATE THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE



for **OUR SCHOOLS**

BUILD AND FUND A FIRST CLASS PUBLIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

North Carolina was once known as a national leader in public education. It is time to reclaim that status. Every North Carolina citizen deserves a quality public education no matter their zip code. That starts with raising educator pay, investing in students and support staff, and expanding opportunities for our youngest students.

RAISE TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL PAY TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE

North Carolina teachers make nearly \$10,000 less than the national average. Adjusting for inflation, teachers earn 9.4 percent less today than they did in 2009. Good teachers are leaving to teach in other states. That hurts our students and holds back our economy. Our teachers deserve better. Now is the time to put our teachers and students first.

EXPAND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS TO ENSURE ALL CHILDREN ARE READY FOR SCHOOL

Quality preschool programs are critical to long-term success for our children and our state. More than 1,800 additional 4-year-olds attended the NC Pre-K program last fall thanks to Democratic efforts. But that's not enough. Democrats promise to expand early childhood programs to not only end the pre-K waitlist but to ensure that parents who are trying to help their children get a quality education have access to early childhood education programs.



PROVIDE THE NURSES AND SUPPORT STAFF NEEDED TO KEEP STUDENTS HEALTHY AND SAFE

School nurses, social workers, counselors, psychologists, and school support staff are critical resources that help identify and treat youth mental health needs and offer counseling that helps our children become productive students. North Carolina Democrats are committed to keeping our students and schools healthy and safe by bringing NC up to the national standard for number of school nurses and supporting new support staff for our schools.

GIVE OUR SCHOOLS THE RESOURCES THEY NEED TO SUCCEED

North Carolina spends \$2,400 less per-student than the U.S. average. We need to reduce class sizes, give students updated textbooks, and be sure teachers and parents aren't forced to pay for basic school supplies out of their own pockets. Democrats will prioritize investing in our classrooms because we know our students must be able to compete for 21st century jobs.