

## NORTH CAROLINA'S SOURCE FOR PARENTAL SCHOOL CHOICE





PARENTS FOR EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM IN NORTH CAROLINA

Parents for Educational Freedom in North Carolina (PEFNC) is a non-profit organization that advocates for quality educational options through parental school choice.

As North Carolina's source for parental school choice, we believe in allowing parents to send their children to the school of their choice - traditional or nontraditional.

PEFNC recognizes that education is not "one size fits all," and that children have unique needs. Families should have the freedom to choose the best education to meet those needs!





#### ENGAGE

AT THE GRASSROOTS LEVEL AND BUILD A MOVEMENT.

## EDUCATE

NORTH CAROLINIANS ABOUT OPTIONS IN OUR STATE.

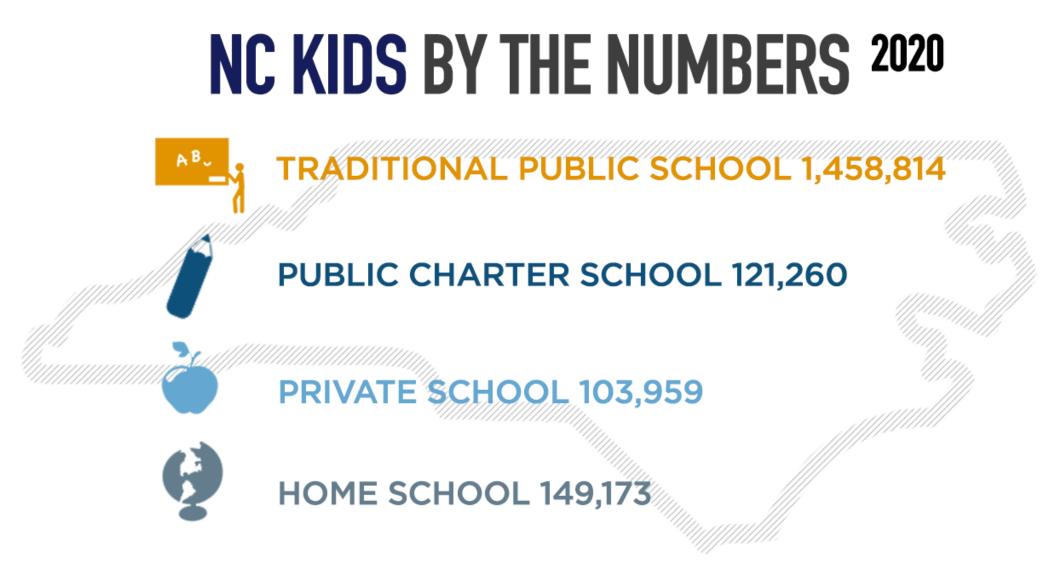
#### **EMPOWER**

PARENTS TO HAVE A VOICE IN THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION.

# NORTH CAROLINA IS A EDICITION REFORM



- 2018 | FORWARD-FUNDING UPHELD IN COURT
- 2017 | NC BECOMES 6TH STATE TO LAUNCH EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
- 2016 | NCGA FORWARD-FUNDS THE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP
- 2015 | OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP RULED CONSTITUTIONAL
- 2013 | OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM ESTABLISHED
- 2011 | CAP ELIMINATED ON CHARTERS & LAUNCH DISABILITIES SCHOLARSHIP



All enrollment data is according to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and Department of Non-Public School

# OVER THE LAST 3 YEARS NC KIDS BY THE NUMBERS 2017-2020

#### TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL -27,634

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL +26,270

PRIVATE SCHOOL +3,374 HOME SCHOOL +21,326

# **DURHAM KIDS BY THE NUMBERS 2020**

**TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL 33,939** 

**PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL 7,303** 

**PRIVATE SCHOOL 5,072** 

HOME SCHOOL 2,536

A <sup>B</sup>.

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TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL -248

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL +670

PRIVATE SCHOOL +210 HOME SCHOOL +273

#### PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL IMPORTANT FACTS

- Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors.
- State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition.
- Charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system.

#### PRIVATE SCHOOL IMPORTANT FACTS

- Schools that charge a tuition and report its name, address, and names of its chief administrator and owner(s) to the Division of Non–Public Education (DNPE).
- Operate for a school term of at least nine calendar months on a regular schedule excluding reasonable holidays and vacations.
- Administer to all students in grades 3, 6 and 9 each school year, a nationally standardized achievement test in the subject areas of English grammar, reading, spelling and math. Keep test results on file at the school for at least one calendar year for annual review by a DNPE representative.

