



NORTH CAROLINA COALITION FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

2025 COALITION IMPACT REPORT

The Coalition exists to protect and promote public charter schools. Our work encompasses three core areas of influence: advocacy, communications, and education. Below, we share key accomplishments from 2025.

ADVOCACY

Legislative achievements included:

- Strengthening overall Charter Schools Review Board (CSRB) authority by securing passage of Senate Bill 254/Session Law 2025-80.
- Ensuring CSRB approves all rules or policies impacting charter schools prior to State Board of Education (SBE) adoption.
- Securing CSRB authority to approve the written terms of charter agreements.
- Streamlining the local funding process by having CSRB, rather than the State Superintendent, create a standardized procedure for the transfer of local funding.
- Requiring the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to continue funding the financial data reporting platform LINQ for a charter school's initial year.
- Ensuring CSRB may hire its own legal counsel and oversee the head of the Office of Charter Schools.
- Clarifying that charter schools may use their own teacher evaluation tools.
- Ensuring that charter schools may relocate within 10 miles, inside their local district, without submitting a charter amendment.
- Codifying that charter schools have flexibility in whether or not to report class rank on students' high school transcripts.
- Requiring low performing and continually low performing charter schools to report improvement plans to CSRB, rather than SBE.
- Ensuring remote charter academies receive separate school performance grades from brick-and-mortar charter schools.
- Allowing a charter school with a remote academy enrolling at least 250 students to apply for CSRB approval of a separate charter, on an expedited basis.
- Working to secure Hurricane Helene relief funding for affected charter schools.
- Ensuring strong and sustained charter school oversight by securing legislative appointments to CSRB for two veteran charter leaders.
- Continuing to advocate for favorable budgetary provisions for charters.

Other advocacy efforts included:

- Promoting broad stakeholder input and strategic improvements to the state's Ready to Open (RTO) process through outreach to CSRB.
- Ensuring the inclusion of charter school leaders on SBE's new accountability task force for public school units.
- Dispelling public misconceptions about charter school admissions through outreach to local school leaders.

COMMUNICATIONS

Communications work included:

- Promoting charter schools extensively in the media. The Coalition drove media coverage by distributing press releases, placing op-eds, pitching stories, and participating in media interviews.
- Garnering Coalition media mentions throughout 2025 in outlets or publications including WFAE, WUNC, CBS 17, WBTV, WAVY, Yahoo! News, News & Observer, EdNC, NC Newsline, North State Journal, Carolina Journal, and more.
- Publishing original Q&A interviews and articles on the Coalition blog featuring charter school leaders and other stakeholders.
- Sending over 100 email campaigns to charter school leaders through Coalition Connection and Charter Chatter newsletters. Connection newsletters provided member updates on SBE and CSRB actions, along with legislative summaries.
- Publishing a monthly parent newsletter, CharterBeat, to inform charter parents about policy debates impacting charters and build a parent advocate database.

EDUCATION

Education initiatives included:

- Hosting the Coalition's third annual Charter Advocacy Summit in 2025 with over 240 attendees and representation from 89 charter schools.
- Offering regular updates during the legislative session to inform members about important developments at the North Carolina General Assembly.
- Providing members with policy templates developed by the Coalition's counsel to optimize statutory and regulatory compliance.
- Hosting webinars on teacher certification, NC College Connect, and charter legislation to inform members about issues impacting their success.
- Providing resources and a local networking opportunity for charter leaders through a Fall 2025 regional meeting at Sugar Creek Charter School in Charlotte.
- Hosting a Fall 2025 lunch for Ready to Open (RTO) charter leaders and Office of Charter Schools staff in Raleigh.
- Highlighting Coalition achievements and advocacy efforts at CSRB's September 2025 meeting.

COALITION TEAM

- **Leadership** includes Dave Machado, the Coalition's executive director, and 13 directors who serve on the Coalition Board. Jonathan Bryant, the chief administrator at Lincoln Charter School, chairs the Coalition Board.
- **Advocacy** efforts are led by lobbyists Harry Kaplan and Amanda Falkenbury of McGuireWoods Consulting as well as Dylan Reel and Story Oliver of Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton. Matthew Tilley, a partner at Womble Bond Dickinson, serves as the Coalition's counsel.
- **Communications** initiatives are led by Kristen Blair, the Coalition's communications director, and Pat Ryan, the founder of Ryan Public Relations.
- **Operations** efforts are headed by Candy Weatherspoon, the Coalition's administrative coordinator.

Learn more about the Coalition at chartercoalition.org