



# Pastors for NC Children

[PastorsForNCchildren.org](https://linktr.ee/Pastors4nckids)

<https://linktr.ee/Pastors4nckids>  
@Pastors4nckids  
on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#)

# Pastors for NC Children Introduction

## AGENDA:

- WHO: Brief Introduction to Pastors for Children Network
- WHAT: PNCC's work in NC
- WHY 1: The Educational Landscape in NC
- WHY 2: Forming the "Beloved Community"
- HOW: 6 Praxis areas of the Theory of Social Transformation
- INVITATION: Mission Amplify & October 18th



# Pastors for NC Children Introduction

- In the Chat, please share your name, congregation/ministry setting, and location
- Share your number answer to the question below.

## Have you heard of the “Leandro Case” in NC?

1. I have not heard of it at all.
2. I have heard the word but don't know anything about it.
3. I am familiar with Leandro to be able to discuss it with others.
4. I am involved in supporting Leandro and pushing for the West Ed Report to be enacted.
5. I could teach others about Leandro.





# Pastors for Texas Children

- Launched in 2013 by Rev. Charles Foster Johnson
- Grew to Oklahoma and now includes 8 states with more on the way
- Focus on:
  - Defeating Opportunity Scholarship Vouchers:
    - Go against religious liberty
    - Take public money out of public schools
  - Charters:
    - Perpetuate segregation
    - Create two systems within “public” schools
  - Keeping Public Money in Public Schools



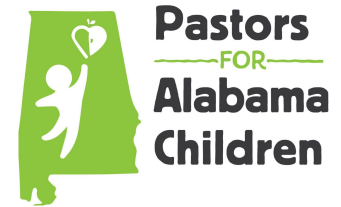
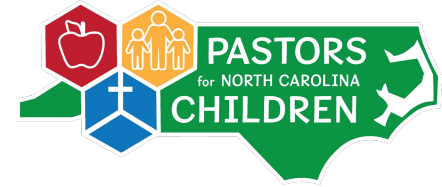


# Pastors for Texas Children

- Goals:
  - Bring together small town rural and urban “big steeple” pastors together
  - Bridge conservative/liberal, urban/rural, eccumenical divides
  - Speak with one voice in support of public schools as a public good
- Allow each state in the network to focus on own needs
- Also work on national issues together



# Pastors for Children Network (As of 6/2021)



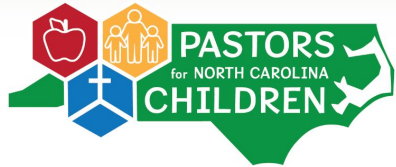


**Mobilizing**  
Faith Leaders

to Advocate  
for  
**Justice**



in Our  
**Public  
Schools**



PastorsForNCchildren.org

# Pastors for NC Children

- Launched in June 2020
- Received our 501c3 effective 9/16/2020
- Focus on:
  - Enacting the full Leandro WestEd Recommendations
  - Pushing against Voucher expansion
  - Keeping public money in public schools
  - Building the Beloved Community by supporting public education
- [Monthly Leaders Gatherings](#) Registration: 4th Wed at 10am
- [Newsletter](#) Sign up
- Links: <https://linktr.ee/Pastors4nckids>

# School Districts

- NC public schools divided into 115 local education agencies (LEAs)
  - 89 counties where county/LEA boundaries are the same
  - 11 counties with multiple “county” and “city” LEAs\*











\* Technically, Kannapolis City Schools and Nash-Rocky Mount Schools have borders that extend into more than one county.



north carolina  
**JUSTICE  
CENTER**



# Types of Schools 2019-2020

<b>Traditional Schools</b>		<b>2,451</b>
<b>Charter Schools</b>		<b>196</b>
<b>Regional &amp; Lab Schools</b>		<b>6</b>
<b>Deaf/Blind Schools</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Virtual Schools</b>		<b>2</b>
<b>Innovative School District</b>		<b>1</b>
<b>Private Schools</b>		<b>750</b>
<b>Total Schools</b>		<b>3409</b>

# WHY OUR WORK IS NEEDED: Part 1



# Quick Facts

Education in NC in 2019-2020

## **1,434,153 Students in NC Public Schools**

Student Allotments by the State for 19-20. 80% of Students in NC Attend Traditional Public Schools

## **93,923 Teachers + Support Staff**

Within the 115 Districts; Within North Carolina in 2020, Public School systems were the top employer in 55 counties, and is one of the top 3 employers in 94 of 100 counties.

