



Office of

LEARNING RECOVERY & ACCELERATION

NC Department of Public Instruction



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

Call to Order

Approval of Agenda & Minutes

Election of Chair/Vice Chair

OLR Team



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MISSION

The mission of the OLR is to serve PSUs by providing the **research and support** needed to make **evidence-based decisions** to combat learning loss and accelerate learning for all students.

The OLR will interface with District and School Transformation and collaborate with each of the constituent units within DPI. The OLR partners with PSUs and other stakeholders to bring needed solutions to long-standing challenges facing NC public education.

VISION

Identify **areas of strength** and areas for **improvement** as PSUs address learning recovery.

Develop and curate programs, policies, and interventions related to learning recovery.

Provide **technical and other assistance** to those who need it via our Office of District and School Transformation.

District Visits & Voices

Mr. Freebird McKinney



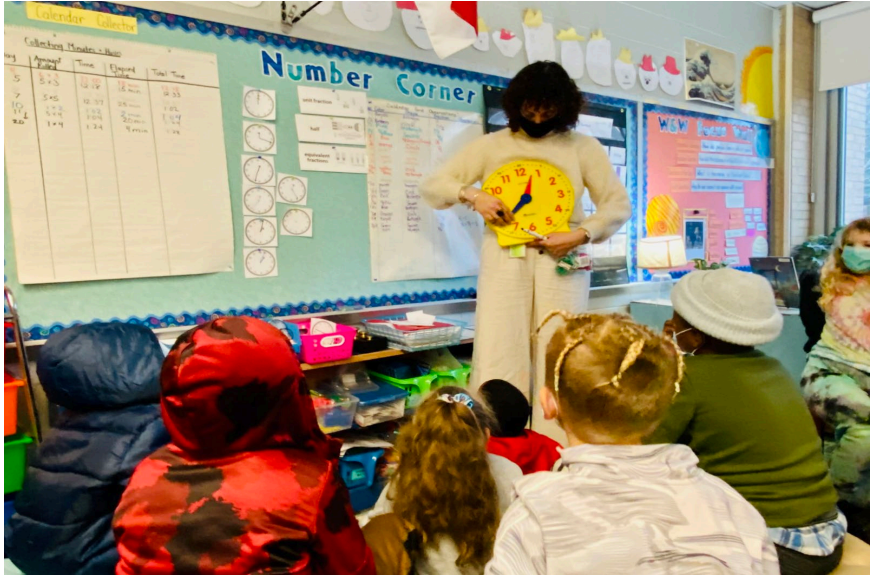
WHAT

The "District Visits and Voices" team joins local, regional, and state partners, as well as school systems and their principals/educators, with the NC State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction, and the NC General Assembly, to address the Strategic Plan of the NC State Board of Education and the priorities of Superintendent Truitt's Operation Polaris, including Equity and Whole Child (Student Support Services), Human Capital (Teacher/ Principal/ SISIP Recruitment and Retention), Testing and Accountability, Early Childhood Literacy, Workforce Development, College and Career Readiness, and District and Regional Transformation.

WHY

In building a network of teachers, schools, districts, and communities dedicated to improving student achievement and growth, teacher and principal effectiveness, and district and regional transformation, the "District Visits and Voices" team builds bridges with district leadership teams through a "listening and learning" tour. This initiative strengthens the feedback loop between the SBE/DPI in being a conduit for needs, resources, and support, as well as celebrating the successes and challenges with a broader statewide audience. This is a foundational strategy in strengthening the relationship between all levels of the statewide educational system.

District Visits and Voices



District Visits and Voices



STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Chair: Wendell Hall

Vice Chair: Jill Camnitz

The committee's work will be facilitated by:

- NC State Board of Education Director of Government & Community Affairs Director, **Freebird McKinney**
- NC State Superintendent Special Advisor for Teacher Engagement, **Julie Pittman**
- NC State Superintendent Special Advisor for Principal Engagement, **Tabari Wallace**
- NC State Superintendent Special Advisor for Workforce Engagement, **Kristie VanAuken**
- Include committee advisors representing DPI working groups and the **Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration**.



