



January 2022

January SBE Update

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OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Superintendent Catherine Truitt State Board of Education Report

January 6, 2021

A Year in Review

Featuring some 'untold' stories of the work underway at the Department during 2021



First Few Months: *Rebuild, Reorganize, Re-Energize.*

- Rebuilding and Reorganize
 - Allows DPI to better support districts directly
- Two specific examples of restructuring:
 - **Finance**- maximizing DPI FBS personnel and expertise by enhancing collaboration between the DPI Agency Financial Services and School Business divisions
 - **IT** – advocating for IT funding for resources, positions and connectivity and providing PSU CTO and Director of Technology leadership development.



First Few Months: *Rebuild, Reorganize, Re-Energize.*

- Re-energizing the staff to ensure our agency is a place staff wants to be.
- Re-energizing company culture:
 - Creating Quarterly “All Hands” meetings with DPI staff
 - Creating monthly Directors’ meetings to allow for discussion and collaboration
 - Creating monthly social events to encourage community and partnership



Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration

- Created new office, developed mission and vision, served as a core member of the new NCDPI leadership team, hired new staff
- Supported development and rollout of:
 - PRC 176 (ESSER II, \$40M): Summer Bridge Academies;
 - PRC 177 (ESSER II, \$26M): Career Launch Summer Workforce Program; Qualitative Research Call (\$500K)
- Compliance focused but with performance emphasis



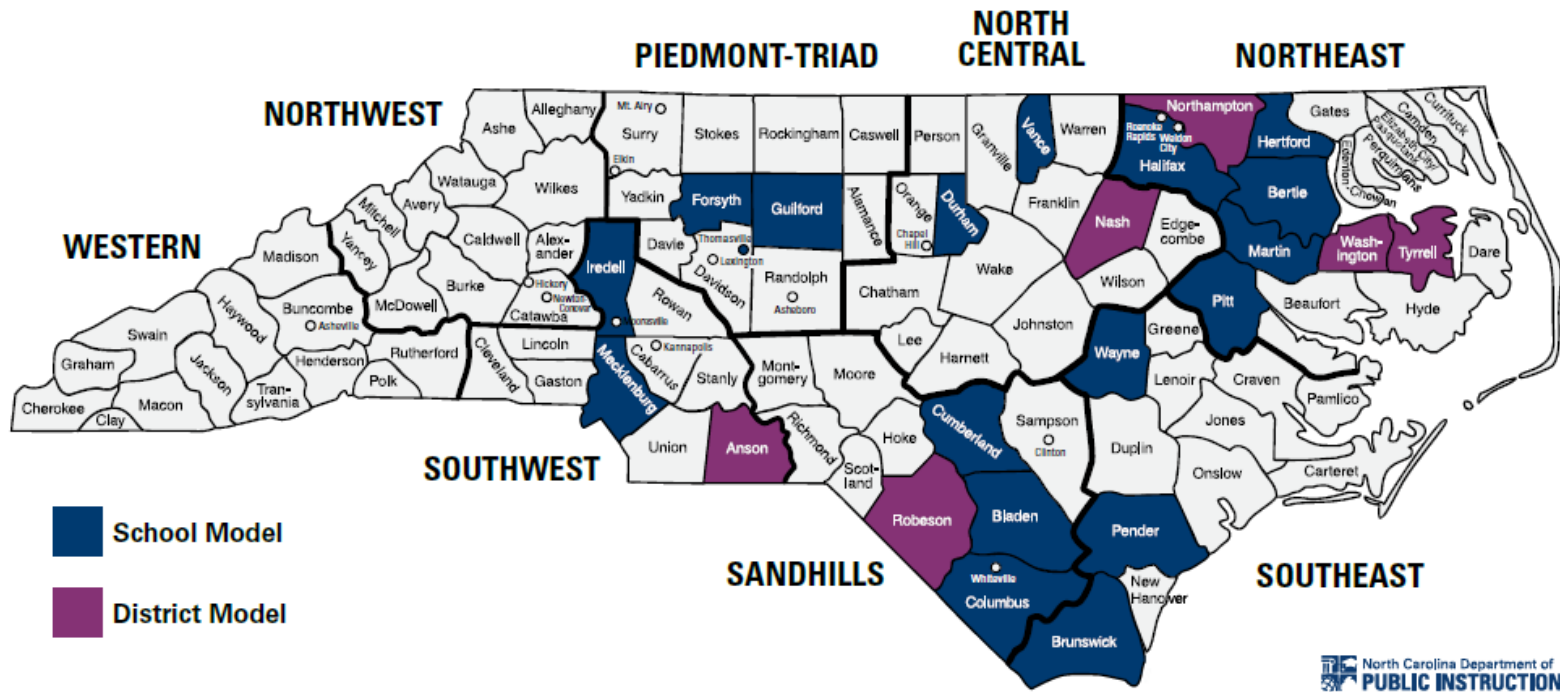
Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration

- Managed COVID-19 "Lost Instructional Time" impact analysis in partnership with the EVAAS team at SAS
- Submitted IES Proposal with trusted university research partner
- Identified Learning Recovery Cohorts and began to plan in partnership with SERVE Center/Region 6 Comp Center to support the cohorts

District and Regional Support

CARES Coaching Support

33,600+ Students | 2,700+ Educators | 78 Schools | 24 Districts



North Carolina Department of PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



District and Regional Support

- The model provides support for PSUs at each level of governance and works with districts to build capacity while coaching is occurring on-site.
- The \$18 million funding received by the GA for 20 FTEs will provide the opportunity to expand the existing model to add:
 - classroom level support,
 - fulltime district level support in one CARES districts,
 - district level support for the school model,
 - and expand the North Carolina Instructional Leadership Academy (NCILA) project.



