

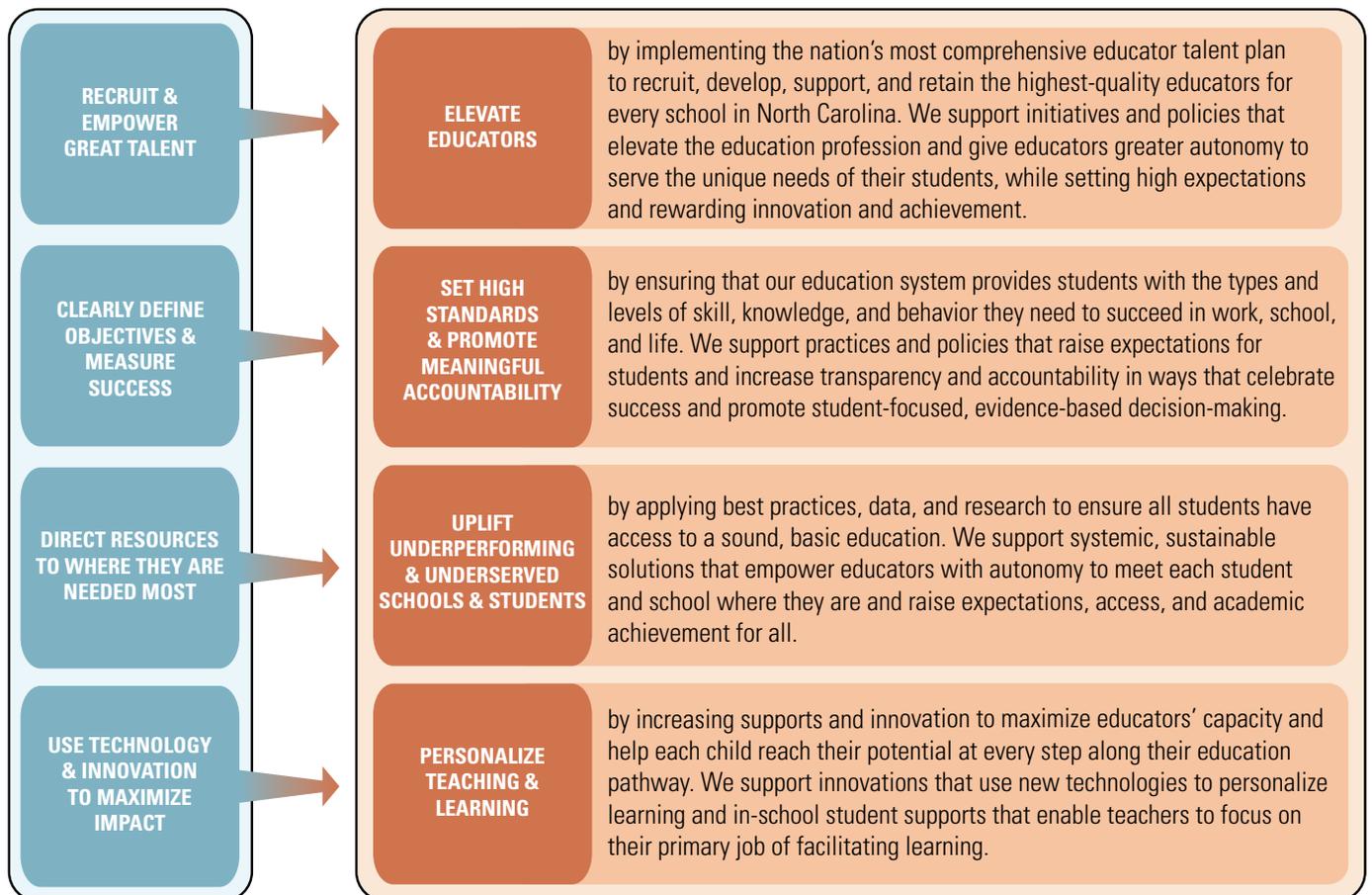
OUR THEORY OF CHANGE

Education outcome requirements have changed dramatically over the past 50 years, yet the underlying structure of our education system has remained much the same. North Carolina's current system of education does not meet the needs of the future, where our economy demands that every student have at least a high school degree, and more than two-thirds of all jobs require additional postsecondary credentials. Meeting these needs and achieving our statewide attainment goals will require a steady, enduring, and laser-focused commitment to education transformation.

Strategies of Successful Organizations:



BEST NC believes education can employ these four strategies to transform, evolve, and grow North Carolina's education system:



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OUR COMMITMENT TO NORTH CAROLINA STUDENTS

North Carolina's business leaders are dedicated to the belief that education is the key to opportunity for individuals and our state.



Every student comes to school with different talents, abilities, and interests. With the right educational supports from early childhood to postsecondary education, we believe that each student can gain the knowledge, skills, and behaviors to succeed in a competitive global economy.

BEST NC members recognize that factors outside of school, such as family and community, are the greatest determinants of a child's future life success. However, among the factors that can be influenced by public policy and programs, we believe that education has the biggest impact on future success, helping a child to overcome challenges such as poverty, and enabling each student to reach their individual potential.

As business leaders, we know that our businesses are successful because of the talent of our employees. Similarly, we know that highly effective teachers and principals have a bigger impact on student learning than anything else in a school. All North Carolinians have a role in supporting our students - families, educators, neighbors, business leaders, philanthropists, and other community members. We hold ourselves accountable for our unique role in a complex and dynamic education community.

Based on these beliefs, BEST NC is committed to protecting every North Carolina student's right to:

- ▶ **Have excellent teachers & school leadership.** North Carolina's Constitution guarantees every student the right to a sound, basic education. This constitutional guarantee requires the state to provide adequate learning resources to every student, including a school led by an effective principal, and classroom learning guided by a great teacher.
- ▶ **Graduate with relevant, globally competitive career & life skills.** We must guarantee North Carolina students that if they actively participate in their education, they will be prepared to achieve success in work and life in our globally competitive economy. Each student has the right to pursue their own passions and interests, but also to gain exposure to basic skills and knowledge throughout their academic career that will prepare them to be happy, productive citizens of the 21st century.
- ▶ **Come to school ready to learn every day.** This means readiness at all levels, including early educational experiences that prepare each child to be ready for kindergarten, access to rigorous educational opportunities including advanced coursework and higher education, and support systems for students and families throughout their schooling that enable them to come to the classroom ready to learn - every class, every day.

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