PURPOSE

This committee's work represents a collaborative, cross-functional strategy joining statewide community partnerships and philanthropic organizations, with the NC State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction, to further efforts and priorities of the SBE's Strategic Plan, DPI's "Operation Polaris", and the Leandro Comprehensive Remedial Plan.

FOCUS

Partners to establish an "Education Diplomacy" model that will support a North Carolina Public School System that is a national model for its innovation and engagement by empowering all levels of partnership to build bridges between students, schools, districts, and communities, and the SBE, DPI, NCGA, as well as statewide partnerships.

STAY CONNECTED

This important work is being shared multiple ways. We'd love for you to stay connected.

[K-12 Education Legislation and Reports](#)

[District Visits & Voices Blog](#)

[State Board of Education Meeting Information](#)



CURRENT TRENDS FROM THE FIELD

Strengthen statewide support for district Student Mental Health, Social-Emotional Learning, and Whole Child, Whole School, Whole Community initiatives and programs.

Coordinate and consolidate partnerships with PSU's and statewide organizations whose primary focus is on developing and implementing **teacher recruitment and retention strategies**, particularly with educators of color.

Focus on **recruitment partnerships** including Community Colleges and EPP's/ IHE's through increased communication and collaboration on specific teacher recruitment and licensure initiatives.