Student Support Services

- Collectively, DPI and DHHS issued over \$1.7 billion in food assistance to eligible students/families.
- P-EBT was not the first collaborative between these state agencies, but it was unprecedented in its scope and impact.
- NC's State Plans were the first to be approved by the USDA, so NC could issue benefits as quickly as possible to students/families.



Student Support Services

- Nearly 60% of students (826,000) enrolled in NC's public schools qualify for free or reduced-price meals.
- 74 Federal Waivers requested/received from the USDA allowing DPI to successfully pivot to provide meals to students using a variety of innovative delivery status
- The next round of P-EBT issuance will begin in January 2022.

Literacy

- All districts are assigned to three cohorts
- While legislation names all PK-5 teachers and administrators be included in LETRS Training, NC has *exceeded* this expectation by including:
 - one coach per elementary school,
 - all Exceptional Children Resource elementary teachers,
 - and elementary English Language Learning teachers

Literacy

Impressive Numbers:

- Over 10,000 educators are currently in LETRS professional development.
- 60% of Cohort 1 administrators will finish LETRS training in January.
- 60% of Cohort 1 K-5 participants will have completed Units 1 & 2 in January as well.
- This cohort has certainly set the bar for those following.

Testing and Accountability: Portrait of a Graduate

- **Goal:** better define the skills students need for success after high school while creating a foundation for a competency-based accountability system
- A vendor will facilitate community stakeholder discussions throughout all eight state education regions.
 - The regionally held focus groups will help capture regional differences for the development of a statewide model.
- The focus group discussions will be scheduled over the next several months and will involve a variety of stakeholders:
 - Business owners, superintendents, church and community representatives, higher-education leaders, school administrators, parents, educators, and students



Residential Schools

- Increased proactive, routine collaboration among a number of areas: legal, HR, finance
- Continued to strategically advocate for needs across DPI and in partnership with the Leg Affairs Team
- Exploring ways with partners (NCCU, UNC-G, EC Division, Educator Recruitment) to support educators who need or desire licensure in deaf/hard of hearing and/or visual impairments across the state.
- Analyzing current policy manual to determine proposed revisions.
- Establishing support for school directors with a goal of creating similar supports/structures for other staff across all three schools



Partnerships Supporting Operation Polaris

Human Capital Priority

Literacy Priority



The Path Forward

- **Operation Polaris Connection: Literacy and Human Capital Pipeline**
 - Team-lead
- Partnership among:
 - The Belk Foundation; The Barksdale Reading Institute; The Hunt Institute
- Aligning teacher preparation and licensure in early literacy
- Including educator training on science of reading at all levels, including educator preparation programs (EPPS)
- Emphasis on interconnected system from policy to practice:
 - Teachers → Principals → District Superintendents → DPI → State Legislature



#NowWhat

The work ahead



Building off AIM

- 2020-2021 brought about unprecedented changes - new leadership, new legislation, and new challenges for our educators and students.
- Mapping our agency's work and our District's promising practices with the priorities and goals laid out the State Board's Strategic Plan and Operation Polaris

District and Regional Support

- Expanding the NC Instructional Leadership Academy (NCILA) project.
- DRS is piloting the Leadership Academy in a district receiving intensive support.
 - The current work involves school principals.
- The program will be expanded to provide leadership development for assistant principals in the pilot district.
- A plan will be developed to provide leadership development opportunities for all principals and assistant principals in the intensive support schools and districts.



Teacher Leadership Council

- **Created** in 2021
- **Focus:** closing the feedback loop with educators and providing a direct line of the teacher voice to the Superintendent's office
- Developing leadership skills and opportunities
- Gathering feedback from networks of other teachers.

Workforce Focus

- **Operation Polaris Connection: Testing and Accountability**
 - Preparing students for the post-secondary plans of their choice
 - Portrait of a Graduate will anchor a new multi-measured accountability system
 - Partnerships with State Chamber of Commerce, NCBCE, and myFutureNC
 - Credential and degree attainment will come into clear focus
 - Reducing friction and increasing understanding of pathways between secondary and post-secondary



Computer Science

- **Operation Polaris Connection: Testing and Accountability**
- **Why is this a focus?**
 - By 2040, nearly 70 percent of jobs will require some knowledge of computer science.
- **What's coming?**
 - New division at DPI: aimed at providing instructional support to educators across the state
 - \$750,000 in this year's budget to fund five new positions in the CS Division.
 - \$2.5 million allocated to professional development for teachers.



Computer Science In Action: A.B. Combs Elementary School

- “Hour of Code” - first week of December
- A centerpiece of Computer Science Education Week aimed at sparking students’ interest in the high-demand field of computer technology.



Office of Learning Recovery and Acceleration

- Gather input and build consensus on OLR Research and Evaluation priorities from Superintendents/District Leaders, Local School Boards, School Leaders, Teachers; NCGA Education Chairs ARP Committee of Practitioners
- Leverage and share rigorous research and evaluation studies conducted in NC public schools:
 - compile existing data or collect new data,
 - analyze data,
 - share findings with state and local leaders



Literacy

- Cohort 3 will begin planning schedules at the end of February.
- This is equivalent to what we have done with Cohorts 1 and 2 staggered across two semesters.
 - This will not impact the 2-year PD timeline for districts.
- We continue to work closely with the UNC System to align our SoR efforts.
 - They currently have 5 University Lab Schools, 6 Universities with pre-service teachers and 15 Universities with faculty participating in LETRS training.
- We are also working on an aligned teacher licensure process for future implementation.



Questions?

