Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform

Gregg Sinders, NC State Director for TeamCFA
February 22, 2018
North Carolina General Assembly
Gregg Sinders

• North Carolina State Director for TeamCFA
  • Network of 19 public charter schools; 13 in North Carolina, 4 in Arizona and 2 in Indiana

• Founding Board member of Pine Springs Preparatory Academy: CFA (Wake)

• Current Board member of Carolina Charter Academy: CFA (Wake) and Davidson Charter Academy (Davidson)

• Former Board Member of Unity Classical Academy: CFA (Wake) and Coastal Preparatory Academy: CFA (New Hanover)

• Former Chief Operating Officer at Rocky Mount Prep Academy (Nash)
Public Charter School Funding

• Dollars should follow the student. Public charter schools should be funded at the same level as traditional public schools.
• Do not support separate line-item funding for public charter schools
• All public schools should be granted charter-like flexibility along with charter accountability. Currently, only an option for low-performing public schools.
Capital Funding

• Public charter schools do not receive state or local money for facilities designated specifically for facilities
• Spend up to 20% of their revenue on facilities – money that doesn’t make it to the classroom
• Solutions:
  • "May capital" - revise statutes to allow County Commissioners to provide local capital funding for facilities
  • Allow charter schools access to the NC Education Lottery funds specifically designated for school facilities
  • Allow charter schools to receive school facilities money included in state budget
Charter School Start-up Funding

• Public charter schools do not receive any state funding until facility is complete and Certificate of Occupancy is issued by local government.

• Public charter schools previously received state funds for start-up prior to opening.

• Solution:
  • Provide $100,000 per school that would be provided during planning year.
    • $50,000 upon approval by the State Board of Education to enter planning year
    • $50,000 upon identification of school location
Additional input

• Include a statement in statute and/or budget bill stating – "any funding designated for public schools should be shared with public charter schools, unless specifically stated otherwise."

• Encourage committee to look at public charter school funding models, particularly around human capital, that may provide ideas for funding all public schools.