



All together, these “pillars” support Career & College: Ready, Set Go!, North Carolina’s RttT initiative.

RttT funds will allow North Carolina to move faster and further in delivering on one key promise: that every student graduates from high school ready for a career, two- or four-year college, or technical training.

Approximately one-half of the grant is earmarked for distribution to local education agencies for their own initiatives that support the North Carolina RttT plan. Local RttT funds will be distributed in accordance with federal Title I eligibility to districts and to charter schools.

What does Career & College: Ready, Set, Go! mean

FOR STUDENTS?

- an updated curriculum based on competitive national and international standards
- better and more frequent feedback for students to make “midcourse corrections” as needed
- more effective teachers
- access to technology to support learning

FOR EDUCATORS?

- access to professional development that will help teachers and principals reach all students
- increased capacity to meet needs of students
- fair and research-based evaluation system for individual practitioners and schools

FOR COMMUNITIES?

- better prepared students entering community colleges, universities and the workplace
- better prepared students for science, mathematics and technology careers
- higher graduation rates and better prepared citizens

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Career & College: Ready, Set, Go! North Carolina’s Race to the Top Initiative

North Carolina is one of only 12 recipients of the 2010 federal Race to the Top (RttT) grants, bringing nearly \$400 million to the state’s public school system for use over the next four years. This grant is designed to spur public school innovation through Gov. Bev Perdue’s Career and College: Ready, Set, Go! initiative.

The RttT funds must be spent in direct support of North Carolina’s plan and its four main “pillars” of work:

- Great Teachers and Principals
- Quality Standards and Assessments
- Turnaround of Lowest-Achieving Schools
- Data System to Improve Instruction



The plan focuses work in four key areas with specific activities for each:

Increasing teacher and principal effectiveness so that every student has a great teacher and every school has a great principal.

- Performance incentives for lowest-achieving schools
- Research-supported university preparation programs
- Research- and data-based recruitment and licensure programs:
 - Teach for America expansion
 - NC Teacher Corps
 - Regional Leadership Academies
- Strategic staffing initiatives
- Expansion of virtual and blended teaching
- Statewide professional development system
- Successful innovations in identifying, developing, and supporting effective leaders
- Statewide teacher and principal evaluation systems



Updating North Carolina's statewide PK-12 Standard Course of Study and school accountability system to reflect internationally benchmarked standards and assessments that prepare students for success in college and the workplace.

- New curriculum standards and adoption of the Common Core for implementation by 2012-13
- New student assessments – including formative assessments – for all subjects with a strong focus on graduation
- An updated accountability model for schools that focuses on student graduation and preparation for career and college

Establishing and increasing the use of robust data systems that measure student success and inform teachers, principals and policymakers about how they can improve the delivery of educational services to students.

- Technology to enhance all reform areas
- Building upon technology-enabled education initiatives
- Statewide Longitudinal Data System and Student Information System
- NC Education Cloud
- Next generation technology infrastructure
- Service delivery platform for content, services and applications



Turnaround for the lowest-achieving schools so that all students are supported and receive the educational opportunities they need. (Turnaround activities will be targeted to the schools in the bottom 5 percent of performance; high schools with a graduation rate below 60 percent; and local districts with aggregate performance composites below 65 percent.)

- A focus on local capacity building
- Customized approaches to local setting and needs
- Early college high schools
- Redesigned schools
- Charter schools
- NC School of Science and Mathematics
- District-level magnet schools
- Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)-themed high schools

LEARN MORE AT www.ncpublicschools.org/rttt

