



NORTH CAROLINA PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN **Strategic Roadmap | 2019 - 2029**

Smart Start is a network of 75 local partnerships across North Carolina that provide expertise, guidance and infrastructure to ensure each child in the state receives the care and nurturing they need to thrive. Each local partnership is tailored to meet the specific needs of their community as they invest in early education, literacy, health and family support.

The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) guides and facilitates the Smart Start network, supporting the work of local partnerships and connecting them to the statewide early childhood system. NCPC develops policy for Smart Start programs and services and ensures accountability. This Strategic Roadmap sets the course for NCPC for the next ten years.

MISSION

Advance a high quality, comprehensive, accountable system of care and education for each child beginning with a healthy birth.

VISION

Each child reaches his or her potential and is prepared for success in a global community.

NICHE

The NC Partnership for Children leads the network of local partnerships to drive coordinated implementation of North Carolina's vision for Early Childhood.

ABOUT THIS ROADMAP

In 2016, NC Partnership for Children (NCPC) approved a Strategic Roadmap with two 10-year goals each with a set of three-year objectives. In 2019, the NCPC Board appointed a task force of staff, board members, and a representative from the Local Partnership Advisory Committee to update the Roadmap. With guidance from Third Space Studio, the Task Force examined trends with the potential to shape the future of NCPC and its network, interviewed leaders from state agencies and partners for their perspective on NCPC's strengths and challenges, and assessed progress on the goals and objectives outlined in the Roadmap. This work led the task force to revise the goals and objectives to better reflect the call for NCPC to claim a stronger leadership role in the state. The revised Roadmap also builds on recent work to strengthen the brand of Smart Start as well as recent explorations into ways to strengthen the network of local partnerships.

GOALS

Local Partnerships are powerful and impactful for young children, families, and professionals in their community

NCPC is a trusted and valued catalyst for action and alignment to ensure better outcomes for young children and their families

OBJECTIVES

1

Realign NCPC culture to foster innovation

1

Deepen policymaker and early childhood leaders' understanding of NCPC's role leading the Smart Start network

2

Strengthen early childhood system building across the network

2

Drive state change and alignment based on local community needs

3

Enhance network wide executive leadership capacity

4

Increase the resources available to Local Partnerships

5

Increase public awareness of Smart Start's role in communities

GOALS are endpoints to be achieved. They have a long horizon. TARGETS are the measures associated with the goals.

OBJECTIVES are the changes that need to occur if NCPC is to reach the goals. They have a shorter time frame. EARLY STAGE PRIORITIES are the ways that NCPC intends to make progress on the objectives.



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2024 TARGETS

1. 90% of Local Partnerships are delivering significantly improved outcomes (including closing racial disparities) for families, children, and professionals in their community
2. 90% of the Local Partnerships are sustainable organizations functioning as innovative system builders and program operators/funders
3. 100% of Local Partnerships and NCPC staff acknowledge their pride in being part of the Smart Start network
4. 80% of Local Partnerships acknowledge that NCPC has been supportive in their delivery of outcomes and their own sustainability

EARLY STAGE PRIORITIES

Use existing time and financial resources as well as improved technology to:

- Articulate and communicate the characteristics of a powerful and impactful and sustainable Local Partnership
- Review and realign NCPC's policies and procedures to support the desired partnership qualities and their diffusion across the network.
- Better coordinate the support and assistance provided to each Local Partnership through customer-centric relationship management. Balance the need for compliance with support for innovation.
- Build staff knowledge, skills, mindsets, and tools to serve Local Partnerships and connect the network. Fill vacant positions with people who have the experience in building networks and changing systems.
- Acknowledge and leverage the successes and strengths of Local Partnerships and the network to enhance visibility and attract resources across the network.
- Invest in leadership. Build and maintain a system to train and support executive leaders across the network.



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1

Deepen policymaker and early childhood leaders' understanding of NCPC's role leading the Smart Start network

2

Drive state change and alignment based on local community needs

2024 TARGETS

1. Early childhood focused state agencies, policymakers, statewide nonprofits, and philanthropy acknowledge the value of the Smart Start network to improving outcomes for young children and their families
2. The implementation of the Early Childhood Action Plan is influenced by the community understanding and expertise of Local Partnerships; and Local Partnerships trust NCPC to be their advocate in the implementation of the Early Childhood Action Plan

EARLY STAGE PRIORITIES

- Position the Smart Start network as the key implementation vehicle for the Early Childhood Action Plan
- Enhance our understanding of the data that we have and create data systems for ongoing data understanding and use
- Build the expectation, infrastructure, and relationships to support the exchange of knowledge across NCPC, the Smart Start network, and with state partners
- Build staff knowledge, skills, mindsets, and tools to connect and learn with the Local Partnership network and with state partners.