

## NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading

### Cross-Sector Themes Identified by Design Team Members March 2018

Forty-two Design Team members participated in the survey to address this question:

***Which strategies improve outcomes across all three areas of Pathways focus, including children's social-emotional health, high quality birth-through-age-eight early care and education, and regular school attendance?***

#### **Cross-Sector Theme 1: Strategies that focus on equity across child-serving systems.**

- Promote the benefits of diversity and increase understanding of other cultures in decision-making activities, schools, state agencies, policy makers, funders, parents, community members, and practitioners.
- More intentionally address racial equity needs, from recruitment of diverse providers to building awareness about implicit bias and cultural competence to ensuring communities of color are represented in decision making.
- Raise teachers' and leaders' capacity to effectively teach children of color, English-language learners, children with disabilities, and children from low-income families.
- Use of evaluation and measurement tools that are culturally, linguistically and developmentally valid when developing accountability system.

#### **Cross-Sector Theme 2: Strategies that increase collaboration, communication, and accountability across child-serving systems.**

- Build a strong integrated system of support that includes prenatal care, screening, assessment, treatment pipeline for identifying and addressing children's health and learning issues and includes mental health and ACEs screener as well as parent education.
- Integrated system for mental/behavioral health using primary care for identification, screening, assessment.
- Ensuring respectful and productive communication, understanding and appropriate follow-ups are occurring between all parties; parents and providers, schools and DSS, parents and schools, pediatricians and DSS, etc.
- Coordinated services and communication between medical/ social work/ therapy/ educators and families will provide more effective care for children's physical, social-emotional, educational needs.

### **Cross-Sector Theme 3: Strategies that ensure safe and supportive learning environments and positive school climates.**

- Building the capacity and confidence of all educators in social-emotional health and pro-social teaching practices creates a foundation for learning.
- Pre-service training, continuing education, and high-quality parent support programs rich in information about health and mental health impacts on learning are equally important to all areas of focus.
- Ensure safe, secure, diverse and culturally-sensitive schools, districts and early childhood settings.
- Supporting specific efforts to recruit and professionally prepare, compensate and retain a well-qualified workforce across multiple birth through eight settings, including family and center-based child care as well as public and charter schools.

### **Cross-Sector Theme 4: Strategies that engage families across multiple environments to provide parent education and support.**

- Authentically engage with parents and provide parent education and support around child development, parenting, school attendance, early literacy, and social-emotional health and learning.
- Increased effort to support families where they are by reaching out to them and providing community outreach services and trainings with the help of church groups, faith-based organizations, and other community groups.
- Addressing poverty/ family economic insecurity with wrap around services, family-friendly workplaces, support services like nutrition, health, transportation to help families thrive.
- Cross-sector policies that collectively lower the burden of stress on families.

### **Cross-Sector Theme 5: Strategies that improve data collection, analysis, and use data in informing decisions.**

- Collect and use data on needs, resources, services, funding and outcomes.
- Improving data collection and analysis, and ensuring interventions and supports are evidence based should be a component of recommended strategies and tactics across all three sectors. Would be good to have a standard definition of what this looks like for all three.
- Continued assessment of the effectiveness of all programs, to ensure all services and interventions for families are evidence-based, with proven outcomes.