



# MARCH FOR STUDENTS RALLY FOR RESPECT

NCRSP will join NCAE along with teachers, parents and community members to support students and public education in the march for students and rally for respect.



**Wear Red  
for  
Public Ed**

**May 16**

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

**#GetReady** for our March for Students and Rally for Respect on May 16, 2018. So far the response has been outstanding for our Advocacy Day when the General Assembly goes back into session. We are bookending the day with two very powerful events to show our support for public school students, educators, and public education overall. To Join Us, please RSVP at [Rally for Respect](#).

## TIMELINE

- 10:00 am** Meet at **NCAE Headquarters**, 700 S. Salisbury St. (be here no later than 10am; Get here early for parking).
- 10:30 am** March for Students (from **NCAE** to **Legislative Building**, about 25 min)
- 11:00 am** Enter **Legislative Building** and start assembling on 3rd Floor. *\*This will take a little longer than usual with new metal detectors upon entry and fewer points of entry.*
- 12:00 pm** General Assembly will convene; We want our members in the galleries.
- 1:00 pm** Time to make appointments with your local representative and be sure to take time for your own for lunch.
- 3:00 pm** Begin assembling on Bicentennial Plaza across from the Legislative Building for Rally for Respect.
- 3:30 – 4:30 pm** **Rally for Respect!** Once the rally concludes, participants can start making their way back to NCAE Headquarters by foot or by using the R-Line (bus), which picks up at Jones and Wilmington and drops off near NCAE at the Convention Center.

# From NCAE on the March & Rally

## Why Do We March and Rally During Advocacy Day?

North Carolina is one of the worst in the country in the amount our elected leaders spend per student, about \$2,400 behind the national average. Imagine what \$2,400 per child could mean for our students and their future. However, we have the lowest corporate tax rate in the country for states that have one—and it's set to go lower again.

North Carolina ranks 37<sup>th</sup> for teacher pay, about \$9,600 behind the national average. When adjusting for inflation, educators are losing money (almost 12 percent)—the third worst in the country.

Our students deserve better. They deserve resources to help make them successful. They deserve professionally paid educators. They deserve safe schools and schools that are not crumbling and in disrepair. We love our public schools and we deserve better!

## GOALS

As we have mentioned, May 16<sup>th</sup> is a big day. It will be a great day of solidarity for public school educators and advocates, it will be filled with powerful moments, and we will call for action from our elected leaders. But May 16<sup>th</sup> is the beginning. It's the beginning of a six month stretch of time to hold our elected leaders accountable for prioritizing corporate tax cuts, instead of our classrooms. The ultimate goal is elected more pro-public education leaders in North Carolina to return our state back to a beacon for public schools.

Broadly, we will be expecting five things from our elected leaders:

- Significant investment in per-pupil spending so our students have the resources to be successful.
- A multi-year professional pay plan for educators, education support professionals, administrators and all other school personnel. This plan must include restoration of compensation for advanced degree and longevity. The plan must also stop the flat-lining of experienced educator's pay.
- Investing in the health and well-being of our students and making schools safer through increased school nurses, counselors, social workers and other support personnel and expansion of Medicaid to improve the health of our communities.
- Fix our crumbling schools and large class sizes with a Statewide School Construction Bond.
- Prioritize Classrooms and Not Corporate Board Rooms.

The closer we get to May 16, the more specific information we will send out related to these priorities.

## MARCH LOGISTICS:

Parking will be at a premium. There are some spaces at NCAE that will be for members-only and for buses. There are multiple paid decks and surface lots around that average around \$7. On [this parking map](#), NCAE is directly across from Deck "H".

We will begin at the NCAE Center at 700 S. Salisbury Street. We will cut over and walk down the sidewalk of Fayetteville Street, across the Capitol Grounds (**sidewalks only**), down Bicentennial Plaza and then to the Legislative Buildings.

On the Sidewalks the permit requires us to leave a lane for other pedestrians closer to the buildings and that we are as close to the street as possible without being in the street.

Signs for the March can be no bigger than 3'x3' and cannot be on sticks.

## AT THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

House and Senate sessions begin at noon. We would like as many educators and community supporters in the galleries, in the third-floor rotunda, the second-floor rotunda, and other areas to greet lawmakers as they enter the chambers for session. Keep in mind that General Assembly rules state that we cannot be disruptive and we cannot impede the movement of others in the building. Our goal is a positive, respectful display of power with numbers.

For the first time, there will be metal detectors to enter. This has cut down the number of entry points significantly. Please have patience with General Assembly police as this will be one of their first days. Their goal is to move as many people through as possible and keep in mind safety.

To that end, it would expedite the process if you carried as little as possible. We know that will be difficult due to the long day but try to have what you need in your pockets and not have bags; bags will take longer to search. Attendees with bags may get diverted to the back doors with metal detectors to expedite getting as many people in the building as possible. When you enter the building, keep the volume to a minimum and it will help expedite the process.

Also, after 1 p.m. begin setting up individual appointments with lawmakers. You can find [contact information here](#). If you can get 5-15 minutes with your lawmakers, that would be great. We will have some materials here when you arrive that will help you. Between 1-3 p.m. is also the time for self-nourishment. There are eating establishments around the Capitol. It's a long day and make sure you take care of yourself. You may want to bring a water bottle to fill-up at various water fountain locations in the Legislative Building.

## RALLY INFORMATION

The rally begins at 3:30 p.m. sharp so start convening in Bicentennial Plaza Mall (in front of Legislative Building) beginning around 3 p.m. We want a maximum crowd at 3:30 p.m. Signs are allowed, but not on sticks. Since we will rally during business hours, there are some restrictions on the PA system. We cannot block the museum entrances and we cannot impede other pedestrian traffic on the outer edges of the Plaza. We have a great line-up of educator leaders and other special guests.

## T-SHIRTS

For NCAE members who attend, while supplies and sizes last, we will have Respect for Public Education T-shirts at no charge. You can pick them up the morning of the 16<sup>th</sup> when you sign-in at NCAE. It will be a "red out" in Raleigh that day. We will have buttons, signs, and other information. But feel free to bring your own creative signs.

## WHAT IF YOU CAN'T COME

There are lots of ways to show solidarity. That day is our regular #Red4Ed Wednesday, so take pictures and post on social media. Some of the other hashtags we will be using that day include **#NCAEStrong**, **#GetReady**, and **#ItsPersonal**. You can also hold your own "Walk-In" to your school on that day before students go into schools. You can have signs and bring in community members. If you need more information on Walk-Ins, contact [tim.crowley@ncae.org](mailto:tim.crowley@ncae.org).

On May 16 we March for Students, we Rally for Respect, and we advocate for public schools. As you know, we recognize #Red4Ed each Wednesday. Let's have a sea of #Red4Ed on Jones Street on May 16. RSVP at this link: <http://www.ncae.org/rally-for-respect/>

***We need ALL of you there.  
Recruit members and other community  
supporters of our public schools to join us.***