

# CONVERSATION GUIDE

## Education

on the table  
Your voice matters.



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CENTRAL CAROLINA  
Community  
Foundation

Midlands schools are in an era of change. With virtual classrooms, charter and magnet schools, and continued budget cuts, Midlands youth are navigating a new era of learning. Ensuring a quality education to build a foundation for college and career readiness is important for our communities' well-being.

### BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

#### Set some guidelines.

Ask every participant to commit to creating a brave space for this conversation to take place. Four things to remember:

- Be respectful – in our language and conversation, we should be respectful to others even if we do not agree.
- Listen and learn from one another.
- Try to keep an open mind.
- The conversation itself matters – we don't have to solve challenges right now, today.

### GETTING STARTED:

**Make introductions.** Ask each participant around the table to share their name, their neighborhood and what brought them to the table.

### HAVING THE CONVERSATION:

**Pose questions to spark discussion.** Invite your participants to consider the following and share their responses, experiences and ideas.

1. Reflect on your personal education experiences. How have they shaped who you are today?
2. What can our local leadership do to make our educational system more equitable and just?
3. What are some of the questions or thoughts you have about alternative or private education options (i.e. charter schools, magnet schools, etc.)?
4. What are some policy or funding considerations that need to be addressed to improve our education system?
5. What can we do to support students' college and career readiness?
6. What resonated with you most during today's conversation? How do you plan to take action in the next 3-6 months?

### AFTER YOUR CONVERSATION:

#### Wrapping up your event.

Thank your participants for sharing their thoughts and experiences, and for being part of this important conversation. When we listen and learn from one another, powerful things can happen.

Remind them to:

- Complete the brief survey at [OnTheTableCola.org](http://OnTheTableCola.org) being conducted by Central Carolina Community Foundation for a community report that will be shared with local leaders and stakeholders.
- Contribute to the conversation online by posting photos, ideas and experiences on social media using #OnTheTableCola.
- Consider applying for a Beyond the Table mini-grant. Central Carolina Community Foundation is awarding grants up to \$2,000 each for ideas that emerged from conversations.
- Visit [www.OnTheTableCola.org](http://www.OnTheTableCola.org) to learn more.