



Wake County PTA Council believes that every child must be provided with a well-rounded, high-quality education, which will ensure that all children have the opportunity to reach their full potential and become productive members of society.

Wake County PTA Council also believes that specialized instruction in physical education and the arts, such as music, literature, dance, drama, and visual arts are central to learning. Infusion of the arts in elementary, secondary, and continuing education curricula is key to the development of students and an important element of a well-rounded, high quality education. Wake County PTA Council also believes that the teaching of the arts and physical education must be done by qualified teachers who are trained in these specialized fields.

Last year, the NC General Assembly passed its budget with a section that limited class sizes for grades K-3 starting with the 2017-18 school year. Unfortunately, the unintended consequences resulted in an unfunded mandate that would require thousands of new K-3 teachers in public schools across the state, and more than 400 teachers in the Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) alone.

WCPSS does not currently have the facilities for these 400 new elementary classes, nor do the certified teachers for these classes exist. To pay for 400 additional classroom teachers, WCPSS may have to eliminate classes like art, music, PE, media, technology and others. Also, WCPSS estimates it would need to build more than 20 new elementary schools to house the additional K-3 classes needed to accommodate the 400 additional teachers, further straining the budget for 2017-2018 and future years.

Wake County PTA Council supports the passage of HB13, which would adjust language in the North Carolina budget, giving school districts the ability to exceed class size limits by six students per class in K-3. The passage of HB13 would allow for the retention of arts, music and other cultural arts programming, as well the retention of qualified educators to teach these classes.