Teacher Strike Organizers Admit Their Goal is to Elect Democrats

Raleigh, N.C. – The far-left leadership of the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) has been using teachers as a tool to advance the NCAE’s political mission for years. A document distributed by this year's teacher strike organizers puts that mission in writing.

The document, titled "Why May 1st is Different than last Year" and copied below, has Red4EdNC's branding and emphasizes that "NCAE/Organize2020, Red4EdNC, and North Carolina Teachers United are coordinated in our efforts" for this year’s teacher strike.

In it, the strike organizers write that last year's strike "did a hell of a lot of good" because "we broke the supermajority in the General Assembly, restored the governor's veto power, and created a new majority on the NC Supreme Court."

On May 1, thousands of children will be forced out of the classroom and hardworking parents will have to find childcare or miss work -- all so the far-left strike organizers can try to elect more Democrats.

This strike is not about education. It is a strike organized by partisan activists with the express intent of eliminating Republicans from the North Carolina General Assembly, and it is at the expense of children who should be in the classroom learning.

Here are a few reminders of what Republicans have done for education in North Carolina, which Democrats have opposed at every turn:

- FACT: Republicans provided teachers with the third-highest pay raise in the country over the last five years.
• FACT: Republicans increased education spending every year for the last eight years. The 2018-19 education budget is the largest in state history.
• FACT: Under Republican leadership, graduation rates are up 8.4 percentage points since 2011.

Bizarrely, the teacher strike organizers also argue that "Governor Cooper has proposed a clearly pro-education budget" because "he is calling for a 9% pay hike" over two years for teachers. Republicans in the General Assembly provided teachers with a 9.9% pay hike over the last two years, yet the strike organizers celebrate eliminating Republicans from the legislature while praising Democratic proposals that give teachers less.

Over the last 25 years, 88% of NCAE's political contributions have gone to Democrats, while 5.3% have gone to Republicans.

The far-left organizers of this teacher strike have no credibility. Their aims are purely partisan, and they distort basic facts to achieve their partisan aims.
Why May 1st is Different than Last Year (and twice as important)

If you are thinking, “We did that last year, what good did it do?” It did a HELL OF A LOT OF GOOD, and that’s why this year is very different than last year.
• It gave undeniable evidence that something is very wrong in NC.
  Apologists could no longer deny there was a problem or that the disgruntled were a few whiny “snowflakes”.
• After last year’s march, public education was a central issue in November’s elections.
  We broke the supermajority in the General Assembly, restored the governor’s veto power, and created a new majority on the NC Supreme Court.
• It is a “long session” budget year.
  A few people cannot go behind closed doors, throw together a budget, and ram it through the assembly.
• Governor Cooper has proposed a clearly pro-education budget.
  He is calling for average 9% pay hikes for teachers, an additional $69 million for personnel and materials.
• All three teacher advocacy organizations are working in concert:
  NCAE /Organize 2020, Red4EdNC, and North Carolina Teachers United are coordinated in our efforts to do this work.
• This time we have five specific “asks” that were determined through a democratic process.
  NCAE involved educators and support personnel from all over the state in choosing the top priorities for our advocacy this year.
• We are now joining with educational support personnel, clerical staff, bus drivers, cafeteria workers, maintenance workers, and retirees.
  With every stakeholder group involved, we could be 50,000+ strong on May 1st.
• Unlike last year, we know we do not need to be afraid.
  Not a single teacher lost their job or was disciplined for attending the March last year.
• The governor cannot shield us from any punitive measures from the legislature.
  With the supermajority in the General Assembly broken, his veto will stick and will be hard to override.
• We know logistically how to make this work.
  We know how to submit leave and organize transportation. We also have more time than last year to get organized. This year is nothing like last year, except for the fact we are asking you to gather in May, wearing red. And if we play our cards right, every year after this one will be different, and better, because through collective action and building our capacity for leveraging real power, we will demand and create better learning and working conditions for all NC students and school workers.

#InThisTogether #AllOut

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