



Greetings PENC Members:

The Professional Educators of North Carolina (PENC) has been asked to weigh in on the “walk out” which seems to be shaping up as a great opportunity for educators to assemble and show their support for public school funding.

Since PENC’s formation in 1979, the original charter stated that PENC would be *nonpartisan* and *independent* and focus on school policy. Our presence in Raleigh at the General Assembly is respected, recognized, and appreciated. We work daily with our full-time lobbyist and meet with legislators regularly to make positive change in public education in our state.

Regarding the walkout on May 16th, you have the right to assemble and voice your opinion, and PENC will never be a deterrent for those rights. In many ways, educators in North Carolina need to remind our legislature that we have drawn the “short straw” too many times, especially veteran teachers and retirees. However, rather than actively endorsing this particular walkout, PENC plans to continue our ongoing work: meeting with legislators and working hard for the teachers and students of our state.

At PENC, we are very proud of our advocacy for education. I urge all educators to visit [www.pencweb.org](http://www.pencweb.org) to review clear and concise information about the mission and vision of PENC. In addition, we offer [Employment Liability Insurance](#) and [Member Advocacy](#), as well as [Current Legislative Updates](#).

. We are a very open organization and are willing to answer any questions you may have about what we offer educators. Please do not hesitate to call or email us if you cannot find the information that you seek on our website.

Our members help form our legislative priorities, and we will continue to fight for them.