

MEETING THE MOMENT

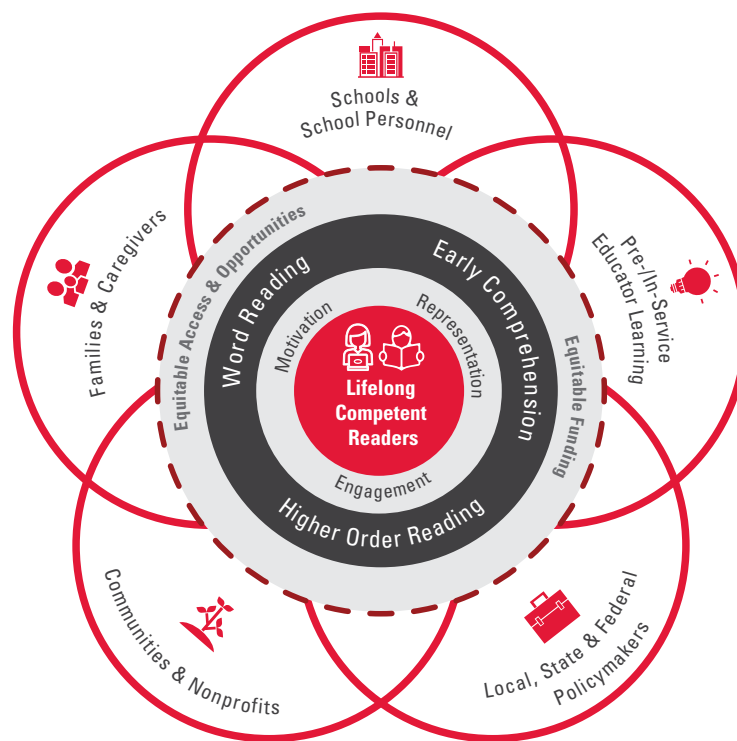
Strategic Recommendations for Literacy & Equity in North Carolina

Policy Brief Highlights

In the last decade, North Carolina has made significant efforts to support student literacy growth. Despite these efforts, student reading scores continue to demand our collective attention and innovation. According to the 2019 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP), 64% of fourth graders and 67% of eighth graders in North Carolina scored below proficiency level in reading. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated longstanding inequities and made the already complex work of teaching reading even more challenging.

Preparing competent, lifelong readers in North Carolina necessitates a vibrant Literacy Learning Ecosystem, composed of schools & school personnel; pre-/in-service educator learning; local, state & federal policymakers; communities & nonprofits; and families & caregivers.

Literacy Learning Ecosystem



Meeting the Moment: Strategic Recommendations for Literacy & Equity in North Carolina centers educator voices, including PreK-12 classroom teachers, media specialists, speech language pathologists, interventionists and instructional coaches, toward providing insights into the Literacy Learning Ecosystem in our state.

Through participants' questionnaire responses and focus group conversations, we learned that educators across North Carolina are concerned with student reading performance now more than ever. Despite longstanding and more immediate literacy learning challenges, North Carolina educational stakeholders are uniquely positioned to act in order to nurture lifelong, competent readers. Based on our analysis, we put forward six strategic recommendations to strengthen North Carolina's Literacy Learning Ecosystem.

Six Strategic Recommendations to Strengthen North Carolina's Literacy Learning Ecosystem



1 Establish system-level supports to sustain instructional improvements in reading



2 Optimize the state's investment in PreK-5 literacy learning to meet 6-12 student reading needs



3 Deepen investments in PreK literacy



4 Coordinate reading diagnostic and intervention resources for 6-12 students and teachers in Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)



5 Nurture the Literacy Learning Ecosystem via innovative collaborations and communication



6 Champion families and caregivers within the Literacy Learning Ecosystem

Visit <http://friday.institute/10474> to read the full brief.

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