

**North Carolina Citizens for Protecting Our Schools –  
“Paper” - :30 - Backup**

Ad	Back up
<p><i>Audio:</i> Newspapers say it’s time Pat McCrory and Republicans in Raleigh tell the truth about our schools.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>On Screen:</i> Full screen editorial from N&amp;O with August 20, 2016 prominently displayed. Do not show the Banner of the News and Observer HEADLINE reads: <b>Tell the truth on NC school funding.</b></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Cite: News and Observer, 8/20/16</i></p>	<p><b>HEADLINE: “Tell the truth on NC school funding.”</b> (News &amp; Observer Editorial, <a href="#">8/20/16</a>)</p> <p><b>“Republican lawmakers are acutely aware of their culpability in this choice, but instead of defending it or apologizing for it, they’re denying it.”</b> “Instead of investing in the state’s children, instead of improving education as a way for poor children to escape poverty and all children to achieve goals, the Republican-led General Assembly has chosen to reduce state taxes, mostly to the benefit of the wealthy and big corporations. Billions of dollars in tax revenue that could have lifted North Carolina’s schools to new heights instead has been diverted into tax cuts that have produced no tangible results. Republican lawmakers are acutely aware of their culpability in this choice, but instead of defending it or apologizing for it, they’re denying it. Even worse, they’re claiming credit for <i>increasing</i> spending on public education. This is duplicity joined with sophistry, and it should stir the smoldering anger over the neglect of public schools into outrage.” (News &amp; Observer Editorial, <a href="#">8/20/16</a>)</p>
<p><i>Audio:</i> Instead of putting our children first, “Billions... in tax breaks that could have lifted North Carolina’s schools... have been diverted into tax cuts” for the wealthy and big corporations.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Visual:</i> “Billions of dollars in tax revenue that could have lifted North Carolina’s schools to new heights instead has been diverted into tax cuts”</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>Cite: News and Observer,</i></p>	<p><b><u>On screen backup</u></b></p> <p><b>News &amp; Observer “Billions of dollars in tax revenue that could have lifted North Carolina’s schools to new heights instead has been diverted into tax cuts that have produced no tangible results.”</b> “Instead of investing in the state’s children, instead of improving education as a way for poor children to escape poverty and all children to achieve goals, the Republican-led General Assembly has chosen to reduce state taxes, mostly to the benefit of the wealthy and big corporations. <u>Billions of dollars in tax revenue that could have lifted North Carolina’s schools to new heights instead has been diverted into tax cuts that have produced no tangible results.</u>” (News &amp; Observer, Editorial, <a href="#">8/20/16</a>)</p> <p><b><u>Tax breaks over schools</u></b></p> <p><b>“The tax revenue that could have helped the state restore funding cut during the</b></p>

<p>8/20/16</p>	<p><b>recession is instead being given back disproportionately to the wealthy and large corporations in the form of tax cuts.</b> “A bigger rise in state revenue would have supported salary increases for teachers and state employees, reduced pressure on tuition at UNC campuses and allowed for overdue investments in roads, water and sewer systems and other forms of infrastructure. The tax revenue that could have helped the state restore funding cut during the recession is instead being given back disproportionately to the wealthy and large corporations in the form of tax cuts. Arthur Laffer’s trickle-down theory has been proven a fairy tale of riches from nothing since the Reagan administration first sold it as fact. But that won’t stop the tax cutters from telling it as true once more.” (News &amp; Observer, Editorial, <a href="#">1/16/16</a>)</p> <p><b>Households with income over \$95,000 annually will “see a net benefit from the tax changes.”</b> “Households making more than \$95,000 a year would get an average tax cut of \$476, according to legislative projections. As long as they don’t spend more than \$7,000 on taxable services, they’ll see a net benefit from the tax changes.” (News &amp; Observer, <a href="#">9/19/15</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>Low-income taxpayers likely to pay more in taxes due to sales tax expansion that offsets \$50 income tax deduction.</b> “Taxpayers receiving a \$50 cut won’t benefit from the lower rate if they spend more than \$750 on repair, maintenance or installation fees during that calendar year. The 6.75 percent sales tax rate in many counties will increase the cost of a \$750 repair to \$800.” (News &amp; Observer, <a href="#">9/19/15</a>)</li> </ul>
<p><i>Audio:</i> And what are <u>we</u> left with? “the ratio of teachers to students is worse ...</p> <p><i>On Screen:</i> “the ratio of teachers to students is worse”</p> <p><i>Cite:</i> News and Observer, 8/20/16</p>	<p><b><u>On screen backup</u></b></p> <p><b>News &amp; Observer: “the ratio of teachers to students is worse”.</b> “Sure, appropriations have increased. So has inflation, the student population and <a href="#">the cost of employee benefits</a>. But have the resources for education improved? No. Indeed, <a href="#">the ratio of teachers to students is worse</a>, funds for textbooks and supplies are scarce, the ranks of teaching assistants have been depleted and more charter schools are diverting funds from traditional public schools. In terms of per-pupil funding, the most telling measure of a government’s commitment to public education, North Carolina remains near the bottom of national rankings. Indeed, after six years of Republican control and an improving economy, per-pupil funding in inflation-adjusted dollars <a href="#">has not returned to its pre-recession level</a>. In 2008-09, it was \$6,237. Today, it is \$5,616.” (News &amp; Observer, Editorial, 8/20/16)</p>