## **Total Education Budget**

\$9.4 Billion in 2018-19

39.5% of Total State Budget; Largest Single Expenditure

**More Facts:**

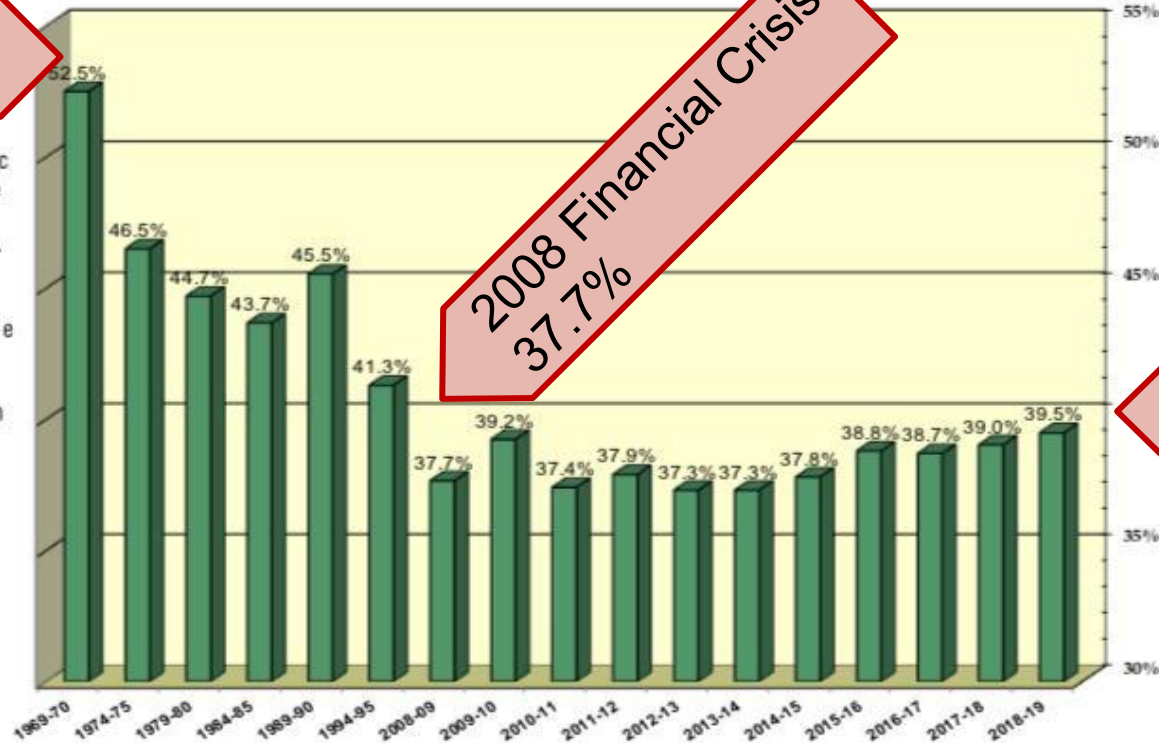
<https://www.publicschoolsfirstnc.org/resources/fact-sheets/nc-public-ed-at-a-glance/>

Source: <https://files.nc.gov/dpi/documents/fbs/resources/data/highlights/2020highlights.pdf>

## Percent of the General Fund Public Schools Appropriations

1970= 52.5%

Since 1970, the Public School's share of the General Fund has decreased by 13.0%. If our Public Schools were still funded at the same percentage as in FY 1969-70, we would have an additional \$3.1 billion for our students.

