

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The North Carolina Ready Schools Initiative is a joint project of The North Carolina Partnership for Children, Inc. (NCPC) and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction – Office of Early Learning (OEL). Over the years, North Carolina Ready Schools has had many champions, contributors, and supporters too numerous to mention individually who have shared their ideas, inspiration, and dedication to the Ready Schools effort. This toolkit is a reflection of their collective efforts and expertise. A special thank you to Kimberly Sparling Meunier for her management of this project.

The members of the University of North Carolina Ready Schools Team deserve special thanks and recognition for contributing their leadership, expertise, and commitment to the Ready Schools effort and toolkit development: Principle Investigator: Dr. Susan Catapano; Project Coordinator: Chandra Roughton; Research Consultant: Dr. Leigh Gates; and Team Members: Dr. Amy Garrett-Dikkers, Dr. Scott Imig, Dr. Carol McNulty, Dr. Amy Moody, Dr. Brianne Reck, and Dr. Candace Thompson.

Special thanks also to the following communities that participated in the Ready Schools Community-District Pilot Project and contributed to the development of the toolkit: Carteret, Catawba, Chatham, Davidson, Down East, Forsyth, and Wayne. Finally, we thank our evaluation team, ETR Services, for their commitment insight and assistance with this project.

The development of the toolkit was made possible through generous funding from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation.