**Student-Teacher Ratio**

**2013 Budget McCrory signed allowed state to remove class size requirements.**  
“Remove Caps on Class Sizes — There is a suggested formula in allotting teachers to schools based on the number of students per class, but that cap was removed. House Bill 112 [2013 State Budget] allowed the state to remove class size requirements while still allowing monies from the state to be allocated based on the suggested formula.”  
(Washington Post, [5/18/16](#); H112, signed [7/29/14](#))

- **McCrory Signed Law That “eliminated a cap on class size.”** “In an effort to give more control to local school districts, the state Legislature [passed sweeping changes](#) to public education, many of which affected teachers directly. The Republican-controlled General Assembly ended teacher tenure, halted a salary bump for earning a master's degree, and eliminated a cap on class size.” (NPR, [2/11/14](#); H112, signed [7/29/14](#))

Year	Classroom Teachers Total	Fall Enrollment	Students per teacher	Source
2012-13	98,349	1,488,150	15.1	(NEA Rankings & Estimates; <a href="#">2013-14</a> )
2013-14	95,116	1,441,447	15.2	(NEA Rankings & Estimates; <a href="#">2014-15</a> )
2014-15	94,566	1,446,230	15.3	(NEA Rankings & Estimates; <a href="#">2015-16</a> )
2015-16	93,470	1,452,839	15.5	(NEA Rankings & Estimates; <a href="#">2015-16</a> )

*Audio:* ... funds for textbooks and supplies are scarce ...

*On Screen:* “funds for textbooks and supplies are scarce”

**On screen backup**

**News & Observer:** “funds for textbooks and supplies are scarce”. “Sure, appropriations have increased. So has inflation, the student population and [the cost of employee benefits](#). But have the resources for education improved? No. Indeed, the ratio of teachers to students is worse, funds for textbooks and supplies are scarce, the ranks of

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teaching assistants have been depleted and more charter schools are diverting funds from traditional public schools. In terms of per-pupil funding, the most telling measure of a government's commitment to public education, North Carolina remains near the bottom of national rankings. Indeed, after six years of Republican control and an improving economy, per-pupil funding in inflation-adjusted dollars [has not returned to its pre-recession level](#). In 2008-09, it was \$6,237. Today, it is \$5,616." (News & Observer, Editorial, 8/20/16)

### **Textbooks & Supplies**

**Teachers spend hundreds of their own money on supplies.** "Armed with those supply lists that include things like freezer bags and hand sanitizer, parents will fill area stores as their children prepare to head back to school. But teachers are hitting the stores, too. And many will spend hundreds of dollars of their own money to make sure their students have what they need in the classroom in the coming year... Wooten and her husband are both teachers and she estimates they'll spend at least \$500 on school supplies. For beginning teachers who haven't accumulated supplies, the amount is even more, she said.

Counselors and administrative staff help where they can, but budgets are tight, and the state provides less money than it once did for instructional supplies. In 2007-08, the state allocated just over \$83 million for classroom materials, instructional supplies and equipment, according to numbers from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. During the last school year, the state allocated around \$44.3 million." (Asheville Citizen-Times, [8/10/16](#))

**NC schools' needs strain budgets for parents, teachers.** "The General Assembly voted in 2013 to eliminate the three-day tax-free weekend that allowed shoppers to save on state and local sales taxes the first weekend of August. Since that program began in 2002, many families had taken advantage of the weekend to shop for clothes, computers and school supplies. Now some people say they are feeling the burden of stocking up for a new school year, especially as students use more high-priced technology. The legislature increased funding for school supplies and classroom materials this year by nearly \$3 million, to about \$47 million. That equals \$30.05 per public school student. But the funding falls far short of the allotment given before the recession: \$83 million in 2007-08. Adjusted for inflation, that would be about \$96.5 million today." (News and Observer, [8/15/16](#))

**Editorial: Teachers shouldn't foot bill for class supplies** "Yes, Republican lawmakers passed along a modest raise in this election year, but state teacher pay remains well below

