

Teachers Stage "Walk-In" Today

Written by Steve Frank

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It is not clear whether teachers in the High Country are participating, but a number of school districts have organized teacher 'walk-ins' today, as teachers voice their frustrations this morning. North Carolina Association of Educators President Rodney Ellis said "Educators are going to meet outside the building, wearing red. They're going to walk into the doors collectively, just to show support for one another and show that we're walking in and not walking out." He said some teachers were planning a walk out in protest over cuts to teacher's assistants, a freeze in pay, loss of tenure, and no additional compensation for advanced degrees. Charlotte Mecklenburg schools—geographically close to South Carolina—have reported that they've lost a much higher percentage of teachers in an active school year and are actively recruiting—blaming the reforms from this year's state budget. In today's event, teachers at some schools have invited parents and lawmakers into their classrooms to see the work that's being done. In response, Wake County Republican Party Chair Donna Williams said in an email sent to media outlets this past week, "Apparently, those parties promoting the event see no problem using students to deliver their message of unionization and to promote their upcoming union rally; however, the Wake County Republican Party does."