

# BEST NC's PROGRAM & POLICY PRIORITIES

To advance the conditions that each North Carolina student needs to be successful, BEST NC is committed to programs, policies, and state investments aligned with our four strategies for education to transform, evolve, and grow. The following outlines our program and policy priorities.

## Uplift Underperforming & Underserved Schools & Students

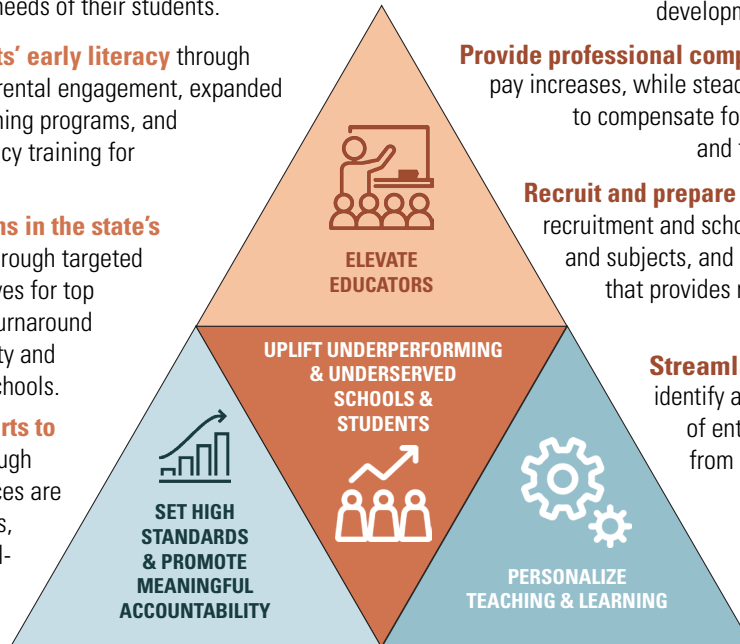


**Close the opportunity gap** between the highest- and lowest-performing groups of students (while raising the bar for all students) by providing all students access to high-quality educators who are empowered to meet the unique needs of their students.

**Foster North Carolina students' early literacy** through evidence-based programs for parental engagement, expanded access to high-quality early learning programs, and consistent, research-based 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 improved supports for school-level autonomy and leadership.



## Set High Standards & Promote Meaningful Accountability



**Increase connections between public schools, higher education, and the workforce** by expanding innovative high school programs, further aligning high school preparation with postsecondary demands, and increasing incentives for job-training programs.

**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.

**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 North Carolina 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 the public.

## Elevate Educators



**Empower teachers and school leaders** to meet the unique needs of their students and staff by providing greater flexibility and autonomy over funding and organizational structures that offer teachers embedded professional development, career opportunities, and higher pay.

**Provide professional compensation for educators** through regular pay increases, while steadily improving the professional pay models to compensate for expanded roles, additional contributions, and the staffing needs of schools and districts.

**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 that provides more rigorous recruitment and preparation for school leaders.

**Streamline teacher preparation licensure** to identify and develop great talent and reduce barriers of entry that inhibit qualified teacher candidates from entering the profession, develop measures of quality for license renewal, and offer multiple on- and off-ramps for those interested in the profession.

## Personalize Teaching & Learning



**Invest in strategies to support students**, such as the resources and autonomy to ensure adequate wrap-around services from nurses, counselors, psychologists, and social workers, targeting those resources to the schools and students where they are needed most.

**Raise expectations for all students** by supporting policies and practices that increase access to rigorous coursework and advanced learning opportunities and empower educators who are passionate about helping each student achieve success.

**Transition to more personalized learning for all students** by sustaining the state's commitment to the Digital Learning Plan, fostering transitions to competency-based learning, and increasing the integrity of the high school diploma.

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