



# 2017 PENC LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

## **Preparing, Recruiting, Retaining and Compensating High-Quality Educators**

*The single biggest factor in the success of students is the teacher, and North Carolina should do everything possible to recruit and retain high quality educators, including striving towards the national average in educator compensation. Funding should also be provided to ensure each teacher has appropriate time and resources to plan, collaborate, discuss and observe best practices and to participate in professional development.*

PENC supports increasing base pay for educators at every level.

PENC supports a system of differentiated pay based upon a variety of factors including teaching in hard-to-staff schools and subject areas, performance of additional duties, subject matter certification and advanced degrees.

PENC supports keeping existing supplemental pay opportunities for educators intact.

PENC supports efforts to ensure all of our state's newest educators receive the support and mentorship that they need to reach their fullest potential as educators, including a funded mentoring program.

PENC supports providing active and retired educators with more affordable healthcare benefits.

PENC supports efforts to preserve the solvency of the retirement system while ensuring solid benefits.

PENC supports the implementation of true duty-free planning time and duty-free lunch time during the school day. When given sufficient time to plan lessons, assess student work and reflect upon practices, educators will be able to better develop effective lessons, give meaningful feedback to students and modify practices to improve student achievement.

## **Promoting School and Student Success**

*School and district leadership is critical to the success of our teachers and our students. Leaders create a climate and school culture for students and educators that make them feel welcome, respected & appreciated.*

PENC supports efforts to ensure a high-quality principal is in place in every North Carolina school, including efforts to restructure and increase administrator pay.

PENC supports calendar flexibility, including allowing local districts to set a school calendar that best reflects the needs of their schools and their communities.

PENC supports efforts to amend the school grading system to more accurately reflect schools' performance.

PENC opposes school vouchers that would divert public money to pay for private school tuition, and we call for accountability of schools accepting vouchers that the legislature has already approved.

PENC supports full funding of textbooks needs – whether electronic or paper – and classroom supplies.

Professional Educators of North Carolina

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PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS OF NORTH CAROLINA



THE voice for educators