

New Report—North Carolina Charter Schools: Undermining Quality Education for All

A close look at charter schools in North Carolina shows that heightened scrutiny of operations, impact on segregation, and student outcomes is warranted.

RALEIGH, NC, UNITED STATES,
December 2, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/

-- The new report, [North Carolina Schools: Undermining Quality Education for All](#) published by [Public Schools First NC](#)

examines the three-decade North Carolina charter school experiment. It explores the original justifications for charter schools; analyzes the pedagogical and operational differences among charter schools; examines the mechanisms through which charter schools evade accountability measures that apply to public schools; and discusses the mixed student academic outcomes. The report then identifies and analyzes several problematic features of charter schools and offers a number of recommendations to address them.

North Carolina charter schools are publicly funded elementary and secondary schools operated independently by non-profit organizations, some of which partner with for-profit groups. Charter schools first opened in North Carolina in 1997. In 2011, despite evidence of uneven student outcomes, lawmakers abandoned the original statewide numerical cap. Where the legislature once had limited the statewide number of charter schools to 100, there is now no cap. Predictably, the number of charter schools in the state has significantly increased. In 2024-25, 208 charter schools received well over [\\$1.18 billion in taxpayer money](#), even as public-school districts remain underfunded.

North Carolina now has two primary systems of elementary and secondary public schools – a system of charter schools and a system of traditional school systems – despite the state’s constitutional requirement that the North Carolina General Assembly provide a “uniform system of free public schools.” In addition, the growth of taxpayer-funded private school tuition vouchers adds private schools as a third system of state-funded education.

Examination of the charter school program strongly suggests that, because charter schools continue to grow and receive hundreds of millions in public funds each year, heightened scrutiny by taxpayers and policymakers is warranted. Like traditional public schools, charter schools



should be held accountable to taxpayers, communities, and students to ensure that they meet North Carolina's constitutional commitment to public education.

Heather Koons

Public Schools First NC

info@publicschoolsfirstnc.org

Visit us on social media:

[LinkedIn](#)

[Bluesky](#)

[Instagram](#)

[Facebook](#)

[YouTube](#)

[TikTok](#)

This press release can be viewed online at: <https://www.einpresswire.com/article/871635996>

EIN Presswire's priority is source transparency. We do not allow opaque clients, and our editors try to be careful about weeding out false and misleading content. As a user, if you see something we have missed, please do bring it to our attention. Your help is welcome. EIN Presswire, Everyone's Internet News Presswire™, tries to define some of the boundaries that are reasonable in today's world. Please see our Editorial Guidelines for more information.

© 1995-2025 Newsmatics Inc. All Right Reserved.