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## Seeking solutions

Recently the Partnership for North Carolina's Future joined together to urge legislators to take action to meet the state's public facility needs. The partnership is a diverse coalition that includes advocates for public schools, land and water conservation, transportation, water and sewer, affordable housing, and cities and counties. Simply put, we are urging the state to invest in our future.

Last year the Department of Public Instruction conducted a survey of public school facility needs over the next five years. The total need identified was \$9.8 billion. Currently, there are more than 178,000 students who attend school in trailers. That is simply unacceptable.

We need a short-term and a long-term fix to the school construction crisis. In the short term, the General Assembly should pass legislation authorizing the people to vote on a school bond of at least \$2 billion. For the long term, the General Assembly should provide for a new revenue stream dedicated specifically to public school construction.

If these two things are done, our children will have the school facilities that they need and deserve. We can afford to do no less.

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