

The Challenge: Preparing All Students for Success

Too many students are bored and disconnected from the realities of the modern workplace. Even worse, far too few students finish high school with skills crucial for success as adults. North Carolina must change what it expects from students and from schools – so that all students graduate fully prepared for college, career and life.

North Carolina can't afford dropouts

Three of every 10 ninth graders in North Carolina do not graduate in five years. That is the equivalent of 131 students quitting every school day. The Alliance for Excellent Education reports that, for just one year of dropouts from the class of 2009, North Carolina will fail to benefit from \$12 billion in lost lifetime earnings from students who failed to graduate.

Students must be ready to succeed

Being prepared for a good job in today's global, knowledge-based economy also means being prepared for college. Jobs that require some education beyond high school now account for a majority of the workforce, and this trend is accelerating.

Global competition demands innovation

North Carolina's traditional manufacturing and agriculture jobs are disappearing, and the state's future success demands a workforce able to compete in new knowledge-based industries.

Growing Schools That

Graduate All

Students Prepared for
College, Career and Life



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NORTH CAROLINA NEW SCHOOLS PROJECT

newschoolsproject.org

A public-private catalyst for
education innovation

NCNSP envisions a future when every

North Carolina student graduates

ready for college, career and life

in the 21st century.

A Trusted Partner in Education Innovation

The North Carolina New Schools Project (NCNSP) is a statewide public-private partnership that sparks and supports innovation in secondary schools. NCNSP promotes a vision that every high school in North Carolina will graduate every student ready for college, career and life in the 21st century.

NCNSP advances change by:

- Demonstrating how new approaches to education can succeed with all students in every corner of North Carolina regardless of local constraints.
- Providing effective professional support to educators and administrators leading the creation of innovative schools.
- Working with individuals and organizations to build an irresistible demand for innovation in a growing number of North Carolina schools.

NCNSP was launched in 2003 by the Office of the Governor and the North Carolina Education Cabinet with initial support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Since then, NCNSP has worked with school districts and educators to develop more than 100 innovative high schools in every region of the state. In supporting the planning and implementation of new schools, NCNSP partners with colleges and universities, state and local government, and supporters in business and philanthropy. With a staff of master teachers and accomplished school administrators, NCNSP provides a full range of services and supports to enhance the knowledge and skills of educators in new schools.



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Leveraging Change, Building Capacity

NCNSP assists schools and communities in transforming education for the 21st century economy.

Working with more than 70 districts and over 100 high schools across North Carolina, NCNSP is helping students acquire the skills to think critically and communicate effectively. NCNSP partners with teachers and administrators to build the essential knowledge and expertise required for educators to challenge and support students, so they finish high school ready for college, career and life.

Transforming a school in ways that actually change teaching and learning is hard work. Because it takes time and focus, NCNSP forges multi-year partnerships to support schools – one year of planning followed by several years of ongoing guidance and coaching.

The NCNSP Design Principles guide the work of partner schools and provide a foundation for effective change. NCNSP supports educators in innovative high schools to:

- believe in a common set of high standards and expectations that ensure every student graduates ready for college
- uphold common standards for high quality, rigorous instruction that promote powerful teaching and learning
- demonstrate personalization – educators must know students well to help them achieve academically
- redefine professionalism, creating a shared vision so that all school staff take responsibility for the success of every student
- work from a purposeful design where the use of time, space and resources ensures that best practices become common practice
- empower shared leadership in a culture of high expectations and collaboration to ensure the success of every student



A Comprehensive Approach to Innovation

NCNSP's Design Principles are put into practice by transforming existing schools and establishing new schools.

Transforming Existing Schools:

Creating focused and academically rigorous schools that serve all students demands a fundamental rethinking of the 20th century school model. Approaches include academies, small learning communities and other designs that result in schools with a student-centered approach to education.

Establishing New Schools:

More communities are establishing new schools in non-traditional settings such as college campuses or local hospitals. These schools emphasize acquisition of college credit prior to graduation and strategies to incorporate essential skills development.

NCNSP's comprehensive approach to professional development, known as the Integrated System of School Support Services (IS4), has four key elements.

Coaching

On-site, intensive coaching in school-change and instruction provides direct support for the purposeful design of a new school while enhancing classroom practice among teachers.

Professional Development for Leaders

NCNSP's Leadership Institute for High School Redesign offers intensive and sustained professional development for principals of innovative high schools. Offerings include an "anchor experience" at one of the nation's leading innovative secondary schools and leadership coach support.

Professional Development for Teachers

NCNSP engages teachers in purposeful, research-based professional development aligned with leadership support for principals. Approaches include sharing best practices as well as facilitated visits and discussions among schools.

Ongoing Support from Accomplished Educators

Each school works with an assigned staff member who becomes both the expert and champion for the school, committed to working with the school to ensure progress and success.



Results: More Students Engaged and On Track

Early results from North Carolina's innovative high schools indicate that not only are more students staying in school – more are graduating ready for college, career and life.

More students stay in school

The annual dropout rate for North Carolina's innovative high schools in 2009-10 was 2.3 percent – nearly 40 percent less than the statewide rate of 3.75 percent. For early college high schools, the rate was less than 1 percent. More than two of every five innovative high schools reported no dropouts.

More 9th graders stay in school and advance

Two thirds of all innovative high schools had no 9th grade dropouts in 2009-10, and two of every five promoted every 9th grader to 10th grade. Research shows that 9th grade is when most students drop out, so keeping kids in school through their freshman year is critical to their eventual graduation.

More students succeed at college-level work

Three quarters of community college courses taken by early college students in 2009-10 received a passing grade of C or better. For courses taken by their college-age peers, 70 percent earned a C or better.

More groups of students making progress

More than six in 10 innovative high schools in 2009-10 reached their academic growth targets set by the state, and three in 10 topped expectations. Three-quarters of innovative high schools achieved "Adequate Yearly Progress," or AYP, under the federal No Child Left Behind law.

More students graduate with significant college credit

More than half the members of the Class of 2010 from early colleges on community college campuses earned associate's degrees in addition to their high school diplomas.

More teachers believe in their schools

Nearly 50 percent of teachers in innovative high schools say their schools are "a good place to work and learn," compared to just 34 percent of high school teachers statewide, based on North Carolina's 2010 Teacher Working Conditions survey.

Advancing Innovation Requires Partnership

NCNSP proudly partners with the following organizations and individuals to promote school innovation across North Carolina:

Education and Government Partners

NC Community College System
 NC Department of Public Instruction
 NC Education Cabinet
 NC General Assembly
 NC Independent Colleges and Universities
 NC State Board of Education
 Office of the Governor
 Office of the Lt. Governor
 The University of North Carolina

Corporate and Foundation Partners

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Cisco	Progress Energy
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