



PUBLIC POLICY AGENDA

WakeEd Partnership serves as a business champion for public education in Wake County and works to provide every student with excellent educational opportunities, highly effective teachers, and strong school leadership. WakeEd's public policy priorities have been identified through engaging dialogue with elected officials, business leaders, educators, nonprofit leaders and parents. WakeEd encourages state and local policymakers to consider adopting these positions.

Properly Value the Teaching Profession

- ◆ **Align with private sector job valuation practices** by providing professional compensation for teachers and school-based administrators commensurate with the skills, education, experience and duties required of the positions.
- ◆ **Expand and fund efforts to create advanced teaching roles** to increase leadership opportunities for teachers who wish to remain in the classroom.
- ◆ **Invest in teacher recruitment, development and retention** by offering high-quality professional development opportunities and competitive earned benefits such as a pension and affordable healthcare.

Align Academic Standards and School Accountability

- ◆ **Adjust the school grading formula to align with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)** and increase emphasis on the year-to-year academic growth of students.
- ◆ **Ensure academic standards are built on evidence-based best practices** and assessment practices are aligned with these standards.
- ◆ **Diversify student evaluation** to include standardized assessments and alternative measures to capture the full growth of students each school year.

Improve Student Equity by Allowing Local Innovation

- ◆ **Address performance inequities among students** by giving local education authorities the flexibility to innovate based on defined local needs or school performance measures.
- ◆ **Invest in professional development programs** which prepare teachers for real-world STEM and global classroom instruction and foster public-private partnerships between educators and the business sector.
- ◆ **Increase time allocated to professional development for teachers** by revising the state school calendar law to grant local control over the start and end dates of the traditional school year.