

# BEST NC's Advocacy Priorities

To advance the conditions that each North Carolina student needs to be successful, BEST NC is committed to advocating for policy changes and state investments within each of our priority areas. Here, we provide an overview of the policies we will champion over the next three to five years.

## 1. Elevate Educators

- **Provide professional compensation for teachers and principals** through continued base pay increases, modernized pay schedules and additional compensation opportunities for expanded roles and additional contributions
- **Recruit and prepare top-notch talent** through an updated Teacher Scholarship Program for hard-to-staff schools and subjects, and an expanded Principal Preparation Program to provide more rigorous and relevant initial training for school leaders in each region of the state
- **Empower teachers and local leaders** to meet the unique needs of their students and staff by providing greater flexibility over organizational structures that offer teachers embedded professional development, career opportunities and higher pay

## 2. Set High Standards and Promote Meaningful Accountability

- **Support career- and college-ready standards** by encouraging greater transparency in the standards review process, while preserving elements of the Standard Course of Study that ensure NC students are competitive with their national and international peers
- **Transition to next-generation assessments** by supporting the state's momentum toward better tests and testing practices that are aligned to state standards, inform instruction, and provide meaningful information to families and taxpayers
- **Pursue accountability at every level of the education system**, by revising the A-F school grading formula, supporting competitive grants that invest more state funds in evidence-based programs, and holding state agencies and officials to their promises and responsibilities
- **Increase connections between public schools, higher education and the workforce** by supporting expansion of innovative high school programs, further aligning high school preparation with post-secondary demands, and increasing incentives for job-training programs

## 3. Uplift Underperforming Schools and Students

- **Foster North Carolina students' early literacy** through evidence-based programs for parental engagement, expanded access to high-quality pre-kindergarten, and consistent literacy training for current and future educators
- **Support systemic interventions in the state's lowest-performing schools** through targeted recruitment and retention initiatives for top teachers and principals, school turnaround programs, and increased flexibility and accountability for districts and schools

## 4. Personalize Teaching and Learning

- **Invest in strategies to target greater student support**, such as smaller student-to-teacher ratios in the early grades, adequate nurses, counselors, and other supports in all grades.
- **Transition to more personalized learning for all students** by sustaining the state's commitment to the Digital Learning Plan, and fostering more and larger pilots of competency-based learning