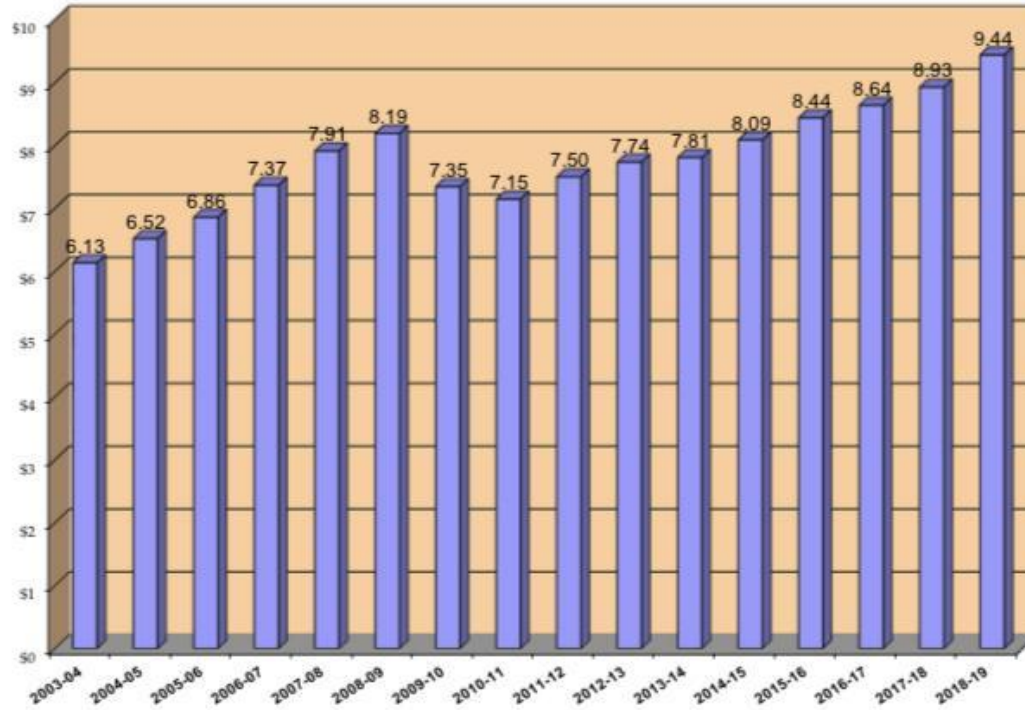


2019=39.5%

# Total State Public School General Fund Appropriations 2003-04 to 2018-19 (in Billions)

Funding increased from \$6.13 billion in 2003-04 to \$9.44 billion in 2018-19.

Since 2009-10 the number of students has increased by 91,227 or 6.2%



# K-12 Funding Sources

## TOTAL NC PUBLIC SCHOOL REVENUE (FY 16-17)

Covers Local  
Supplements,  
Buildings,  
Buses,  
Infrastructure

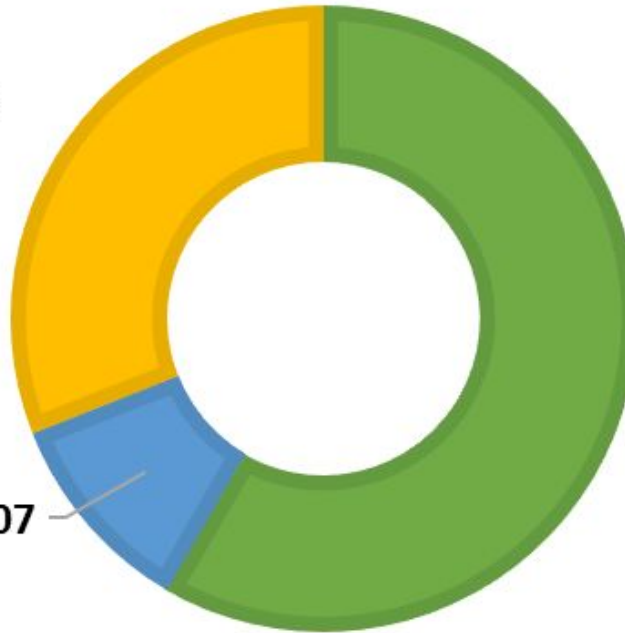
**Local**  
**\$4,597,501,584**  
**31%**

Covers salaries and materials  
needed to educate children

**State**  
**\$8,658,113,432**  
**58%**

**Federal**  
**\$1,578,789,207**

Covers most of  
IDEA and School  
Breakfast/Lunch  
Program



Source: North Carolina Department of  
Public Instruction, Statistical Profile,  
Table 26

# K-12 Facilities Needs

As of 9/1/2021:

- \$12.8 Billion reported from School Districts over the next 5 years to build, improve, or repair their facilities.
- Increase of \$5 Billion since 2015
- State provided \$838 Million (mostly from Lottery)
- Over past 5 years, 17 counties have passed School Bonds that total \$3.4 Billion--NOT INCLUDED in this number.

<https://www.wral.com/nc-school-districts-report-billions-more-in-facility-needs-than-ever-before/19852077/>

EDUCATION

## NC school districts report billions more in facility needs than ever before

Tags: [education](#), [North Carolina Board of Education](#), [school construction](#)