Piedmont-Triad
DISTRICT 5

North Central
DISTRICT 3

Northeast
DISTRICT 1

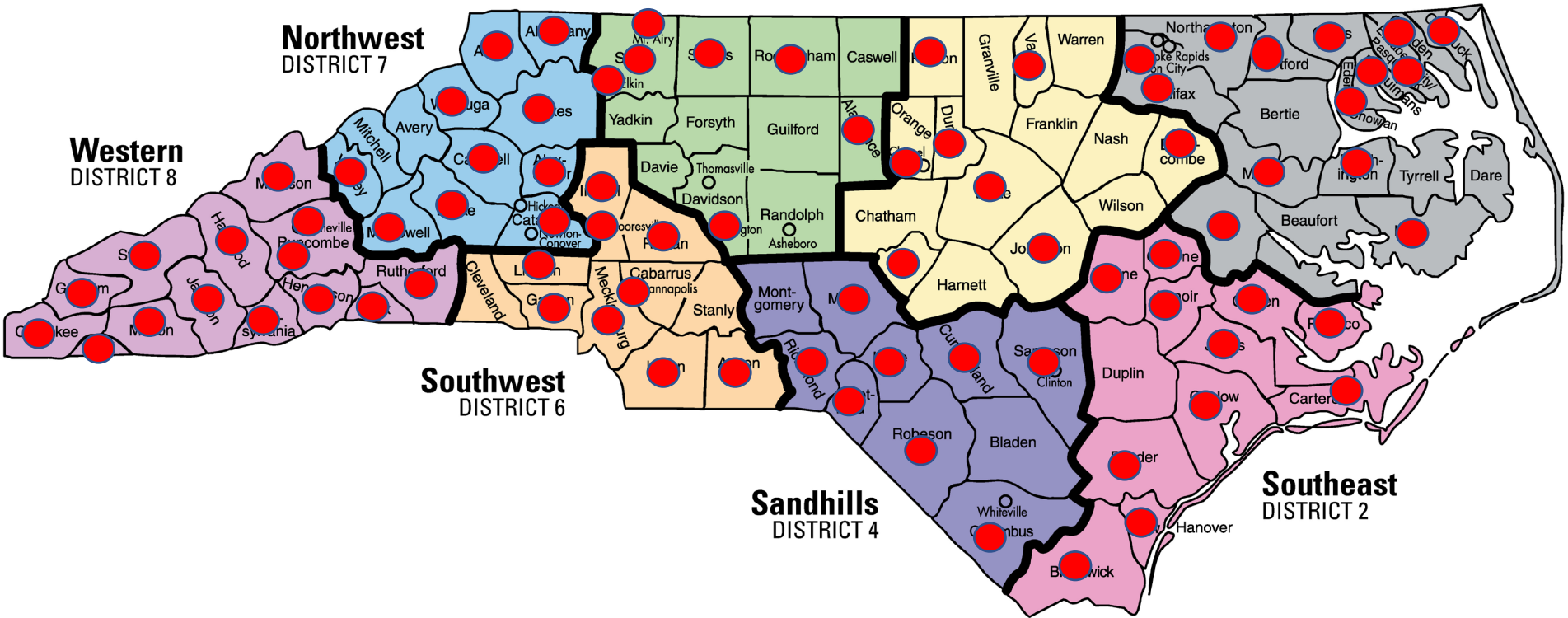
Northwest
DISTRICT 7

Western
DISTRICT 8

Southwest
DISTRICT 6

Sandhills
DISTRICT 4

Southeast
DISTRICT 2



Promising Practices

Dr. Angie Mullennix



Promising Practices

Overview

- The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is launching the Promising Practices Clearinghouse to promote promising practices that motivate, engage and provide measurable results in North Carolina's Public School Units (PSUs).
- This new Promising Practices Clearinghouse, which will be housed within the NCDPI website, is a resource will support teachers, administrators, district personnel, and any other education advocates seeking strategies that have proven successful in other North Carolina districts.
- Sharing these practices will allow PSUs to learn how other districts are solving problems in a creative way, particularly as it relates to pandemic recovery.

Promising Practices Clearinghouse



**IT Helpdesk Internships
Solar Apprenticeships**
HALIFAX COUNTY SCHOOLS

Promising Practices Clearinghouse >> Engaging Students through Work-based Learning
JANUARY 2022

Practice Description

Student internships are not a nuance, as the modern internship has roots as far back as the 11th century guild system.¹ Within the educational context, internships are opportunities to provide students with avenues for experiential learning that prepares students for the workforce through work-based skills attainment, as well as soft skills development. Essentially, internships offer students a way to gain relevant knowledge and skills while also putting their learning into practice in an applicable way.

This report details a cross-curricular approach to developing and sustaining a student internship program that also serves as a student support services outreach initiative and service-learning project.

IT Helpdesk, Tech Team Internships

TECH TEAM
THE STUDENT CONNECTION

INCBCCE
INVEST • INSPIRE • INNOVATE

When the COVID-19 Pandemic began to impact North Carolina Public Schools (PSUs) in March 2020, an immediate transition into remote instruction transpired. Students were working from home through various means, from paper packets and curated content aired on television to online instructional platforms. Some PSUs already offered a one-to-one ratio, meaning one device per student, but many districts did not offer that immediately.

As devices became more available—it's important to note that the whole country was basically trying to purchase more devices for student use—districts shifted to greater technology distribution and usage. The increase that didn't happen during this shift was that of technology repair staff to fix the devices as repairs were needed. Halifax County Schools found a solution to that problem through IT interns who would serve as technicians for the IT Helpdesk. Dr. Cunningham explained that the concept of this was to develop a district-based model similar to that of the well-known Geek Squad (NCBCE, 2021). With only two people in the district's IT department, the interns were a much-needed inclusion. Students were selected through a teacher recommendation process to suggest students who they believed would be a good fit for the class and who would benefit most from it.

Within the IT intern program, Tiffany Taylor, the CompTIA IT Fundamentals and Computer Engineering Technology I Teacher at Halifax County Schools' Northwest Collegiate & Technical Academy, provided: "Our students will not only learn to repair computers, but will also have the opportunity to gain credentials." She furthered that an incoming freshman will have the chance to obtain two IT certifications; CompTIA IT Fundamentals +; and CompTIA A+. Taylor noted of the program's purpose: "We wanted to give our students hands-on experience and make them employable right out of high school." It was truly a focus on workforce development, while also solving a problem that surfaced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Student interns gain the 21st century skills they need to perform successfully within any career. With students being able to actually repair the Chromebooks, it helps to alleviate some of the duties on the IT department. "This puts the district in a place where it can repair and return Chromebooks in a timely manner," stated Taylor.

