

# Provide Equitable Funding For All Students

## Oppose H219 That Shifts Larger Portion to Charter Schools

All public-school students, regardless of the school they attend, deserve fair funding for their education. North Carolina's system currently does that – every public-school student receives the same per-pupil amount of state and local taxes. However, charter school advocates are pushing Section 7 of House Bill 219, which would force school districts to share their program-specific funding with charter schools while allowing the charters to keep every cent of the program-specific money they receive. HB219 will destroy the balance in public-school funding by providing greater support to charter students at the expense of those enrolled in local school districts.

### The Current System Provides Fair Funding to ALL Public-School Students

Funding equity is guaranteed for all public-school students as follows:

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Child Nutrition provides funding for students in the district who qualify for free/reduced price meals. HB219 requires these funds to be shared with ALL charter students. How does that make sense?

- District and charter schools receive an equal per-pupil share of local and state tax dollars. Tax dollars follow the student to the district or charter school they attend.
- Grant monies for specific programs stay with the district or charter school to which they were granted. Districts and charters must independently apply for grants.
- Federal reimbursements – for programs such as technology and meal services – are received by and stay with the school district or charter school providing those programs and services. Reimbursements are not received if the programs/services are not provided.
- Neither school districts nor charter schools share additional funding (private gifts, fundraising profits, tuition for pre-K or extracurricular services, rental fees for use of school facilities) they receive.

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Do you really believe any funds from PTA and band boosters should be shared between schools?

### H219 is Based on Talking Points by Charter Advocates & Funding Misperceptions

Charter advocates stand by misguided beliefs that their students are being short-changed:

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Charters & school districts have fund balances. School districts will be required to share a portion of its fund balance with charter schools, but it's not reciprocal - charters will keep 100% of theirs.

- They claim charter students receive 75 cents for every dollar provided to district students and that this bill creates fair funding. When asked, they have yet to show their calculations.
- This flawed calculation is likely based on factors unrelated to per-pupil operational funding and reflects an apples-to-oranges comparison of district and charter funding.
- They believe that school districts should share other types of funding, such as grants and reimbursements received for specific programs, that charter schools could and do receive if they offer those same programs and apply for certain grants.
- They believe school districts should share their fund balances and interest income with charter schools while keeping 100% of their own fund balances and interest income.

**HB219, Charter School Omnibus, creates unfair funding and significantly tips the scales in favor of charter schools. We urge lawmakers to maintain fair public-school funding and oppose the bill.**