



OUR STRATEGIC FOCUS

WHY WE EXIST

We are an independent, nonprofit organization comprised of business and community leaders committed to improving public education by advocating for an excellent educational opportunity for all students in the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS).

OUR BELIEFS

- Every student deserves an excellent public education.
- Public education is fundamental to a strong local economy.
- Well-informed citizens help public schools succeed.
- Well-supported, well-trained professional educators are essential for a high-quality school system.
- Public schools remain relevant by growing and changing with the world.
- Diverse perspectives strengthen community support for education.
- Graduates who are college and workforce ready are essential to a thriving economy.

VISION

Supported by passionate and well-trained teachers and principals, every student will graduate with the skills required to succeed in a global economy.

MISSION

To engage, inform, and mobilize the business community and community-at-large in collaboration with the Wake County Public School System to provide every student with excellent educational opportunities, highly effective teachers, and strong leaders.

PRIORITIES

- Our community will have both the public and political will to invest boldly in WCPSS by supporting and improving teaching and learning in every school.
- Every school will deliver evidence-based best practices in school culture and classroom instruction.
- Every educator will have access to professional development opportunities which strengthen instructional and leadership skills.



OUR GOALS

1) SERVE AS A CATALYST

- Influence and champion community discussion and actions by elected leaders regarding critical education policy issues.
- Emphasize and publicize the economic impact of an excellent public school system.
- Serve as a conduit to assist WCPSS in connecting business and community resources with schools.

2) INFORM OUR COMMUNITY

- Inform the public, business leaders, and elected officials about what works in schools and classrooms to promote academic growth.
- Provide clear, independent commentary and review of education policy issues.
- Highlight and expand the use of evidence-based best practices in classrooms.

3) SUPPORT EDUCATORS

- Help create and facilitate professional development for educators in the areas of leadership and STEM education.
- Provide teacher grants focused on innovative classroom instruction and aligned with WCPSS priorities.
- Connect business volunteers with schools to meet defined instructional needs.

EXAMPLES OF OUR WORK

We support or partner with these local, statewide and national initiatives:

- *WAKE Up and Read*: WCPSS Early childhood literacy initiative, book drives, and school-based grants.
- *NC Public Schools: Every child's chance; every community's future* – Statewide campaign by NC Association of School Administrators.
- *US2020* – National program provides opportunities for businesses to work with schools on STEM experiences.

Ongoing WEP Programs and Initiatives:

- *Teacher Leadership Grants*: Innovative classroom grants to teachers (over \$1M invested to date).
- *Excellence in Action*: Elected officials, business leaders and educators visit classrooms to observe best educational practices.
- *Stars of Education*: Annual event honors WCPSS educators and others making an impact on student achievement.
- *Education Forum*: Annual event to facilitate community dialogue on K-12 education policy issues.
- *In Context*: Monthly publication of independent, objective commentary on education policy issues.
- *World Café*: Roundtable connecting teachers with business leaders to identify STEM career opportunities for students.