

OUR COMMITMENT TO NORTH CAROLINA STUDENTS

North Carolina's business leaders are dedicated to the belief that education is the key to opportunity for individuals and our state.



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Every student comes to school with different talents, abilities, and interests. With the right educational supports from early childhood to post-secondary education, we believe that each student can gain the knowledge, skills, and behaviors to succeed in a competitive global economy.

BEST NC's members recognize that factors outside of school, such as family and community, have the greatest impact in determining a child's future life success. However, among the factors that can be influenced by public policy, we believe that education has the biggest impact on future success; helping a child to overcome challenges such as poverty, and enabling each student to reach his or her individual potential.

As business leaders, we recognize that our businesses are successful because of the talent of our employees. Similarly, we believe that highly-effective teachers and principals have a bigger impact on student learning than anything else in a school. All North Carolinians have a role in supporting our students – families, educators, neighbors, business leaders, philanthropists and other community members. We hold ourselves accountable for our unique role in a complex and dynamic education community.

Based on these beliefs, BEST NC is committed to protecting every North Carolina student's right to:

- > **Have an excellent teacher and school leadership.** North Carolina's Constitution guarantees every student the right to a sound, basic education. This constitutional guarantee requires the state to provide adequate learning resources for every student, including a school led by an effective principal, and classroom learning guided by a great teacher.
- > **Graduate with relevant, globally-competitive career and life skills.** We must guarantee North Carolina students that if they actively participate in their education, they will be prepared to achieve success in work and life in a globally-competitive economy. Each student has the right to pursue his or her own passions and interests, but also to gain exposure to basic skills and knowledge throughout their academic career that will prepare them to be happy, productive citizens of the 21st Century.
- > **Come to school ready to learn.** This means readiness at all levels including early educational experiences that prepare each child to be ready to learn in kindergarten, access to higher education opportunities, and support systems for students and families throughout their schooling that enable them to come to the classroom ready to learn; every class, every day.