



# WE ENVISION A NORTH CAROLINA

where all children are reading on grade level by the end of third grade.

The first eight years of a child's life are a critical time that build the foundation for all future learning. In fact, by the time a child is in third grade, their reading outcomes can predict future academic achievement and career success.

## THE NC PATHWAYS TO GRADE-LEVEL READING INITIATIVE (PATHWAYS)

is a collaborative of diverse leaders working together to achieve a bold vision: All North Carolina children, regardless of race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status, are reading on grade-level by the end of third grade, and all children with disabilities achieve expressive and receptive communication skills commensurate with their developmental ages, so that they have the greatest opportunity for life success.

## WE WORK ACROSS DISCIPLINES, SECTORS, SYSTEMS, AND THE POLITICAL AISLE TO HAVE THE GREATEST IMPACT.

Driving Pathways is the foundational belief that together we can realize better outcomes for young children than any of us can produce on our own. Hundreds of stakeholders have contributed to Pathways and continue to support its work. *Learn about the Pathways process in [Bridging Sectors to Co-Create NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading](#).*

## WE LEAD WITH RACIAL EQUITY.

Due to systemic inequities and structural racism, many children don't have the opportunity to meet the critical milestone of grade-level reading by the end of third grade. Black, Hispanic, and Native American 4th graders are less likely to be reading proficiently than their white peers. Pathways is committed to leading with racial equity. That means prioritizing strategies that specifically work to improve outcomes for children of color and giving special consideration to the wisdom and innovation of people of color

## ACHIEVING GRADE-LEVEL READING IS POSSIBLE FOR ALL CHILDREN IF WE ENSURE THAT THEY HAVE:

Health and development on track from birth

Supportive and supported families and communities

High quality birth-through-age-eight learning environments with regular attendance

to develop responses that are lasting and reach all children. Pathways seeks to lift up family voices and strengths, and learn from the experiences of those most impacted by systemic barriers. When recommending actions for North Carolina, Pathways Partners drew on input from families and from local providers of child and family services in 14 NC communities, as well as from national research on what moves the needle for grade-level reading, specifically for children of color.



Pathways is an initiative of the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation, in collaboration with NC Child, the NC Partnership for Children, Inc., and BEST NC. [Learn more about the Pathways initiative at buildthefoundation.org](#)

# OUR IMPACT

is grounded in data and realized in policy.

The impact of Pathways is widespread, creating a ripple effect that will lead to better outcomes for all North Carolina children.

The Pathways Data and Policy Frameworks:

- Were recognized by the NC General Assembly
- Provided the foundation for the NCDHHS' Early Childhood Action Plan
- Lifted up data measures and policy strategies that were incorporated by the Leandro Commission, the Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council, the myFutureNC Commission, the Birth-Third Grade Interagency Council, and the Early Childhood Data Advisory Council
- Supported collaborative local community planning efforts
- Received the endorsement of more than 100 organizations across the state

As the work continues in North Carolina, Pathways leaders believe the initiative can serve as a model for other states who want to commit to changing outcomes for young children and their families.



## THE PATHWAYS PROCESS

- 2015** North Carolinians came together to think about possibility and launch the Pathways initiative.
- 2016** We collaborated to identify measures of success, prioritize, and create a data framework.
- 2017** We reconvened to plan and recommend aligned actions and strategies.
- 2019** We created a policy framework, received broad support and made plans to continue the work.

# TOOLS FOR ACTION

## Pathways Data Tools

### PATHWAYS MEASURES OF SUCCESS FRAMEWORK

Outlines shared birth-to-age-eight, whole-child data measures of success that put children on a pathway to grade-level reading. 95% of stakeholder respondents said they “felt confident that if the state made progress on these measures, we would improve third grade reading outcomes.”

[View the Measures of Success Framework](#)

### PATHWAYS DATA DASHBOARD

An online dashboard that includes NC data on more than 60 measures of child development that research shows influence third-grade reading scores. Whenever possible, data are disaggregated by geography, race and ethnicity, income, and more.

[View the Pathways Data Dashboard](#)

## Pathways Policy Tools

### PATHWAYS ACTION FRAMEWORK

Outlines expectations we all hold for NC's child and family systems and more than 40 prioritized actions to support children's social-emotional health, ensure high quality birth-through-age-eight early learning environments, and create the conditions for every child to be in school every day.

[View the Action Framework](#)

### PATHWAYS ACTION MAP

An online tool designed to drive action where it is most needed. It is a snapshot of the innovation happening across the state in the more than 40 action areas prioritized by Pathways Partners. Pathways works collaboratively with others to build the Map. We welcome your input!

[View the Pathways Action Map—coming soon!](#)



Pathways is an initiative of the North Carolina Early Childhood Foundation, in collaboration with NC Child, the NC Partnership for Children, Inc., and BEST NC. [Learn more about the Pathways initiative at buildthefoundation.org](#)