

NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading

Pathways Criteria

These are the criteria chosen by the Design Teams and voted on by the larger Pathways stakeholder group. The criteria are derived from the Pathways Principles that stakeholders established and that have guided the process since the beginning. Please use these to prioritize Pathways' strategies for action.

Pathways Design Teams will prioritize strategies that:

- **Address racial, ethnic, socioeconomic and ability inequities**
Pathways applies an equity lens to the work that begins with acknowledging that there are inequities in the systems that impact children's outcomes. Pathways focuses explicitly, but not exclusively, on racial inequity.
- **Are data- and research-driven and informed by developmental science**
The shared measures of success and prioritization decisions made so far in the Pathways process are all based in the research behind what drives third grade reading outcomes and what the NC data tell us. In addition to quantitative data, Pathways honors and lifts up qualitative data, such as the lived experience of children, their families, and community members.
- **Consider the whole child and family**
Pathways takes a cross-sector approach to the work, choosing strategies that draw on the skills and experiences of people from different child- and family-serving sectors and make an impact across sectors.
- **Are actionable and accountable**
There are action steps that can be taken to move the strategy forward, and there are ways to measure progress.
- **Address a critical gap in our system**
Strategies build on what is already working in NC and advance what isn't yet being addressed in an impactful way.

It is also important to stakeholders that there is room for flexibility and innovation at the local level. While the Pathways Design Team process is focused primarily on state level changes, many of the policies and practices included in the Pathways Action Framework (the agenda for change) will have local and state as well as private and public adaptations.