Navigating Students Toward a Brighter Future

This Promising Practice reflects a focus on Prioritizing Student Support Services and Transforming the Human Capital Pipeline.

www.dpi.nc.gov/about-dpi/operation-polaris

Learning Recovery and Acceleration | Strengthening Literacy
District & School Transformation | Student Support Services
Informing Accountability & Equity | Human Capital

North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

INCLUDES:

- ✓ overview of all the strands and examples.
- ✓ monthly roll-outs based on themes (work-based learning, teacher housing, grow your own, etc.).
- ✓ various assets: research briefs, infographics, write-ups, videos, websites, VR experiences.

[Link to Document](#)

Promising Practices Strands



Navigating Students Toward a Brighter Future

This Promising Practice reflects a focus on Prioritizing Student Support Services and Transforming the Human Capital Pipeline.

www.dpi.nc.gov/about-dpi/operation-polaris



Learning Recovery and Acceleration



Strengthening Literacy



District & School Transformation



Student Support Services



Reforming Accountability & Testing



Human Capital

Learning Recovery and Acceleration

District & School Transformation

Reforming Accountability & Testing

Strengthening Literacy

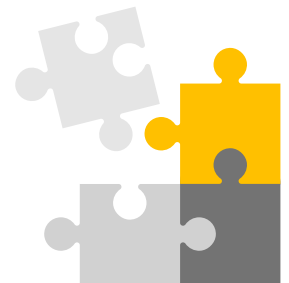
Student Support Services

Human Capital

Vision for Learning Recovery

The appropriation of the ESSER III State Reserve has provided us with an opportunity to share the broad overview of the NC DPI Learning Recovery and Acceleration strategies.

[Click here to visit our Mural Board.](#)



ESSER III Funding Updates

ESSER III Appropriations

Allotment Polices coming before the State Board of Education in February.

- **NC Preschool Pyramid Expansion (PRC 190)** to allow for an allotment of funds to LEAs to expand the North Carolina Preschool Pyramid Model (NCPMM) across and within local school administrative unit preschool programs and to support the implementation of NCPMM in kindergarten in a developmentally appropriate and vertically aligned manner. (\$500,000)
- **STEM Pilot Program (PRC 196)** to allot funds to LEAs for the use of Plasma Games educational software to bridge the gap between chemistry and physical science curricula and career and technical education career pathways for high school students. (\$2,500,000)

- **Educational and Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Program (PRC 201)** to allot funds to public school units to operate an evidenced-based, after-school program for robotics education and competition, with the goal of motivating students to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while building critical life and work-related skills and reengaging students and remediating learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. (\$1,600,000)
- **School Psychologist Grant Program (PRC 204)** to allow an allotment of funds to public school units to offer signing bonuses for school psychologists who will work to improve the safety, mental health, and well-being of students. (\$1,700,000)
- **National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification Fee Reimbursement Program (PRC 198)** to reimburse teachers at qualifying public schools for the cost of the participation fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification. (\$1,200,000)

ESSER III Appropriations

Contracts over \$500,000 coming before the State Board of Education in February.

NC Education Corps (NC Ed Corps) - \$13,500,000

North Carolina Education Corps (NC ED Corps), a nonprofit corporation, for the purpose of NC ED Corps partnering with public school units to recruit, train, and deploy corps members, who include community college and university students, recent graduates, and retirees, to work as tutors and mentors with public school students. Corps members work in the public schools to build relationships and connect with students and help teachers reach students who need additional academic support. The program shall focus on accelerating COVID-19 learning recovery with students, families, and school personnel, particularly through high-impact literacy tutors grounded in the Science of Reading and reading instruction.