Posted August 31, 2021 6:27 p.m. EDT

Updated September 1, 2021 7:12 p.m. EDT

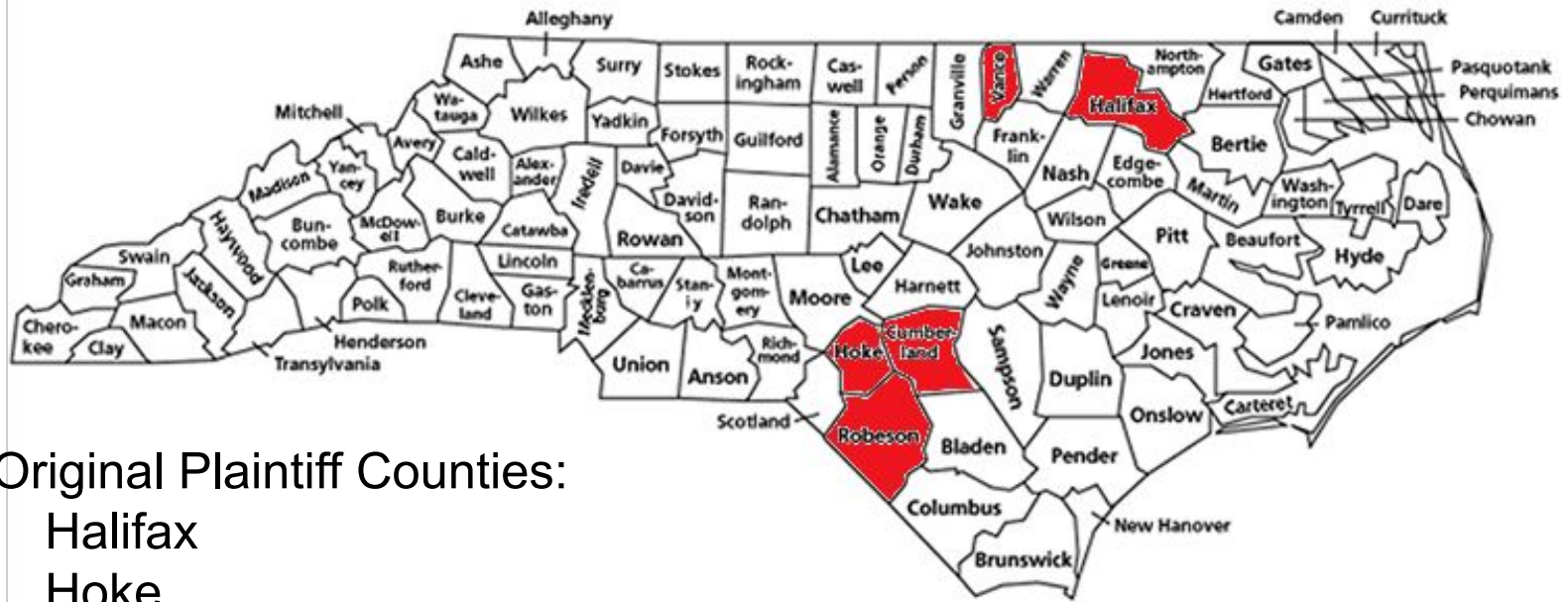


By Emily Walkenhorst, WRAL education reporter

**RALEIGH, N.C.** — North Carolina's public school districts say they need \$12.8 billion over the next five years to build, improve or repair their facilities — nearly \$5 billion more than districts reported needing just five years ago.



# LEANDRO vs. North Carolina



## 5 Original Plaintiff Counties:

- Halifax
- Hoke
- Cumberland
- Robeson
- Vance





# LEANDRO vs. North Carolina

- Court Case started in 1994 by Halifax, Hoke, Robeson, Cumberland, and Vance counties, along with families in these counties. Charlotte-Mecklenburg and others joined in later.
- 1997 Court ruled NC was not meeting its constitutional obligation for a ‘Sound basic education’ for all children in NC
- Went back and forth in courts until 2018 when Judge Lee appointed WestEd to complete a study and report about school and funding needs and a roadmap to get there.
- [WestEd Report](#) issued 12/2019
- [Every Child NC](#) coalition began forming in October 2019 to hold NC Legislature responsible to the WestEd report and Judge’s orders through advocacy and political pressure.



# LEANDRO vs. North Carolina

- 8 Recommendations

- Revise the state funding model to provide adequate, efficient, and equitable resources.
- Provide a qualified, well-prepared, and diverse teaching staff in every school
- Provide a qualified and well-prepared principal in every school.
- Provide all at-risk students with the opportunity to attend high-quality early childhood programs.
- Direct resources, opportunities, and initiatives to economically disadvantaged students.
- Revise the student assessment system and school accountability system.
- Build an effective regional and statewide system of support for the improvement of low-performing and high-poverty schools.
- Convene an expert panel to assist the Court in monitoring state policies, plans, programs, and progress.

