

Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform

Gregg Sinderson, NC State Director for TeamCFA

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North Carolina General Assembly

Gregg Sinderson

- North Carolina State Director for TeamCFA
 - Network of 19 public charter schools; 13 in North Carolina, 4 in Arizona and 2 in Indiana
- Founding Board member of Pine Springs Preparatory Academy: CFA (Wake)
- Current Board member of Carolina Charter Academy: CFA (Wake) and Davidson Charter Academy (Davidson)
- Former Board Member of Unity Classical Academy: CFA (Wake) and Coastal Preparatory Academy: CFA (New Hanover)
- Former Chief Operating Officer at Rocky Mount Prep Academy (Nash)

Public Charter School Funding

- Dollars should follow the student. Public charter schools should be funded at the same level as traditional public schools.
- Do not support separate line-item funding for public charter schools
- All public schools should be granted charter-like flexibility along with charter accountability. Currently, only an option for low-performing public schools.

Capital Funding

- Public charter schools do not receive state or local money for designated specifically for facilities
- Spend up to 20% of their revenue on facilities – money that doesn't make it to the classroom
- Solutions:
 - "May capital" - revise statutes to allow County Commissioners to provide local capital funding for facilities
 - Allow charter schools access to the NC Education Lottery funds specifically designated for school facilities
 - Allow charter schools to receive school facilities money included in state budget

Charter School Start-up Funding

- Public charter schools do not receive any state funding until facility is complete and Certificate of Occupancy is issued by local government.
- Public charter schools previously received state funds for start-up prior to opening.
- Solution:
 - Provide \$100,000 per school that would be provided during planning year.
 - \$50,000 upon approval by the State Board of Education to enter planning year
 - \$50,000 upon identification of school location

Additional input

- Include a statement in statute and/or budget bill stating – "any funding designated for public schools should be shared with public charter schools, unless specifically stated otherwise."
- Encourage committee to look at public charter school funding models, particularly around human capital, that may provide ideas for funding all public schools.