

Strong Public Schools Build Strong Communities

North Carolina's future depends on strong public schools. For generations, we understood something simple and powerful: **it was just as important to educate your neighbor's kids as it was to educate your own.** That's how communities grow. That's how opportunity spreads. And that's how we built the North Carolina we're proud of today.

But our public schools are under strain — overcrowded classrooms, aging buildings, and teachers who are asked to do more with less. Meanwhile, the Opportunity Scholarship Program continues to pull taxpayer dollars away from public schools and send them to private institutions with little accountability.

It's time to end the Opportunity Grant program and return those funds to the public schools that serve every child, in every neighborhood, every day.

We must invest in our teachers.

North Carolina cannot compete — economically or academically — if we don't pay teachers what they deserve. Continued increases in teacher pay are essential to keeping great educators in the classroom and attracting the next generation of teachers. When we invest in teachers, we invest directly in our children's future.

We must invest in our school buildings.

Many of our schools are decades old and stretched beyond capacity. That's why the **school bond referendum on the ballot is so important.** Voting **YES** means safer buildings, modern classrooms, and the space needed to support growing communities.

A bond referendum isn't a luxury — it's a responsibility. It's how we ensure that the next generation has the same chance to succeed that previous generations provided for us.

Public education is a shared promise.

We all benefit when every child gets a strong start. Educating your neighbor's kids strengthens your community, protects your property values, supports local businesses, and builds the workforce that keeps North Carolina moving forward.

Strong schools don't happen by accident. They happen because communities choose to support them.

I will fight for:

- Eliminating the Opportunity Scholarship Program
- Continued increases in teacher pay
- Modern, safe, well-equipped public schools
- A YES vote on the school bond referendum
- A North Carolina where every child — not just a select few — has access to a world-class education

North Carolina's children deserve the best we can give them. And our communities deserve schools that reflect our values, our pride, and our commitment to the future.