



**PRESS RELEASE**  
**President Pro Tempore**  
**Senator Phil Berger**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The True Numbers Behind Far-Left NCAE's School Staffing "Demands"**

*NCAE lists #1 strike priority as more school counselors, nurses, psychologists, and librarians*

*Under Republican leadership, numbers beat the national average and are better than when Democrats were in control*

*NCAE's true agenda is just to elect more Democrats, and they will invent any excuse to rally for Dems and against Repubs*

**Raleigh, N.C.** – The far-left North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) listed as its top priority more school counselors, nurses, psychologists, and librarians. The liberal union has told its members and the public that the student-to-staff ratios for these jobs reveal a statewide crisis, and that's why keeping hundreds of thousands of students out of the classroom for a strike is necessary.

What the far-left NCAE withholds from the public and its members is that in categories for which national comparisons are possible, **North Carolina is better than the national average.** And in **each category, North Carolina's numbers are better than they were when Democrats controlled the General Assembly.**

The facts are clear: Even in the categories the far-left NCAE cites as its top priority, the numbers have improved under Republican education policies. The NCAE constantly invents new reasons to protest Republicans because the NCAE's primary motivation is not education or teachers -- it is to elect more Democrats.

Regarding the data, Senator Berger said, **"The far-left NCAE likes to tell one-tenth of the truth to mislead the public and the media about the reality of education in North Carolina. As legislators, it's never okay to think the job is finished because we can always improve upon the status quo, and advocacy -- from teachers, parents, or anybody -- is critical to that work."**

Berger continued, **"But this data shows unequivocally that Republican education policies have improved even the areas the NCAE cites as the reason for their strike. Advocacy is always welcome; deceiving the public to achieve political goals and justify keeping hundreds of thousands of kids out of school is not."**

Let's take each category one by one.

#### School Counselors

The U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics tracks nationwide data on a number of education-related items, including school counselors in each state. Since Republicans took control of the General Assembly, North Carolina's student-to-counselor rank **improved from 19th in the country to 14th in the country**. North Carolina **ranks 6th** in total number of school guidance counselors.

In 2017, the last year for which nationwide data is available, North Carolina's student-to-counselor ratio was 368 to 1, which is **19 percent better than the national average** of 455 to 1.

The NCAE misleadingly tells the public that North Carolina's ratio is higher than the "national standard," which is determined by the national association that advocates for more funding for school counselors.

In fact, **just two states in the entire country have a student-to-counselor ratio that is better than the "national standard"** – Vermont and New Hampshire. North Carolina has 18 times the number of students that Vermont has and 9 times the number of students that New Hampshire has.

#### School Nurses

Annual [reports](#) published by the N.C. Department of Health and Human Services show that the student-to-nurse ratio in North Carolina has improved every single year Republicans controlled the legislature, and has dropped by more than 140 students per nurse since [2010](#).

In 2010, the ratio was 1,201 students for every nurse. In 2018, it was 1,055 students for every nurse.

Also, the student-to-nurse ratio was better under Republican control than any year of Democratic control going back to the beginning of this [century](#), the last year for which data is readily available.

#### School Librarians

According to data from the U.S. Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics, North Carolina jumped two spots in rankings for the student-to-librarian ratio since 2010, improving from 19th to 17th. In 2017, the most recent year for which data is available,

North Carolina's student-to-librarian ratio was 728 to 1, which is much better than the national average of 1,177 to 1.

#### School Psychologists

Recent nationwide data is not readily available, but [data](#) from 2005 and 2010, when Democrats controlled the North Carolina legislature, indicates North Carolina was in the bottom half of states in the country for the ratio of students to psychologists. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction data indicates that the student-to-psychologist ratio has dropped from 2,003 students per psychologist in 2010 to 1,873 students per psychologist in 2018.

#### Social Workers

State-by-state data on school social workers is not readily available, but data from DPI shows that the student-to-social worker ratio has decreased by 110 students per social worker since 2010.

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