



# INTRODUCTIONS

Walter McDowell, Board Chairman

Brenda Berg, President & CEO



# Some of BEST NC's 60+ Member Companies

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**Bank of America** 

 **at&t**

**RTI**  
INTERNATIONAL

**LORD**  
Ask Us How™

**LOWE'S**

**allen tate**  
Realtors®

 **BlueCross BlueShield**  
Association

 **Piedmont**  
Natural Gas

**N**  **NOVANT**  
HEALTH

**seventh**  
generation™ 

 **HICKORY**  
FURNITURE  
MART

 **sas**

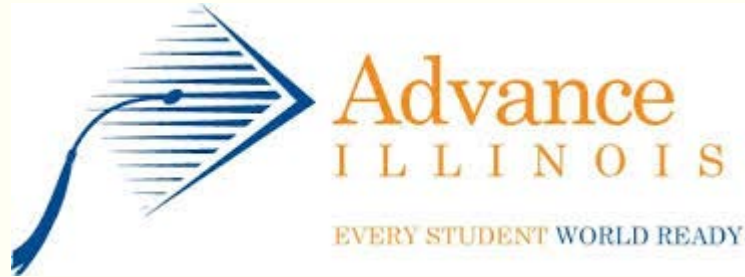
**CC**  
*Capitol Broadcasting*  
*Company, Inc.*

 **PNC**

**BEST NC**  
Business for Educational  
Success and Transformation 

# Trends in State Business Education Collaboratives

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# Quality Schools = Great Customers and Employees

ACTUAL  
82%

~8,000 graduates

MORE EARNINGS, MORE REVENUES, MORE JOBS

## BEST NC Business Principles

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- ✓ Student-focused
- ✓ Evidence-based
- ✓ Optimistic & Courageous
- ✓ Committed to continuous improvement
- ✓ Collaborative

# BEST NC Listening Tour

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- Business Executives
- Business Groups  
Local & state chambers, business alliances, other state groups
- State Public Education Leadership  
NC Board of Education, DPI, NC Superintendent, UNC System, NC Community Colleges
- Education Policy and Program Experts and Advocates
- Educators – Teachers, Principals, Superintendents, Professors
- Elected Officials
- Think Tanks and Foundations

# Themes from BEST NC Listening Tour

## Strengths

- History of **successful systemic** improvements
- **Urgency** and commitment to reform
- Dedication to **equity and equality**
- Commitment to **higher NC standards**

## Weaknesses

- **Rapidly-changing** workforce and society
- **Complex governance** structure lacks accountability
- **Fragmented**, often short-term funding
- Need for **teacher and leadership development**

## Opportunities

- **Economic upturn** allows for innovative thinking
- Substantial **state level influence**
- Precedent for **local flexibility** tied to accountability
- Growing **research base** on what works
- **Lessons learned** in other states & districts
- **Alignment** of education sectors & systems

## Threats

- **Distrust** between educators & policymakers
- Lack of a comprehensive education **vision** to drive and explain policy and practices
- Challenges of **collaboration & continuity**
- **Centralized state policy** = large-scale change
- **Uncertain revenue** picture
- **Varied districts** require tailored local implementation

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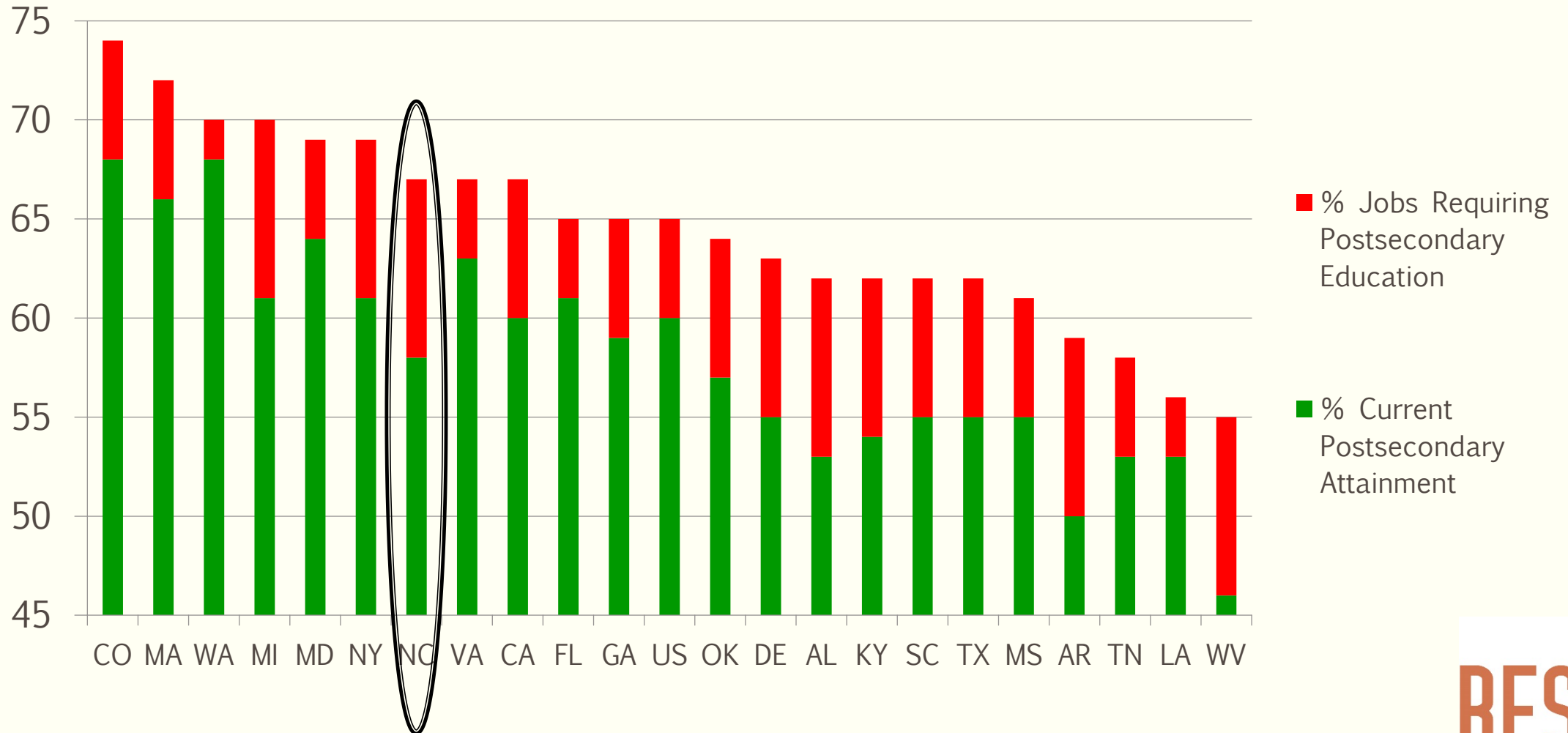
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 Every Student will Graduate with Relevant Globally-Competitive Career & Life Skills


