

# 2022 Legislative & Policy Agenda: Wake County Public Schools

The Wake County Board of Education supports the guiding principles of the NC School Boards Association's Legislative Agenda with a particular emphasis on the following:

## Operations & Infrastructure

**K-3 Class Size:** Allow class-size waivers based on a lack of facilities or a lack of available certified teachers in 2022-2023.

**School Calendar:** Allow calendar flexibility and improve alignment with community college calendars.

**Funding:** Provide funding for all operations as defined in the 2021 Leandro ruling, including:

- Increased AIG funding to reflect district enrollment.
- Increased special education funding beyond 1993 levels.

**Technology:** Improve broadband infrastructure and connectivity. Improve tech support with more funding flexibility.

## Staffing & Accountability

**Testing Waiver:** Suspend testing and accountability measures in 2022, including school labels and letter grades. Reduce emphasis of state-mandated exams in final student grades.

**Teacher Allotments:** Hold funding harmless in 2022-2023 for Average Daily Membership declines caused by COVID-19.

**Support Staff:** Increase investments in counselors, nurses, social workers and similar support staff. Provide an Instructional Assistant for every K-5 classroom.

## Recruitment & Retention

**Pay:** Fund competitive salaries for all employees with an emphasis on teacher pay and a \$15 per hour minimum wage for support staff with additional county supplements. Address salary compression within pay scales.

**Diversity:** Support programs that improve employee diversity. Meet the recommendations of the 2021 DRIVE Report. (Developing a Representative and Inclusive Vision for Education)

**Benefits:** Restore career status and advanced degree pay for current employees. Expand current benefit and restore retiree health coverage for employees hired after January 1, 2021.

Visit [wcpss.net/legislative-agenda](http://wcpss.net/legislative-agenda) for more details

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# WCPSS Core Beliefs

All Wake County Public School System students will be prepared to reach their full potential and lead productive lives in a complex and changing world.

**#1** Every student is uniquely capable and deserves to be challenged and engaged in relevant, rigorous, and meaningful learning each day.

**#2** Every student is expected to learn, grow, and succeed while we eliminate the ability to predict achievement based on socioeconomic status, race, and ethnicity.

**#3** Well-supported, highly-effective, and dedicated principals, teachers, and staff are essential to success for all students.

**#4** The Board of Education, superintendent, and all staff, while sustaining best practices, will promote and support a culture of continuous improvement, risk-taking, and innovation that results in a high-performing organization focused on student achievement.

**#5** The Board of Education, superintendent, and all staff value a diverse school community that is inviting, respectful, inclusive, flexible, and supportive.

**#6** The Wake County residents value a strong public school system and will partner to provide the support and resources to fully realize our shared vision, accomplish the mission, and sustain our core beliefs.