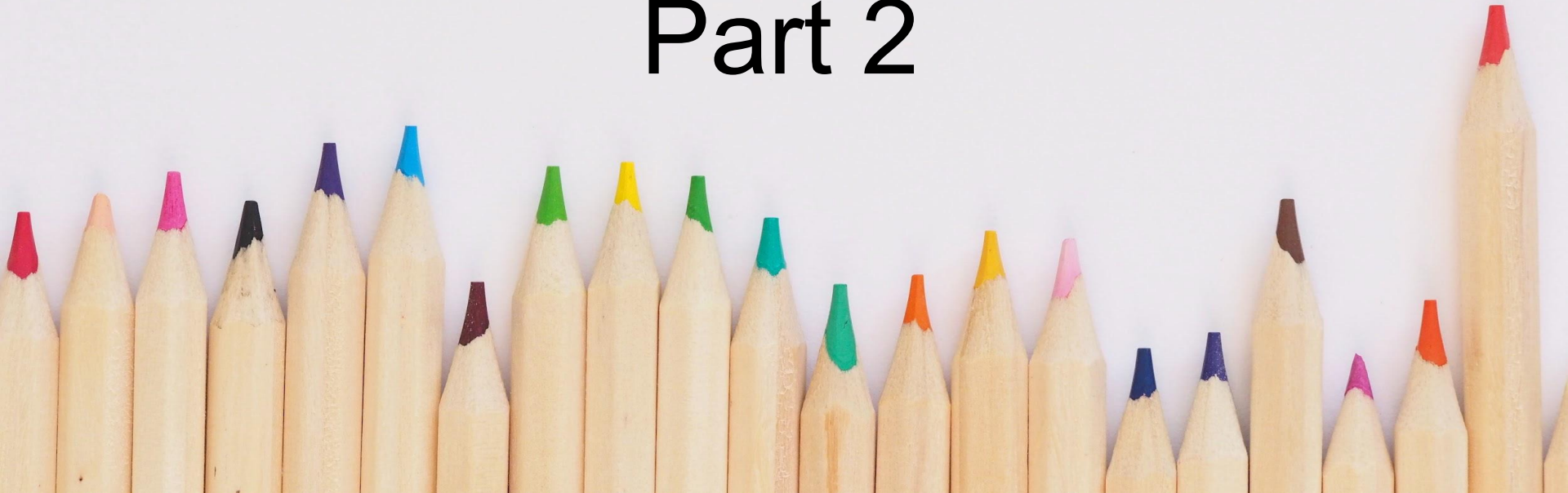


# LEANDRO vs. North Carolina

- Focus on the 6 most vulnerable groups of students:
  - without access to early childhood education (Pre-K)
  - subject to racial discrimination
  - with physical, emotional, or learning differences
  - with economic disadvantages
  - living in rural districts
  - learning English



# WHY OUR WORK IS NEEDED: Part 2



# SERVICE vs. SYSTEMS



**Charity**

**AND**

**Justice**

**Our work is incomplete without BOTH!**



# Building The Beloved Community

## Not Present:

- Injustice
- Poverty
- Militarism
- Insecurity
- Hunger
- Homelessness
- Punitive
- Scarcity



“God’s Kingdom Come. God’s will be done. On earth as it is in heaven.”

## Present:

- Justice
- Equity
- Peace
- Security
- Health
- Homes for all
- Restoration
- Abundance

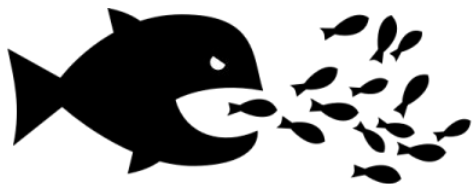




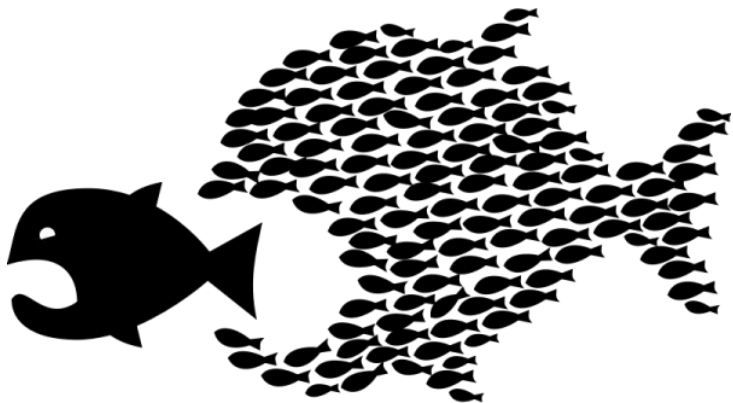
# HOW WE ARE GOING TO MAKE IT HAPPEN: Social Transformation



# Redefining Power and Transforming Politics



***ORGANIZE!***



Churches have the opportunity to redefine Power from “Power Over” to “Power With” that focuses on building community and putting the common good first. This will transform politics and our communities when we work together.





# Theory of Social Transformation: How we get there!



Theory of Social Transformation by  
Rev. Steve Newcom,  
Kaleo Center at United Theological  
Seminary, Minneapolis, MN  
Used with Permission.