# ACHIEVEMENT GAP

# URBAN INSTITUTE STUDY (2019, RedefinEDonline.org)

According to a 2019 Urban Institute study, the low-income students who received the Florida Tax Credit Scholarship were up to 20% more likely than public school students to earn bachelor's

degrees. Annual evaluations of the scholarship by the Florida Learning Systems Institute have consistently found that Florida's most disadvantaged students have the same annual learning gains as all students of all income levels nationally.

# NC STATE STUDY (2018, EdNc.org)

To assess impact on math and reading, they recruited 698 students from public and private schools to take the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, a nationally-normed standardized assessment in spring 2017. A matching approach was "utilized to maximize comparability between the public and private school student samples." The impact analysis finds "large positive impacts associated with voucher usage in North Carolina."

"It may be the case," says the analysis, "that the North Carolina Opportunity Scholarship Program truly has a positive impact on student achievement, perhaps because it reaches highly economically-disadvantaged students who have few school choice options in the absence of the program and perhaps the highest potential for academic growth, as a result."



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES εMPOWERING PARENTS







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#### 1. Tailor-Made Education for Students

Not all children are the same and lumping everyone into the same learning path at a public school might not be optimal for some unique learners. Students with minor learning disabilities might need specialized learning tools or more one-on-one time than they would receive at a public school. As an alternative to public schools, charter schools can help those who excel in specialized topics and hone in on subject expertise that might not even be an option at a public school.

#### 2. Strengthening Communities

Having families and parents that are actively involved in the education system and community around them can strengthen learning environments across the board. Having a choice when it comes to education can help bring complex issues to the table and all learning environments can work together for solutions

#### 3. Families can Make Choices that Work for Them

While there are programs that are designed to serve what is best for the public, sometimes schooling and educational choices are best served if families can be a part of this process. This can be a powerful way for families to have the resources they need to make the right choices for their families and children. Having only one option because of finances or not enough resources in the community can be too limiting for all.

#### 4. Changes in Educational Needs and Situations

No two children are the same, and the same can go for families and communities as well. There are always personal changes that can come up for students and their loved ones that need to be taken into consideration when it comes to the best educational environment for one to flourish in. The important factor to keep in mind is that families should be given the option to weigh their personal needs and make the best-informed decisions when it comes to their child's educational goals.

#### 5. Overall Innovation Bolsters all Educational Avenues

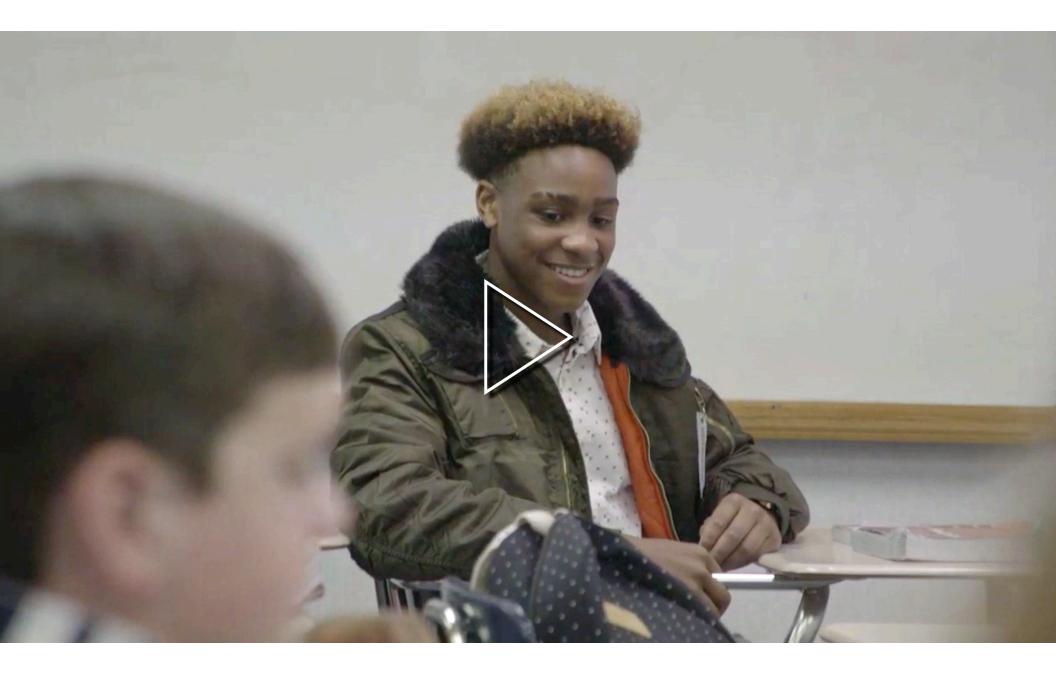
When it comes to education, innovations can come from any type of learning environment, but by having a diverse group of educators can lead to more improvement overall.

