



#IAmLeandro

Talking Points

- 1. Constitutional Right to Education:** Every child in North Carolina has a constitutional right to a 'sound basic education'. This fundamental right forms the cornerstone of our education system and ensures that every child has the opportunity to learn and succeed.
- 2. Violation of Rights:** Unfortunately, this right has been violated for a significant number of students across North Carolina. Despite legal mandates and court rulings, many students have been deprived of the quality education they deserve.
- 3. Comprehensive Plan for Improvement:** A comprehensive plan for delivering a 'sound basic education' was meticulously crafted by respected educators, agreed upon by all parties, and approved by the lower courts. This plan outlines specific actions to address systemic challenges and ensure that every child receives a quality education.
- 4. Legal Mandate for Implementation:** In November 2022, a majority of the NC Supreme Court ruled that this plan must finally become a statewide reality, using already earmarked public funds. This legal mandate underscores the urgency and importance of fully implementing the plan without further delay.
- 5. Decades of Litigation:** After nearly 30 years of successful litigation in the Leandro v. NC case, the NC Supreme Court has issued landmark rulings affirming the constitutional right to education for every child in the state. These rulings have established specific requirements for teacher quality, school leadership, and educational resources.
- 6. Blueprint and Budget for Action:** North Carolina has a blueprint and a budget for the corrective actions necessary to rectify the situation. The Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan, developed with input from education experts and stakeholders, outlines clear steps to improve our education system.





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7. Funding Challenges: Despite having ample resources, including \$4.7 billion in the "rainy day fund" and a strong economy, North Carolina has failed to fully fund the Leandro Plan. Less than 11% of the plan was funded in the latest budget, with funds being diverted to private schools through voucher programs.

8. Importance of Equity: Equitable access to education is essential for equitable economic empowerment and a fully functioning democracy. Investing in education promotes economic parity, social stability, and improved health outcomes for all members of society.

9. Concerns About Returning to Court: There are significant concerns surrounding the Leandro case returning to court on February 22. Despite clear legal mandates and previous court rulings, there is a risk that the plan's application may be restricted, excluding numerous school districts and violating the constitutional rights of tens of thousands of children to a sound basic education. This uncertainty raises questions about the state's commitment to justice and adherence to precedent, jeopardizing the progress made towards ensuring equitable access to education for all students in North Carolina.

10. Take Action: Please consider taking action by [signing our petition](#). You can also ask your candidates and elected officials to participate in our Candidate/Elected Officials statement of commitment regarding Leandro.

By fully funding the Leandro Plan, North Carolina can create a brighter future for its youth and ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive and succeed in life.

