



Guilford County Association of Educators <gcaenc@gmail.com>

Why It Matters More than Ever that We Grow Our Union

1 message

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Newsletter

August 30, 2023

#TroublemakerTidbits:

A Statement from President Pendleton

Instead of passing a budget to fund our public schools for 2023-24, the North Carolina General Assembly has chosen to once again attack our public schools. On August 16, 2023, the NCGA overrode five gubernatorial vetoes and passed additional legislation. The legislation discriminates against LGBTQ+ students and families and further dismantles our already-suffering North Carolina public school system by siphoning funds and resources away from traditional public schools and giving it away to unaccountable private and charter schools.



The Guilford County Association of Educators stands firmly against the legislation on this “[Slate of Hate](#),” and we stand in opposition to the General Assembly’s lack of urgency around passing a state budget when public schools are drowning and in desperate need of funding and staffing. Passing divisive, harmful legislation when there is real work to be done for our state demonstrates the legislature’s wrong priorities and distinct lack of respect for the people of North Carolina.

SB 49, HB 574, and HB 808 are a direct attack on our students, teachers, and caregivers who are LGBTQ+ community members. GCAE will continue to fight for justice for all of our students, their caregivers, and our fellow public school workers. These new laws create dangerous conditions for students and workers in our schools when lawmakers’ top priority should be keeping our kids and coworkers safe.

HB 219 and HB 618 allow expansion and further deregulation of charter schools at the expense of public resources. We know that legislation like this is a direct attack on our public schools. Public dollars belong in public schools.

We know that the vast majority of North Carolinians support their local public schools and want their schools funded appropriately. Instead of being accountable to North Carolina voters, the NCGA has chosen to engage in the culture wars rather than doing the job they were elected to do: pass a state budget. They have chosen fear-mongering, divisive tactics meant to perpetuate a false story that parents and teachers are somehow at war with each other.

The truth is, many public school workers are also public school parents. Educators and parents alike want our students to receive equitable and excellent education. Our students need and deserve the **freedom to learn** in an inclusive, culturally responsive public education system in which every student and educator is treated with dignity and respect, no exceptions.*

[*NEA Freedom to Learn](#)

How to Plug In & Build YOUR Union, GCAE:

The most important things you can do right now to build power are to

- 1.) get involved with your Building Team (come to a Building Team Training!) and
- 2.) bring your coworkers with you to our very first Mass Meeting of the year!

We’ve known it for a while now, but it needs to be said: no one is coming to save us but us.

It's time to fight power with power, and that's what we are building. *This all starts at the building level, with a strong Building Leader and a Building Team.* Are you the Building Leader? Building Team Training is for you! Do you want to join your Building Leader in building power at your work site? Building Team Training is for you! Are you unsure who your Building Leader is or how to get started in your building, or even just curious about it? Building Team Training is for you! Plan to attend [Option 1](#) (on 9/5) or [Option 2](#) (on 9/18). And we're serious: bring a coworker with you!

And plan to attend the very first **Mass Meeting** of the school year on **Thursday, September 14, at Smith High School!** RSVP for yourself, and ask your coworkers to come with you. We're going to feed you good food, take care of your kids, and get you gassed up for a great year of building the collective power needed to win the schools that you, your coworkers, and your students deserve! We win what we're willing to fight for, so bring a ton of coworkers with you to wrap up our #HotUnionSummer and kick off our #PublicSchoolPower school year! ([Register now](#) so we have enough food and know who is going to need childcare!)

TUES, SEPT 5, 5:30-7:00 pm, virtual	GCAE Building Team Training, Option 1 All Building Leaders and Building Team members, please plan to attend Option 1 (on 9/5) or Option 2 (on 9/18). Training is required in order to be an official GCAE Building Leader for the 23-24 school year.	Register
THURS, SEPT 14, 5:30-7:30 pm, Smith HS	First GCAE Mass Meeting of the School Year! Dinner and childcare provided!	Register
MON, SEPT 18, 5:30-7:00 pm, virtual	GCAE Building Team Training, Option 2 All Building Leaders and Building Team members, please plan to attend Option 1 (on 9/5) or Option 2 (on 9/18). Training is required in order to be an official GCAE Building Leader for the 23-24 school year.	Register

Ways to Plug In with NCAE:

GCAE is the local affiliate of our state union, NCAE. The following opportunities are available for all NCAE members ready to learn one more thing, take one more step, or dig just a little bit deeper.

- **NCAE All-Member Call:** Discuss the impact of recent legislation on our public school communities.
 - Thursday, Aug 31, 6:00-7:00 PM, virtual
 - [Register](#)
- **NCAE BL Training Session 1:** Although this series is geared mostly towards smaller locals, GCAE members are welcome to attend if you'd like to brush up on some organizing skills. *(Please note that all GCAE Building Leaders should sign up for GCAE Building Team Training above.)*
 - Thursday, Sept 7, 6:00-8:00 PM, virtual
 - Register: <https://link.ncae.org/Building-Leader-Training>
- **NCAE Local Strength Cohort Meeting:** Available to Building Teams who want to work on some leader identification and development.
 - Monday, Sept 11, 6:00-8:00 PM, virtual
 - Register: <http://link.ncae.org/Local-Strength-Cohort>
- **From Bills to Advocacy: NCAE's Legislative Update and Advocacy Skills Trainings**
 - Wednesday, Sept 13, 6:00-7:15 PM, virtual
 - Register: <https://www.mobilize.us/ncac/event/572162/>
- **NCAE Region 4 Building Leader Training:** Learn about what's been happening in the NCGA, improve your membership recruitment skills, and learn more about professional development opportunities offered by NCAE. Lunch and childcare will be provided. *(Please note that Region 4 Building Leader Training does not replace GCAE Building Team Training as the requirement for Building Leaders. All GCAE Building Leaders should sign up for GCAE Building Team Training above and are most welcome to attend Region 4 Building Leader Training as well.)*
 - Saturday, Sept 23, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Elon
 - Register: <https://link.ncae.org/R4-Building-Leader-Training>
- **NCAE Members and Statewide Candidates Meet-and-Greet**
 - Friday, Sept 29, 6:00-7:30 PM, Raleigh
 - [Register](#)

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