



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NORTH CAROLINA SENATE

January 19, 2022

Governor Roy Cooper
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Governor Cooper,

I write with questions about your administration's stance on school choice.

You recently issued a supportive proclamation declaring a statewide "School Choice Week." Yet you have consistently opposed school choice policies like the Opportunity Scholarship program, which provide grants to lower-income families so they can send their children to a private school if they so choose. Your budgets have proposed eliminating or severely curtailing Opportunity Scholarships, and you have made many public statements voicing your opposition to the program. For example, you said in 2020, "I think that [the Opportunity Scholarship Program] is an expense that we should stop in North Carolina."

My questions are:

- Does your proclamation supporting school choice indicate you and your administration now support the school choice movement?
- Do you support or oppose the Opportunity Scholarship program?
- If you remain opposed to school choice policies like Opportunity Scholarships, why did you issue a proclamation supportive of the school choice movement?

School choice is wildly popular, especially among lower-income families and families of color. It would be a very welcome development to those families if you indeed have changed your position on school choice policies like Opportunity Scholarships.

As the chair of the Senate Education Committee, I welcome collaboration on expanding school choice in North Carolina. Working together, we can make school choice a key tenet of the General Assembly's agenda in the upcoming short session. Doing so would signal to families in North Carolina and around the country that bipartisan collaboration on expanding school choice is possible.

I look forward to your response to my questions and my offer of collaboration on further expanding North Carolina's school choice environment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Deanna Ballard". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Senator Deanna Ballard