



NC SIP Grant Recipients



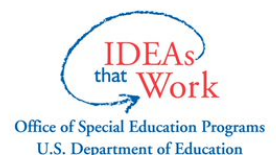
The Office of Exceptional Children, Program Improvement and Professional Development Section is pleased to announce 3 Institutes of Higher Education (IHEs) have been selected to join the network of 70 Public School Units and 7 IHEs in the NC State Improvement Project (NC SIP). Our new IHE partners are Mars Hill University, North Carolina Wesleyan University, and University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

The first IHE partner meeting was held on October 14th where all the IHEs were able to meet virtually and begin collaborating on NC SIP initiatives. Professors at each university are building capacity to deliver our foundational coursework in their undergraduate and graduate level programs. This partnership is reciprocal as we continue to improve the preparation of preservice teachers and preservice administrators across the state to effectively implement and support research-based reading, math, adolescent literacy and co-teaching for students with disabilities. During the meeting our IHEs heard from our partners at the Exceptional Children's Assistance Center (ECAC) about their important work with family engagement and how IHEs can utilize the Family Engagement Quality Indicators Checklist (FEQI) in their curriculum.

We look forward to strengthening these partnerships within the regions as these IHEs will be joining us at our next NC SIP Coordinator Meetings in January.



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Spring Network Conference

Where will you be on March 28th-30th, 2023? Hopefully you will be with us at the 2023 NC SIP Spring Network Conference: Learning More to Help Students Soar! You will have the opportunity to network, collaborate, and learn during amazing keynote speaker presentations and Bridge Building Sessions addressing timely, relevant topics in leadership, literacy, and math. Be on the “lookout” for the registration link and important details in the next edition of NC SIP Connect!

ECAC Receives New Grant!

North Carolina’s Family-to-Family (F2F) Health Information Center
A resource for families, schools, providers, and community.



The Exceptional Children’s Assistance Center (ECAC) was recently awarded the Family-to-Family Health Information Center Grant (F2F)! There is one F2F center in each state. In addition to helping families navigate the special education system, we now can also help families navigate health related systems in NC. Below are some commonly asked questions.

1. My child was recently diagnosed with a disability or health condition. Can you help us figure out where to start?
2. We just moved to NC. Can you help us figure out how to navigate the systems for kids with special needs?
3. Does my child qualify for Medicaid?
4. How do I apply for an Innovations Waiver?
5. My family doesn’t seem to qualify for anything. Are there still resources for us?

Schools sometimes hear these concerns from families and this is an available resource to you. The F2F Health Information Center Program Lead at ECAC is Christy Moore. If you would like more information about this program, email Christy at cmoore@ecacmail.org or call 1-800-962-6817. Please feel free to share this information with families and colleagues.

Foundations of Math Connections

While the state has a keen focus on literacy, as evidenced by the Science of Reading and LETRS training, don’t forget the need for a strong, research-based mathematics curriculum and quality instruction. Similar to the Reading Research to Classroom Practice (RRtCP) course offered by NCDPI for literacy, Foundations of Math (FoM) provides powerful insights into mathematical thinking. Participants in the course learn to support their students in developing strong number sense skills and an awareness of the connections between different mathematical concepts. Teachers also explore the value in using a C-R-A model of instruction for increasing student comprehension.

WHAT’S NEXT?

A recent development in the Foundations of Math course is a move to a new Pre- and Post-Survey. Previously, the course has relied on a more open-ended, subjective assessment called the TELT which was scored with a rubric. With the increasing demand for Blended Courses (part online in Canvas/part in-person), and the growing number of participants taking the course to meet licensure requirements, a new FoM assessment has been developed. The new Post-Survey can be taken

online and scored digitally for online participants and with paper/pencil for Traditional in-person courses. Having all participants take the same assessment that is scored with a predetermined set of answers makes it a more equitable experience for everyone involved.

*Remember: Look for upcoming professional development sessions on the [NC SIP events calendar](#).

