



NORTH CAROLINA
COALITION FOR
CHARTER SCHOOLS



Talking Points for HB 219

The problem: Local administrators are shortchanging funding for public charter school students.

- Public charter schools are part of the public school family. Yet, students in public charter schools receive **37% less local funding**, on average, than students in public district schools. (Source: [BEST NC](#))
- In 2020-21, for instance, local administrators withheld over \$108 million from public charter school students—*just because they attended public charter schools rather than public district schools.*
- The original state law authorizing public charter schools required fair and equal local funding, and state courts ordered such many times over the years. But in 2010 that law changed, causing the unequal funding we see today.
- Current law allows local administrators to game the system and put public charter school students at a disadvantage, simply because their parents have chosen another form of *public schooling*.
- Local education dollars are *supposed* to follow the student, regardless of the form of public schooling a family chooses.
- Here's an example of what this looks like: A district public school receives \$2,289 each year from local administrators to educate a child. But a public charter school would receive just \$1,431 to educate *the same child. That isn't fair!* (Source: [BEST NC](#))
- *Some* public school students should not be **worth less** than other public school students. All public school students should be treated fairly.
- Taxpayer dollars are meant to fund public school *students*, not school *systems*. What's more important in public education: the student or the system?

The solution: HB 219 would ensure local funding fairness in public education, requiring money to follow the child—whether that child attends a public charter or public district school.

- HB 219 would make funding fairness for all of our public school students a reality. This was the original intent of the law that created public charter schools in North Carolina over 25 years ago.
- Opponents of HB 219 treat taxpayer funding as if it belongs to a particular system or bureaucracy. But it doesn't: It belongs to our students. The commitment to a quality public education shouldn't change based on which school a child attends.
- We are not asking lawmakers to allocate more funding for public charter school students. We are just asking for **fairness in local education funding—for all public school students**.
- Funding provisions of HB 219 simply ensure that money follows the child.
- Opponents refer to this bill as a “money grab.” That isn't true at all. The bill simply requires local school districts to share funds intended for all public school students.
- Opponents also indicate there are “millions at stake” with this bill. On this, we agree. But these are millions that should go to educate public charter school students—simply to bring them up to the same funding level as their peers in public district schools.

Let's stop playing politics with public education and fund all our students fairly!

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