

Table 2: Overview of NC RtT Initiatives

SECTION	INITIATIVES	GOALS
A. State Success Factors		
A	Technology infrastructure and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish K-12 education cloud infrastructure to provide cost-effective and robust networking infrastructure for LEAs Provide digital tools and resources to support all RtT initiatives Prepare all educators to make effective use of online resources and tools
A	Evaluation and policy analyses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide formative evaluations to inform continuous improvement of RtT initiatives Provide summative analyses to inform future program, policy, and funding decisions Conduct analyses of NC policies to inform the removal of policy barriers and the development of policies that support reforms
B. Standards and Assessment		
B3	Transition to new standards and assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Generate stakeholder support for transition Ensure that all teachers understand the new standards and assessments Ensure that stakeholders understand and use summative assessments effectively and appropriately
C. Data Systems to Support Instruction		
C2	State data use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that NC data are accessible to all relevant stakeholders Ensure that all relevant stakeholders are prepared to make effective and appropriate use of the data (linked to D5: Professional Development) Ensure that data are used to support decision-making and continuous improvement processes
C3	Next-generation curriculum monitoring, benchmark, and cognitive diagnostic assessment system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide online, rapid-response system for formative, interim (benchmark), and diagnostic assessments, all based on a research-based cognitive diagnostic assessment model Provide instructional improvement system using the assessment data Provide technology infrastructure to support effective use of the data/instructional improvement system Prepare teachers to make effective use of the data/instructional improvement system Improve student achievement outcomes, especially for low-performing students
D. Great Teachers and Leaders		
D2	Teacher and principal evaluation processes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fully implement the new NC teacher and principal evaluation processes statewide, with currently available student achievement growth data used as a significant component in the balanced evaluation rubrics
D2	Teacher effectiveness evaluation planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop, with the engagement of all stakeholders, a state-level, equitable, reliable, and transparent system for integrating student achievement growth data into evaluations for all teachers and principals
D3	Regional Leadership Academies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of principals qualified to lead transformational change in low-performing schools in both rural and urban areas
D3	University and School District partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve teacher preparation, induction, and retention to meet the specific needs of the participating districts Increase the number of highly qualified teachers in low-income rural areas and low-performing rural schools, with a special focus on mathematics and science teachers

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D3	Teach for America expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase the number of TFA teachers in low-performing schools, specifically targeting math, science, special education, and English as a second language teachers Focus recruitment in NC colleges and universities, and expand recruitment to include mid-career professionals and Troops-to-Teachers candidates
D3	Strategic staffing initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support LEA development, implementation, and evaluation of programs to strengthen staffing in low-performing schools and high-need areas
D3	North Carolina Virtual Public School expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand the availability and use of virtual courses in mathematics and science in low-performing schools and other schools in which curriculum offerings may be limited and qualified teachers unavailable locally
D4	Research on effectiveness of teacher and principal preparation programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand evaluations of UNC teacher and principal preparation programs, linking programs to student achievement outcomes Develop lessons learned about effective programs Use data and lessons learned to inform program improvements to decisions about program expansion and closure Expand effort to include Independent Colleges and Universities teacher education programs
D5	Professional Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update current approach to include professional development that is job-embedded, ongoing, and based within professional learning communities Establish sustainable professional development capacity at the district, regional, and state levels Expand the use of virtual learning for educators to provide accessible and high-quality professional development for all educators throughout NC Align professional development with major state initiatives, including the standards and assessments, data use, assessment-instructional improvement system, and technology initiatives within <i>RtT</i> Conduct evaluations of professional development programs to determine the impact on teaching practices and student achievement, to inform program improvement and future decisions about professional development policies, programs, and investments
E. Turning Around the Lowest-Achieving Schools		
E2	District and School Transformation Support system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve performance of all low-performing schools, with a specific target of moving all schools above the 60% composite performance level
E2	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) thematic schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop four coordinated STEM anchor schools, each focused on a major area relevant to NC economic development Use the anchor schools as centers for professional development, curriculum development, technology use, and innovation to impact networks of STEM schools throughout NC Connect with work with the NC STEM Community Collaborative and the NC Joining our Businesses and Schools Commission to expand and sustain the networks