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Reading Research to Classroom Practice Connections

Many people have been asking if RRtCP will go away since LETRS is being rolled out across the state for elementary teachers. The IDA accredited RRtCP has been implemented for over 20 years in North Carolina and districts have built capacity to continue to deliver the course for all educators. Since elementary teachers are focusing on their completion of the LETRS professional development many districts are using this opportunity to implement RRtCP with middle school and high school teachers focusing on adolescent literacy, beginning teachers who want that extra support before taking licensure exams, teacher assistants, EC teachers teaching extended content standards as a prerequisite to the Literacy Framework course, student interns, and administrators. With the flexibility of districts offering the blended or traditional format of the course, teachers can choose the format which best meets their learning style. Both cover the same content with 40 credit hours available. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in this long-established course, visit the [Events Calendar](#) on our website to find a course near you!

WHAT'S NEXT?

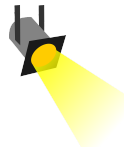
Literacy Consultants are continuously reviewing the most current literature on the research of reading instruction. This year they are gathering this research as a beginning step in the next revision of the course. A survey will be coming in January to certified instructors asking for input that will be considered during this revision process.



Adolescent Literacy Connections

What Do We Mean By Adolescent Literacy?

Specifically focusing on instruction for grades 4-12, adolescent literacy encompasses the skills that must be taught to all students so they can meet increasingly challenging reading and writing demands as they move through the upper grades (i.e., comprehension, vocabulary, writing skills), as well as what needs to be done for those students who fall behind who may need intervention in foundational literacy skills (i.e., phonics, syllable structures and spelling). This includes explicit, direct, systematic instructional practices in teaching word recognition, fluency, vocabulary, comprehension, engagement, writing and content area literacy.

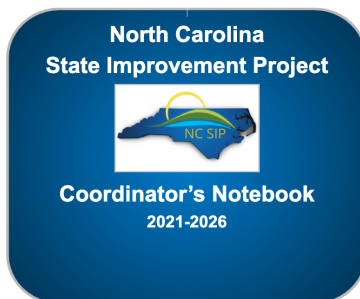


Adolescent Literacy Resource Spotlight

The new, *IES Practice Guide: Providing Reading Interventions for Students in Grades 4-9 (March 2022)* provides practical recommendations educators can use when providing reading interventions! The guide provides detailed guidance, tools and resources to implement four evidence-based practices designed to be used by special educators, general education teachers, reading specialists and coaches, administrators, and parents.

You can find this helpful resource, along with many other resources to support the Adolescent Literacy priority area, on our website by clicking on the [Adolescent Literacy Evidence-Based Practice](#) button.

Have You Visited the NC SIP Coordinator's Notebook?



Where can you find everything that you need to know about managing the NC State Improvement Project, NC SIP? It is all located in the NC SIP Coordinator's Notebook! To access the notebook, you will begin at the [NC SIP website](#). Next, hover over the "Partners" button and it will reveal the "Information for Coordinators" link. After selecting the link, you will be taken to a Google folder that contains the notebook.

Once in the notebook, topics of interest are easily accessed with the help of the table of contents or the small icon on the left that resembles a bulleted list. Select the icon and an outline of the contents will appear. When you select the item of interest, you will be taken to that section.

If you are new to NC SIP, you will really appreciate the Schedule of Data Collection/ Documentation/ Events section. It will provide a month-by-month view of the tasks to be completed with many supporting documents and videos on how to complete them. Other topics include terminology, coordinator meetings (past recordings with supporting documents and dates for future meetings), NC SIP professional development offerings and much more!


If you have any questions or recommendations, contact your regional consultant.

Data Collection: Fidelity Observations

When NC SIP Coordinators gather for the virtual NC SIP Coordinator's Meeting in January, they will begin exploring their NC SIP data that has been collected over the years. The first data to be analyzed will be the [Observation-Reflection Tool for Literacy and Mathematics](#). To learn more about the tool and how to use it to collect data, visit the NC SIP Coordinator's Notebook and select the "Ongoing" or "Fidelity Observations" tab.