Encounter

With God

## The Transfiguration of Christ

Mark 9:2-9

Matthew 17:1-8

Luke 9:28-36

[Image](#) by [Dimitris Vetsikas](#) from [Pixabay](#)



# Encounter

With Neighbors

## Healing The Blind Man

Matthew 9:27-30

Mark 8:22-25

John 9:1-7

Imagine from [Ethiopian Iconography](#)





Educate

## Parable of the Good Samaritan

Luke 10:25-37



Image by [falco](#) from [Pixabay](#)



Proclaim

## Preaching in Nazareth Luke 4:14-30

Icon of Jesus preaching in Nazareth from  
<https://abramkj.com/2013/01/>





# Envision

The Sermon on the Mount Matthew 5-7  
including “the Beatitudes”  
Matthew 5:3-12 and  
“Lord’s Prayer” Matthew 6:9-15

The Sermon on the Plain  
Luke 6:20-44

The Sermon on the Mount by Laura James  
<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/268104984038360876/>



# Organize

Jesus feeds the 5000

Matthew 14:13-21

Mark 6:31-44

Luke 9:12-17

John 6:1-14

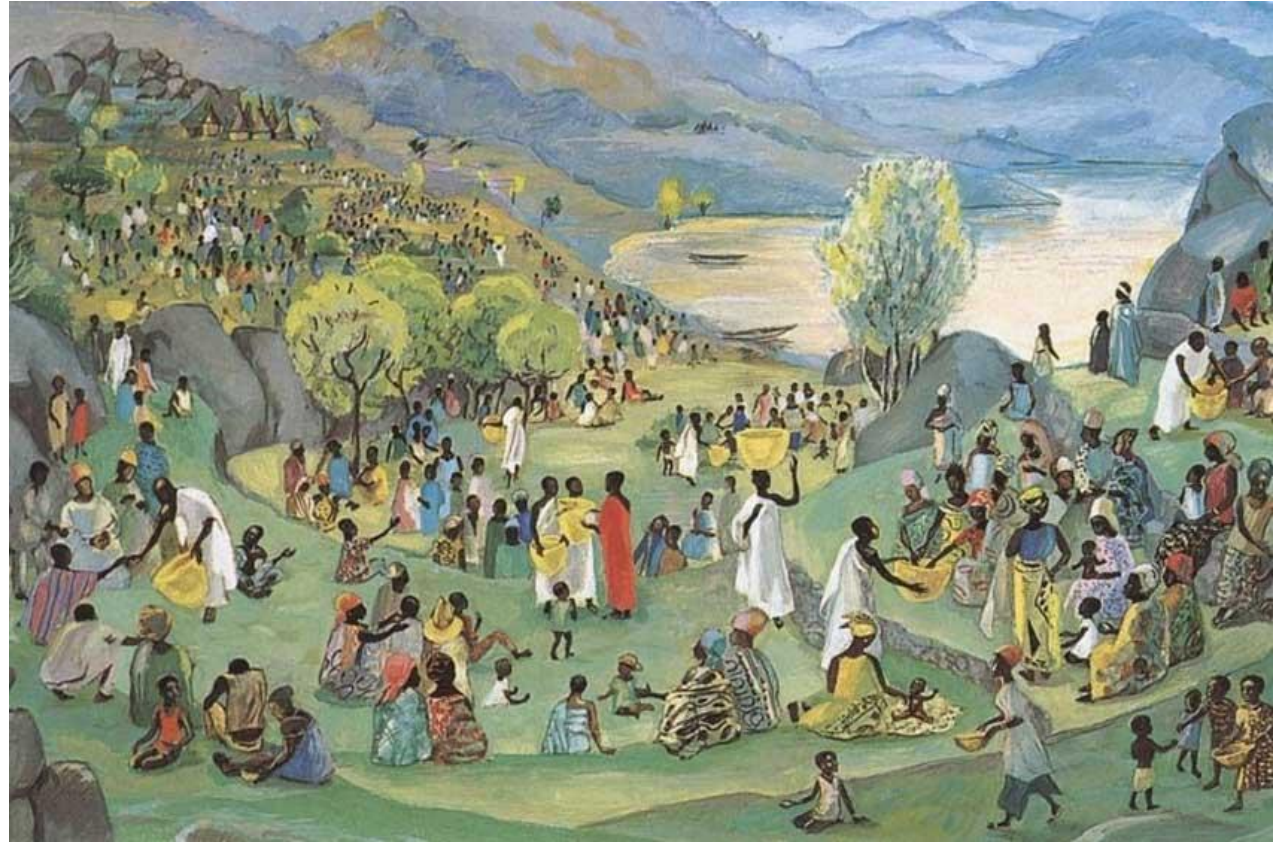


Image of "[Jesus Multiplies The Loaves and Fishes](#)" by Jesus Mafa from Cameron, 1973



# Advocate

“Speak Truth To Power”

Jesus and the  
women caught in  
adultery

John 8:1-11



Image of “[Christ and the Adulteress](#)” by Jacopo Tintoretto, Italy, 1546-58



# Theory of Social Transformation: How we get there!



Theory of Social Transformation by  
Rev. Steve Newcom,  
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# What Does Social Transformation Look Like Today?



