

Contacts:
Renee Sekel
Tel: 919-946-0406
Email: ra_sekel@yahoo.com

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
06-26-2017

**SAVE OUR SCHOOLS – NC PARENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLING
ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF THE NORTH CAROLINA EDUCATION
PLEDGE**

Raleigh, NC—June 26, 2017— Last year, the NCGA passed a law reducing class sizes for grades K-3 in all non-charter public schools in NC. While small class sizes are an admirable goal, the NCGA’s new mandate was written in such a way that schools no longer have the ability to use teacher allocation funds to pay for teachers of art, music, P.E. and other subjects commonly known as “specials.” After months of lobbying from our group and others, the NCGA finally passed an amended version of HB-13 that provided a one-year reprieve from the worst effects of the class size law. Unfortunately, despite promises to the contrary, the NCGA failed to restore any funding for specialists in the budget that will be in effect for the 2018-2019 school year, when the class size law becomes effective. As a result of the NCGA’s inaction, parents, teachers and administrators throughout the state are bracing to lose important school programs in the 2018-2019 school year, while up to 5,500 NC teachers could lose their jobs.

“Over and over again,” says Renee Sekel, a Cary mother of three and founder of Save Our Schools, “our members have been told by their legislators that they would like to help, but they do not have the power to do so, because they feel like they lack the power to convince leadership to take action. And the leadership continues to make excuses for its failures; this time pretending that it needs yet more information from schools before it can provide any funding at all for Specials.”

To counter those arguments and to empower our legislators to take action, Save Our Schools launches today the North Carolina Education Pledge, a new initiative aimed at asking each and every member of the NCGA to promise public support for funding Specials, and to take concrete steps to accomplish that goal. We ask that each member of the NCGA pledge to work toward funding a minimum of four teachers for every elementary school in the state, or in the alternative, one specialist for each six classroom teachers allotted. The Pledge and more information about it may be found at ncedpledge.org. Save Our Schools! volunteers will be at the Legislative Building today to hand-deliver copies of the pledge to each legislator.

###

About Save our Schools -- NC Parents for Public Schooling:

Save Our Schools – NC Parents for Public Schooling is grassroots group of citizens, parents, teachers, and public education advocates who have joined together to advocate for the full funding of Specials in North Carolina. Started in March 2017 (with the name NC Parents for HB-13), it has grown to include over 7,000 members. To learn more about our organization, please visit us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1364932740216627/>