ESSER III Appropriations

Business Owners & Funding (Under \$1M)

Bill Item #	Eligible Recipient	Appropriation Type	Description	Budget	Business Owner	Business Partners	PRC
Section 7.27(a)(14)	State Auditor	Contract or MOU	State Auditor for analysis of attendance and truancy policies and procedures	\$350,000	School Business		N/A
Section 7.27(a)(23)	Nationally Certified CTE Programs	Allotment	Hospitality CTE programs outside traditional classroom instruction	\$400,000	CTE	School Business Office of Learning Recovery	194
Section 7.27(a)(30)	LEA	Allotment	Driver education programs	\$400,000	Drivers Ed District Operations	School Business	205
Section 7.27(a)(8)	Local school administrative units	Allotment	Training, consultation, and ongoing support for NC Preschool Pyramid Model	\$500,000	EC		190
Section 7.27(a)(27)	DNCR NC Museum of Art	Agency Transfer/ MOU	NCMA Kids Program	\$500,000	Office of Learning Recovery	Digital Teaching & Learning	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(19)	Schools that Lead, Inc.	Contract	Online platform that allows teachers to share student performance improvement methods; to support the Schools That Lead Program in Section 7.11	\$970,000	District & Regional Support	IT Financial Services	N/A

ESSER III Appropriations

Business Owners & Funding (\$1-2M)

Bill Item #	Eligible Recipient	Appropriation Type	Description	Budget	Business Owner	Business Partners	PRC
Section 7.27(a)(6)	Vendor TBD	Contract	To contract with a third-party entity to assess the impact of COVID-19 on PSUs and the responses of the State	\$1,000,000	Office of Learning Recovery	Financial Services	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(16)	Vendor TBD	Contract	Database for bonds, vendors, purchased products and services; software platform to advertise RFPs nationally	\$1,000,000	School Planning	IT School Business	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(17)	Beginnings for Parents of Children Who Are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc.	Contract	Outreach to and support of North Carolina families affected by COVID-19	\$1,000,000	EC	Financial Services	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(28)	Qualifying schools per bill language	Allotment	Reimburse teachers for NBPTS certification fee	\$1,200,000	District & Regional Support	Federal Programs	198
Section 7.27(a)(31)	PSU	Allotment	After-School Robotics Grant Program	\$1,600,000	STEM - SCI	Digital Teaching & Learning Office of Learning Recovery	201
Section 7.27(a)(29)	PSU	Allotment	School Psychologists Grant Program	\$1,700,000	Exceptional Children	School Business	204

ESSER III Appropriations

Business Owners & Funding (\$2-3M)

Bill Item #	Eligible Recipient	Appropriation Type	Description	Budget	Business Owner	Business Partners	PRC
Section 7.27(a)(9)	Vendor TBD	Contract	Software platform to track subscription services and technology	\$2,000,000	IT	Financial Services	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(33)	Betabox, Inc.	Contract	STEM resources in schools	\$2,042,000	STEM - SCI	Digital Teaching & Learning Office of Learning Recovery	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(25)	PSU	Allotment	Pilot program for STEM with Plasma Games	\$2,500,000	STEM - SCI	Digital Teaching & Learning Office of Learning Recovery	196
Section 7.27(a)(26)	Authorized schools per bill language	Allotment	To establish a program entitled "Failure Free Reading" to support middle school students who read below grade level	\$2,500,000	Office of Learning Recovery Exceptional Children	Federal Programs School Business	197

ESSER III Appropriations

Business Owners & Funding (\$3-10M)

Bill Item #	Eligible Recipient	Appropriation Type	Description	Budget	Business Owner	Business Partners	PRC
Section 7.27(a)(20)	Communities in Schools of NC	Contract	Expand services and provide summer programs	\$3,900,000	Federal Programs	Financial Services	N/A
Section 7.70(2)	Specified schools	Allotment	Smart School Bus Safety Pilot Program - internet	\$4,178,000	Transportation	School Business	140
Section 7.27(a)(22)	PSU	Allotment	Gaggle.net contract	\$5,000,000	IT		193
Section 7.27(a)(18)	UNC Board of Governors	Agency Transfer/ MOU	UNC Board of Governors for National College Advising Corps, Inc.	\$7,042,000	Office of Learning Recovery	School Business Financial Services	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(13)	PSU	Allotment	Identify and locate missing students	\$7,265,134	Digital Teaching & Learning Center for Safer Schools	Office of Learning Recovery School Business Power Schools	191
Section 7.27(a)(12)	The Innovation Project	Contract	NC High-Tech Learning Accelerator	\$8,000,000	Office of Learning Recovery	Workforce CTE Financial Services	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(10)	Vendor TBD	Contract	Software platform to evaluate and improve student learning and performance	\$9,000,000	Office of Learning Recovery	Digital Teaching & Learning IT Financial Services	N/A