**MISSION  
AMPLIFY**

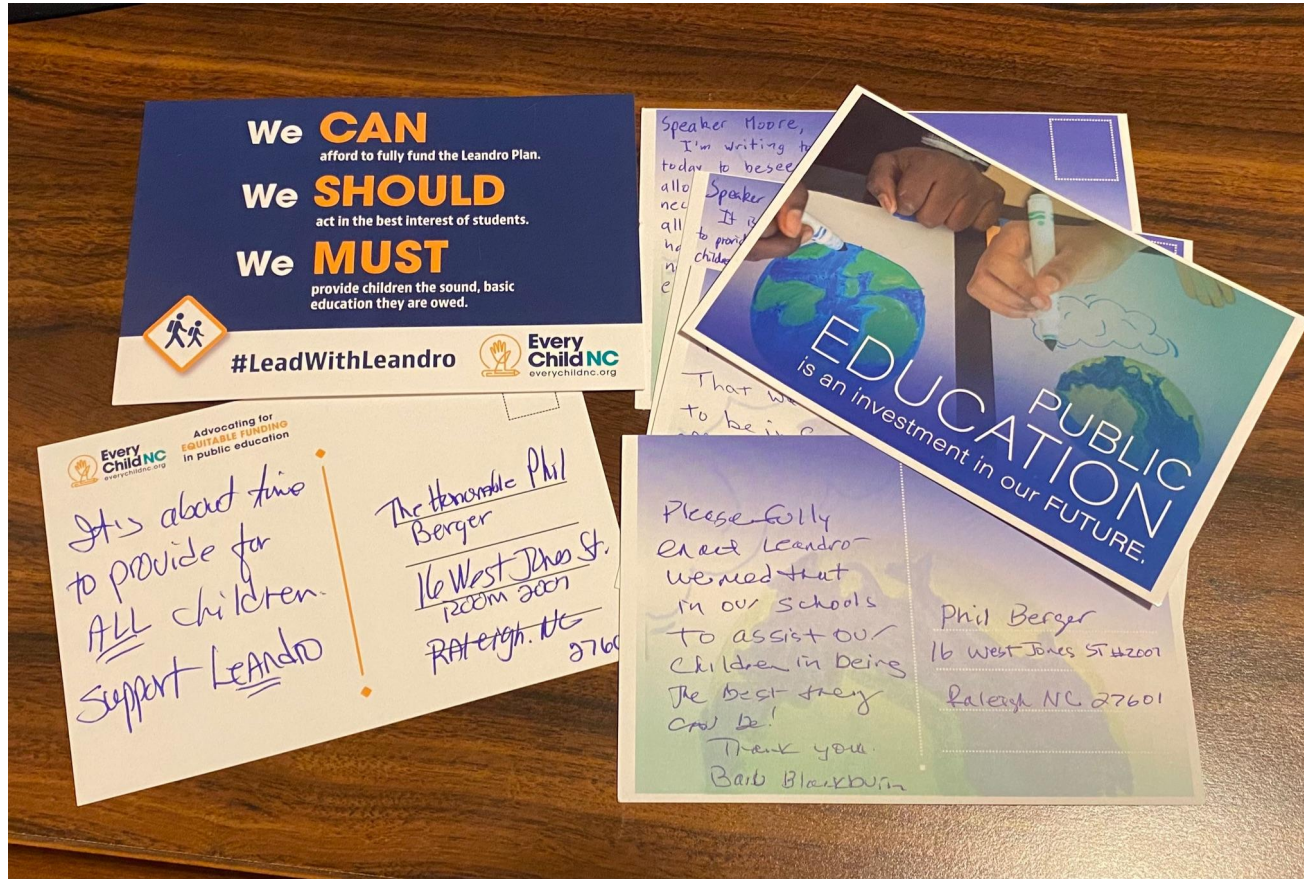
Public Education Advocacy for North Carolina

# What Does Social Transformation Look Like Today?

- Prophetic Tradition of Letter Writing
  - Addressed to those in power who can change things
  - Speak truth to power from personal experience
  - Handwritten to get noticed
  - Quantity to draw attention
  - Shared Theme for letters--focus
  - Lather, Rinse, Repeat--
    - Keep the letters coming!



# What Does Social Transformation Look Like Today?



# How Do We Make Social Transformation Happen?

- Build Mission Amplify Teams across the State
  - Goal is one team in each of 120 House Districts (one+ in each of 100 counties in NC)
- Teams Working Together to send ~10 letters/month to each NC House Representative & Senator
  - 120 Reps and 50 Senators
- Multiplying Efforts:
  - 1 person x 2 letters x 10 person team x  
120 teams x 12 months = **28,800 letters/year**  
**SOMEONE WILL TAKE NOTICE!!**



# Why Write Letters? What Are The GOALS?

1. Provide first opportunity for advocacy--DO SOMETHING!
2. Educate about the issues facing schools
3. Organize ourselves into a network of action
4. Invite these trained volunteers into further advocacy
5. Build relationships with Legislators
6. Legislators will notice we are watching
7. Strength in numbers, power in people
8. It's more fun when done together!
9. Be a more informed voter!