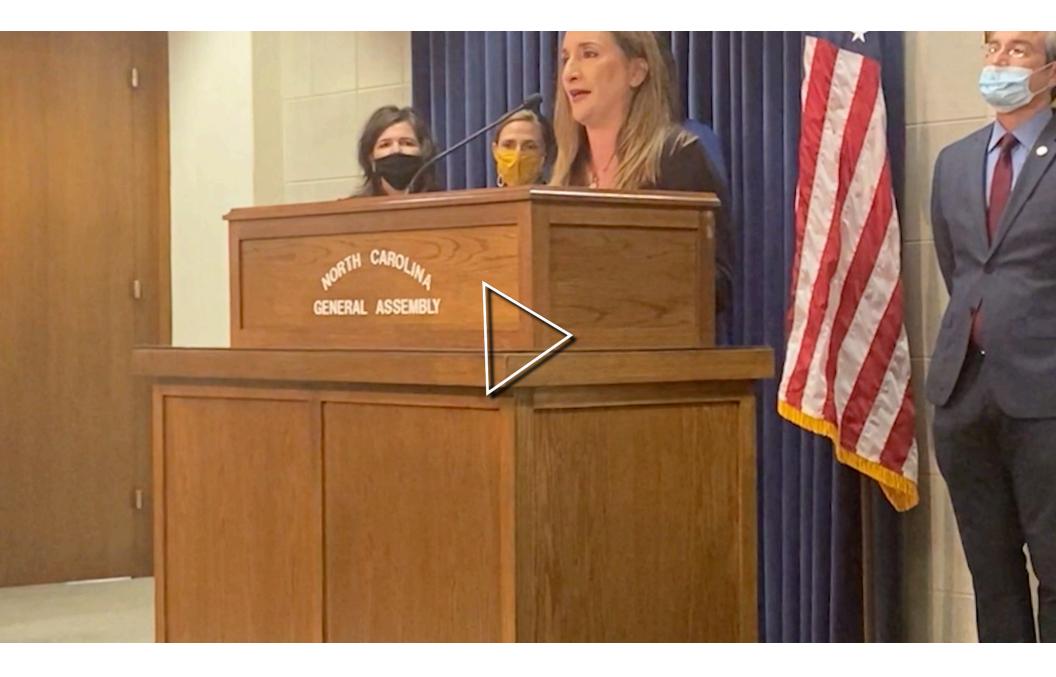
#### 6. School Safety Concerns for Kids

Getting a good education shouldn't include children coming to school in fear, possibly facing bullying or worse. With lowered funding and overcrowding in public schools, safety measures can suffer because there just isn't enough manpower or supervision to keep kids on the right path.

# SCHOOL CHOICE

School choice is something that can help students, families, communities, and the education system as a whole. Competition in any system can lead to innovation, and new educational ideas can come from all K-12 avenues, whether this is a public charter school, traditional public school, private or a home school.





Provides annual scholarships up to \$4,200 for low-income and working-class families to access the private school of their choice.

Provides tuition and required fees up to \$8,000 per student per school year. An eligible student is a child with a disability who has a public school IEP.

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#### OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

#### CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES GRANT

SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION SAVINGS ACCOUNT

	NC	DURHAM
OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS	16,030	488
DISABILITIES SCHOLARSHIPS	1,626	48
SPECIAL NEEDS ESA	331	14

According to the North Carolina Education Assistance Authority

This program has made it possible for my children to attend a school that reflects our values. The smaller class sizes and curriculum have been valuable to my children's learning growth.

- Luis, Raleigh

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For more information, visit us at www.pefnc.org

My child went from doing poorly at public overcrowded school to being a straight 'A' student now thanks to this program.

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#### - Sonya, Charlotte

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I believe it is a great program that gives the less fortunate people a great opportunity. Thank you so much for this program.

- Maie, Fuquay-Varina

EDUCATIONAL FREEDOM

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The Opportunity Scholarship Program is a blessing. Without it, my daughters could never have gone to this private school and have the same opportunities as other families with better income.

#### - Ever, Durham

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