	<p>the national average. And now teachers are finding that, thanks to an inadequate increase in funding for school supplies and classroom materials from the General Assembly, they'll be continuing in a not-so-glorious tradition: going into their own pockets to provide supplies. While the allotment for supplies went up, it remains much less than the per-pupil supply money before the Great Recession. In addition, the General Assembly abolished the three-day tax-free weekend in August during which many parents, and teachers, bought school supplies. One teacher interviewed by The News &amp; Observer estimated she spent \$200 on school supplies each semester. And in all likelihood, she spends more than that, and even teachers with parents willing to help, which many do, are still buying things that make their classrooms more interesting." (News &amp; Observer, <a href="#">8/16/16</a>)</p>
<p><i>Audio:</i> ... teaching assistants have been depleted."</p> <p><i>On Screen:</i> "the ranks of teaching assistants have been depleted"</p> <p><i>Cite: News and Observer, 8/20/16</i></p>	<p><b><u>On screen backup</u></b></p> <p><b>News &amp; Observer:</b> "...the ranks of teaching assistants have been depleted." "Sure, appropriations have increased. So has inflation, the student population and <a href="#">the cost of employee benefits</a>. But have the resources for education improved? No. Indeed, the ratio of teachers to students is worse, funds for textbooks and supplies are scarce, <a href="#">the ranks of teaching assistants have been depleted</a> and more charter schools are diverting funds from traditional public schools. In terms of per-pupil funding, the most telling measure of a government's commitment to public education, North Carolina remains near the bottom of national rankings. Indeed, after six years of Republican control and an improving economy, per-pupil funding in inflation-adjusted dollars <a href="#">has not returned to its pre-recession level</a>. In 2008-09, it was \$6,237. Today, it is \$5,616." (News &amp; Observer, Editorial, 8/20/16)</p> <p><b><u>Teaching Assistants</u></b></p> <p><b>McCrory pledged to veto budget that cut teacher assistants, then signed a budget that cut thousands.</b> "Now the budget goes to the governor, who said last month that he would veto any budget plan that threatens teacher assistant jobs, Medicaid recipients and future core state services. On Friday, he said he would sign a budget that threatens all three. 'This is a victory for the people of North Carolina,' he said. If you're a veteran teacher, teaching assistant or coal ash neighbor, we doubt you felt much like celebrating." (<i>Charlotte Observer</i>, editorial, <a href="#">8/2/14</a>; S744, <a href="#">8/7/14</a>)</p> <p>➤ <b>2014 Budget McCrory Signed Cut 3,300 Teacher Assistants.</b> "Teacher assistant</p>

	<p>jobs would still be cut, this time to the tune of 3,300.” (<i>Southern Pines Pilot</i>, editorial, <a href="#">8/5/14</a>; S744, <a href="#">8/7/14</a>)</p> <p>➤ <b>Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Cut 90 Teaching Assistant as a Result of 2014 Budget McCrory Signed.</b> “Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will have to cut about 90 teaching assistant positions based on the state budget passed by the N.C. legislature, Superintendent Heath Morrison said Tuesday.” (<i>Charlotte Observer</i>, <a href="#">8/5/14</a>; S744, <a href="#">8/7/14</a>)</p>
<p><i>Audio:</i> Pat McCrory. Stop taking North Carolina backwards.</p> <p><i>Visual:</i> McCrory with HEADLINE of editorial prominent.</p> <p><i>Cite:</i> <i>News and Observer</i>, 8/20/16</p>	<p><b>News &amp; Observer: Republican lawmakers “have shirked their responsibility and broken a long state tradition of strong support for public schools.”</b> “This Election Day should be a day of reckoning for North Carolina’s Republican legislative leaders who have shirked their responsibility and broken a long state tradition of strong support for public schools. Instead of investing in the state’s children, instead of improving education as a way for poor children to escape poverty and all children to achieve goals, the Republican-led General Assembly has chosen to reduce state taxes, mostly to the benefit of the wealthy and big corporations. Billions of dollars in tax revenue that could have lifted North Carolina’s schools to new heights instead has been diverted into tax cuts that have produced no tangible results. Republican lawmakers are acutely aware of their culpability in this choice, but instead of defending it or apologizing for it, they’re denying it. Even worse, they’re claiming credit for <i>increasing</i> spending on public education. This is duplicity joined with sophistry, and it should stir the smoldering anger over the neglect of public schools into outrage.” (News &amp; Observer, Editorial, <a href="#">8/20/16</a>)</p> <p><b>The assault on public education in North Carolina just keeps on coming.</b> “For the past five years in North Carolina, conservatives have dictated education (and every other policy) at the state level — and for students and teachers, the result has been a mess. A December 2015 report by a division of the progressive North Carolina Justice Center, N.C. Policy Watch, called “Altered State: How 5 years of conservative rule have redefined North Carolina” explains in detail how life has changed in the state as a result of conservative policies. With regard to education, it says spending per student has fallen 14.5 percent since fiscal year 2008” (Washington Post, <a href="#">5/18/16</a>)</p> <p><b>High School drop-out rate increased for the first time in 8 years</b> “The high school dropout rate increased for the first time in eight years, according to a new report from the</p>

state Department of Public Instruction. The 2014-15 dropout rate was 2.39 percent, up from 2.28 percent the previous year. The dropout rate increased across all racial and ethnic groups, except for Asian students." (News & Observer, [8/23/16](#))

**Only 1/3 of NC students are on pace for college and career readiness** "More children are graduating North Carolina public schools, but only about a third of the 1.6 million students are on track with soaking up the knowledge they'll need for the rest of their lives. The State Board of Education on Wednesday released data for the school year that ended in May showing how students and schools have performed. A little more than four out of 10 students showed on reading and math tests that their learning was on pace for their grade level. About a third are on pace for college and career readiness. Both results have improved slightly in recent years. About 85 percent of students who entered high school finished in four years, a graduation rate school officials praised as the highest in state history." (AP, [9/2/15](#))

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