ESSER III Appropriations

Business Owners & Funding (\$10-20M)

Bill Item #	Eligible Recipient	Appropriation Type	Description	Budget	Business Owner	Business Partners	PRC
Section 7.27(a)(7)	NC ED Corps	Contract	Recruit, train, and deploy tutors and mentors to PSUs	\$13,500,000	Office of Learning Recovery	Financial Services	N/A
Section 7.70(1)	Specified schools	Allotment	Smart School Bus Safety Pilot Program - technology	\$13,970,000	Transportation	School Business	140
Section 7.27(a)(21)	PSU	Allotment	To mitigate cyberbullying, monitor student internet activity and classroom educational devices, assist with suicide prevention services	\$16,000,000	Digital Teaching & Learning	Healthy Schools Center for Safer Schools	192
Section 7.27(a)(24)	Qualifying schools per bill language	DPI Budget, Allotment	\$16M to design and implement a leadership institute for principals and grants to PSUs for implementation; \$2M for 20 DPI FTE	\$18,000,000	District & Regional Support	Federal Programs School Business Financial Services	195

ESSER III Appropriations

Business Owners & Funding (Over \$20M)

Bill Item #	Eligible Recipient	Appropriation Type	Description	Budget	Business Owner	Business Partners	PRC
Section 7.27(a)(3)	PSU	Allotment	Summer enrichment programs	\$36,000,000	Office of Learning Recovery	School Business Federal Programs	188
Section 7.27(a)(4)	PSU	Allotment	Instructional year programs, including after-school and before-school	\$36,000,000	Office of Learning Recovery	School Business Federal Programs	189
Section 7.27(a)(5)	Voyager Sopris Learning	Contract	Teacher and principal professional development for implementing the Science of Reading	\$37,500,000	Office of Early Learning	Financial Services	N/A
Section 7.27(a)(34)	PSU	Allotment	\$1000 bonus for qualifying state-funded teachers	\$100,000,000	School Business		203

Programming Updates

PRC 176: Summer Bridge Academies

186 PSUs with approved applications

- 115 LEAs
- 71 Charters Schools

PRC 177: Summer Career Accelerators

168 PSUs with approved applications

- 115 LEAs
- 53 Charters Schools

PRC 177: Summer Career Accelerators

Are there existing workforce models you would like to incorporate into your summer program (ex: NC Career Launch)?

Responses: 32 maybe, 53 no, 30 yes

If not, would you be interested in learning about existing models that could be implemented in your PSU?

Responses: 32 yes, 18 no, 3 no response

Research & Evaluation Updates

OLR Research and Evaluation Next Steps

1. Gather input and build consensus on OLR Research and Evaluation priorities
2. Coordinate state-level research and evaluation studies
3. Support local research and evaluation efforts
4. Hire OLR-focused research analysts, fellows, and interns
5. Allocate proportion of ESSER III for continuous improvement

Pandemic Recovery Studies

- COVID-19 Lost Instructional Time Impact Analysis - EVAAS Team at SAS (HB196)
- Virtual Academy Study (SB654)
- Elevating the Student, Teacher, Administrative, Parent Voice through Qualitative Research (ESSER II)
- Studying the long run effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student, educator, and school outcomes (Spencer Foundation Award)
- Assessing the Long-Term Impacts of School Extension Programs on Student Re-engagement and Learning Recovery (IES Proposal)

OLR Qualitative Research (ESSER II)

- Focus: OLR Interventions in 2020-21SY or 2021-22SY
- Purpose: Elevating student, teacher, administrative, parent voice
- Participants: 4 regional studies with UNC IHE Partners
- Methods: case studies, photovoice, interviews, focus groups, document analysis
- Deliverables: research briefs; NCDPI Promising Practices Clearinghouse; stakeholder presentations; journal articles

Discussion, Questions, Comments