



Press Release

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For the article on principals, visit EdNC.org

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Problems Exist with Principal Salary Structure in NC, New Nonprofit EducationNC Shines Light on Issue

On Mebane Rash's third day on the job as the CEO of EducationNC, a principal asked her to look at the state's principal salary schedules. Katie McMillan, the principal of Centennial Magnet Middle School, will have to wait five years before she is bumped up to the next level, and other principals have to wait much longer. McMillan said, "I don't think people ever scroll down that far in the schedules." McMillan comes from a long line of educators. Rash knew that if McMillan was discouraged by the wait, then other principals were too.

The longest wait times come for those principals who oversee 101 or more teachers. They aren't eligible for their first pay bump until they have 24 years of combined experience as a teacher and a principal.

Further investigation by EducationNC revealed that raises aren't the only issue. Unintended consequences from the 2014 teacher salary increase mean that in some cases teachers with the same amount of experience can make more than the administrators who manage them. EducationNC also found that some principals are able negotiate their salaries if local funds are available. Principal turnover is also an issue, and the state needs to report all transfers, not just those outside the district.

EducationNC (EdNC) is a new nonprofit launching on January 12, 2015. EdNC seeks to expand the educational opportunities for all children in North Carolina, increase their academic attainment, and improve the performance of the state's public schools. EdNC will provide the state with data, research, news, information, and analysis about the major trends, issues, and challenges facing public schools. EdNC hopes to use its online platform to host a statewide, bipartisan conversation about education fueled with good information.

The examination of issues facing principals is the first of many articles about the state of education in North Carolina available at EdNC.org. A short version of the article (833 words) and a long version of the article (2349 words) are available for newspaper publication in print or online. Please tweet using the hashtags #ncprincipals and #nced for this release.

For more information about EducationNC or the issues facing principals, contact Mebane Rash at mrash@EdNC.org or Alex Granados at agranados@EdNC.org.