

Update on “March for Students, Rally for Respect”

Last week, an estimated 20,000 marchers arrived at the NC General Assembly to advocate for our teachers and schools. A sea of red surrounded the legislative complex, including teachers, students and parents from Apex Elementary School.

Why Were They Marching?

- NC ranked 39th in per pupil spending in 2017.
- NC spends \$9,528 per student compared to the national average of \$11,934.
- NC teacher salaries are 37th in the U.S. and 6th out of 12 southern states.
Average NC teacher salary was \$50,861 in 2017-18, ~\$9,600 less than U.S. average of \$60,483 NC teachers earn just 65.4 cents on the dollar compared with other college graduates-the 3rd widest pay gap in the nation.
- The “Class Size Chaos” legislation continues to strain facilities and budgets across the state.

What’s Next?

1. VOTE! Be sure that you are registered and ready to vote in November’s elections. Learn about the candidates’ positions on education issues at <https://www.publicschoolsfirstnc.org/engage/education-position-questionnaire/>
2. Continue to contact your elected officials in support of our teachers and funding for education. You can find your legislator’s contact information at <https://www.ncleg.net/representation/WhoRepresentsMe.aspx>. Public Schools First also has a good resource guide for contacting legislators: <https://www.publicschoolsfirstnc.org/engage/get-involved/>
3. Support the NC School Bond! Ask your legislators and Wake County Commissioners to support the School Bond referendum for Fall 2018. Wake County Commissioners vote on the budget and school bond referendum June 4th. Contact the commissioners to let them know of your support at commissioners@wakegov.com
4. 4. Advocate for school safety bills. The General Assembly is considering a number of proposals to improve school safety:
[HB933](#): School Psychologist Licensing
[HB937](#): School Resource Officer Training
[HB932, Anonymous Safety Tip Line Application](#)
[HB934, Threat Assessment Teams/Peer to Peer Counsels](#)
[HB938, Expand Use/School Risk Management Plans](#)
[HB939, School Building Vulnerability Assessments](#)
[HB940, SRO Rpt by LBEs to Center for Safer Schools](#)

*If you have questions or would like to get more involved in advocacy, contact our PTA President at apexespresident@gmail.com