# Where Does It Go From Here?

- Identify Mission Amplify Teams across NC
- Train Leaders and Activate Teams
- When volunteers are ready:
  - Social Media sharing of info
  - Phone calls to Legislators
  - Letters to the Editor/Op Eds
  - Meet with Legislators in home districts
  - Prayer Gatherings at Legislature
  - Advocacy Day at Legislature
  - Press Conference Speakers





# When to Write Letters?

Fall 2021--Field Test in October-November

Launch in January 2022 with Monthly Engagement Opportunity

- Before/after Church or during Sunday School
- Small Groups
- Committee/Team Meetings
- Book Groups/Neighborhood Groups
- Community Organizations
- Parent Teacher Association Meetings





# Who to Write Letters?

- Congregations are already networked together by denominations and geography.
- Many congregations are already doing work with schools and see the problems first hand
- Many connected to Education in congregations
- Social Justice or Community Concerns Committees
- Focused on Faith Communities
  - faith-based is not required



# Who to Write Letters?

Fall 2021--Field Test in October-November

## **NEED Field Test Congregations & Groups to try it out!**

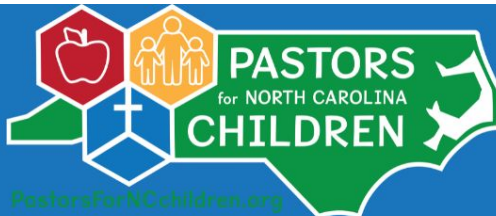
- Provide feedback about what's helpful and what else is needed to make it clear and accessible
- One team leader/group to coordinate time and materials
  - Responsible for mailing letters
  - Report back to PNCC to track activity
- Help recruit new groups



# How Can You Help?

- Would you be willing to help?
- Do you know of a group who might be interested in joining in?
  - Congregations
  - Book Clubs
  - Neighborhood Groups
  - Community Groups (Kiwanis, Rotary, etc)
  - “Who do you know I need to know?!?”





**MONDAY, OCT 18**

**SAVE THE  
DATE**

**Calling Clergy to  
downtown Raleigh.**

Join PNCC as we stand for  
children and public education  
and ask the State to  
#LeadWithLeandro. More  
details coming soon.

**Contact PNCC:**

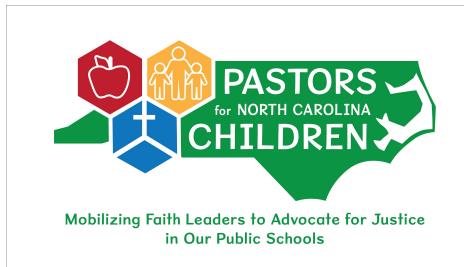
PastorsForNCchildren@gmail.com  
919-346-6114



# Contact Info:



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[Kris@ncjustice.org](mailto:Kris@ncjustice.org)  
[www.ncjustice.org](http://www.ncjustice.org)



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**SIGN UP FOR OUR NEWSLETTER:**  
<http://bit.ly/PNCCnewsletter>

**JOIN OUR MONTHLY LEADERS  
GATHERINGS (4th Wed at 10am)!**  
Register: <http://bit.ly/PNCCLeaders>



Every Child NC  
[EveryChildNC.org](http://EveryChildNC.org)  
[info@everychildnc.org](mailto:info@everychildnc.org)  
<https://everychildnc.org/advocacy-toolkit/>

# Resource Links

- Public Education Advocacy and Faith: Why The Church Should Care by PNCC and UMAPS <https://pastorsforncchildren.org/home/events/forum916/>
- [Education Policy Primer](#) from Public School Forum of NC
- [Top Education Issues 2021](#) from Public School Forum of NC
- [Effective and Equitable: Creating a Shared Vision for NC Schools](#) from Ed Law Project at the NC Justice Center
- [“Equity: A Divine Imperative” by Rev. Paul Robeson Ford \(begins on page 7 in linked article from Christian Ethics Today\)](#)
- [Every Child NC Coalition](#) working on Leandro/West Ed Report Support
- Leandro Info:
  - <https://www.ednc.org/leandro-litigation/>
  - <https://www.ncforum.org/leandro/>
  - Full Report:  
<https://www.ednc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Sound-Basic-Education-for-All-An-Action-Plan-for-North-Carolina.pdf>