

# BEST NC's Current Advocacy Priorities

To advance the conditions that each North Carolina student needs to be successful, BEST NC is committed to advocating for policy changes and state investments within each of our priority areas. The following outlines our three to five-year advocacy priorities, aligned with each of our four pillars for student success:

## 1. Elevate Educators

- **Provide professional compensation for teachers and principals** through regular base pay increases, while steadily improving the professional pay models to compensate for expanded roles and additional contributions
- **Recruit and prepare top-notch talent** through aligned teacher recruitment and scholarship programs for hard-to-staff schools and subjects, and a statewide principal preparation program to that provide more rigorous recruitment and preparation for educators
- **Empower teachers and school leaders** to meet the unique needs of their students and staff by providing greater flexibility over funding and organizational structures that offer teachers embedded professional development, career opportunities and higher pay

## 2. Set High Standards and Promote Meaningful Accountability

- **Support career- and college-ready standards** by encouraging greater transparency in the standards review process, while preserving elements of the Standard Course of Study that ensure NC students are competitive with their national and international peers
- **Transition to next-generation assessments** by supporting the state's momentum toward better tests and testing practices that are aligned to state standards, inform instruction, and provide meaningful information to families and taxpayers
- **Pursue accountability at every level of the education system**, by supporting data and funding transparency, aligned with adequate (financial and administrative) autonomy and supports to empower school, district and state leaders while holding them accountable for student performance
- **Increase connections between public schools, higher education, and the workforce** by supporting expansion of innovative high school programs, further aligning high school preparation with post-secondary demands, and increasing incentives for job-training programs

## 3. Support Underperforming Schools and Students

- **Foster North Carolina students' early literacy** through evidence-based programs for parental engagement, expanded access to high-quality pre-kindergarten, and consistent literacy training for current and future educators
- **Support systemic interventions in the state's lowest-performing schools** through targeted recruitment and retention initiatives for top teachers and principals, school turnaround programs, and increased flexibility and accountability for districts and schools
- **Support transformational efforts to improve funding fairness** through systemic changes in how resources are allocated to schools and students, and improve supports for school-level autonomy and leadership

## 4. Personalize Teaching and Learning

- **Invest in strategies to target greater student support**, such as adequate nurses, counselors, psychologists, social workers, and other supports in all grades
- **Transition to more personalized learning for all students** by sustaining the state's commitment to the Digital Learning Plan, and fostering transitions to competency-based learning and improved diploma integrity
- **Raise expectations for all students** by supporting policies and practices that raise the academic bar for each student through rigorous coursework and access to educators who are passionate about student success