To access previously uploaded Observation Tools, NC SIP Coordinators can locate these in the Knack Database. When viewing the PSU’s data, scroll towards the bottom of the page for all uploaded literacy and math tools. These may be sorted in Knack by selecting the header columns. To aid in analyzing the data, export the files into a Comma (.csv) format and save as an Excel spreadsheet. The export button is located on the left beneath the title of the section.

At the next coordinator meeting, it will be helpful to have access to the Knack Database and any exported data that you may have. Coordinators, watch for additional information prior to our January 19, 2023 meeting.

 Please complete a [quick survey](#) by December 23rd, 2022 about evidence-based practices and measuring student engagement to prepare for the next NC SIP Coordinator’s meeting!

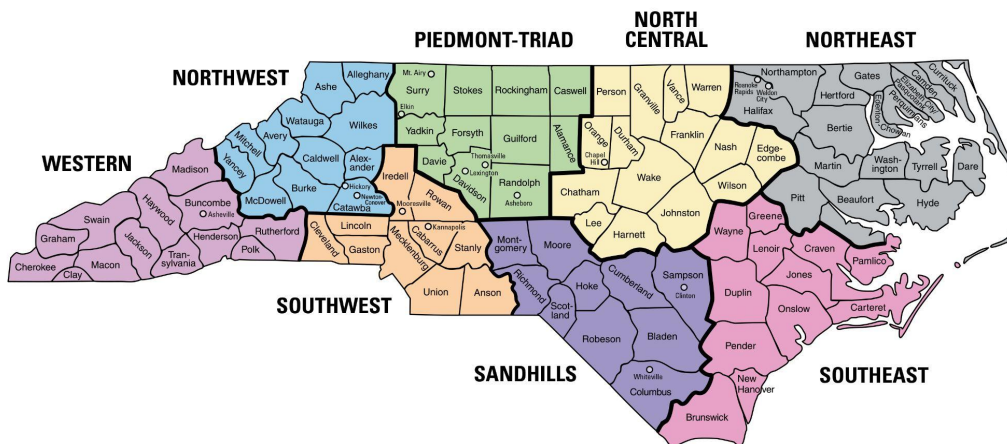
Welcome New Regional Coaches!

Program Improvement and Professional Development is pleased to announce the addition of four new regional coaches to support licensure candidates and instructors across the state! The new math coaches are Michelle Cherry from Forsyth County, Rachel Cain from Stokes County, and Meredith Mizelle from Beaufort County. Anna Quarles from Guilford County has joined the literacy coaches.

Our regional coaches assist with coaching and recertifying our Foundations of Math and Reading Research to Classroom Practice instructors. After consulting with the instructors, the two will identify areas where the instructor would like to grow in their course delivery or content knowledge. Similarly, they support teachers new to NC with deepening the knowledge of evidenced-based practices for teaching literacy and math skills by providing feedback on their homework assignments.

Unsure who your regional consultants or coaches are? View the map below to determine the name of the region, then visit the [NC SIP website for your consultants](#) and the chart below for Regional Coaches.

[Enlarged Map](#)



NC SIP Regional Coaches

Region	Literacy Coaches	Math Coaches
1-Northeast		Doris Fletcher Meredith Mizelle
2-Southeast		
3-North Central		
4-Sandhills	LeaAnna Fernandez Melissa Tatum	
5-Piedmont-Triad	Anna Quarles Megan Rives Robyn Varga	Rachel Cain Michelle Cherry
6-Southwest	Yonna Acuff Crystal Douglas Rachel Varriale	Olia Storz Rayelynn Weaver
7-Northwest		Anita Cole Melissa Miller Stephanie Nelson
8-Western	Carla Melton	Elsa Iglesias



Updates and Reminders

Virtual NCSIP Coordinator’s Meeting: January 19, 2023, 9:00-12:00

Spring Network Conference: March 28-30, 2023 (28th- Leadership, 29th- Literacy, 30th- Mathematics)

CCIP: Expenditure Report - Mid-Year: March 31, 2023



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