# Job Skills Gap



Source: Center for Education and the Workforce, Georgetown University (2013)

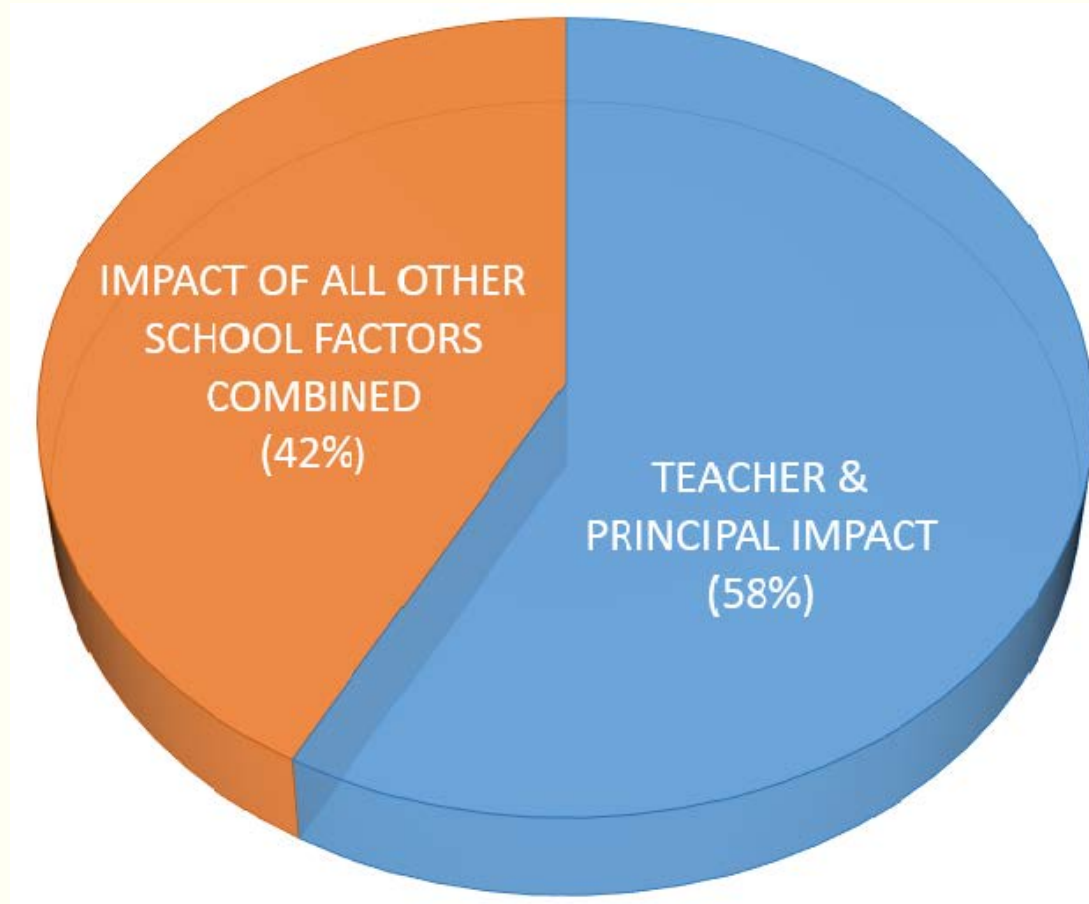
## BEST NC Priorities

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 Every Student will have an  
Excellent Teacher & School  
Leadership

# Teacher and Principal Impact on Student Learning


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Source: Walter, Marzano & McNulty 2003

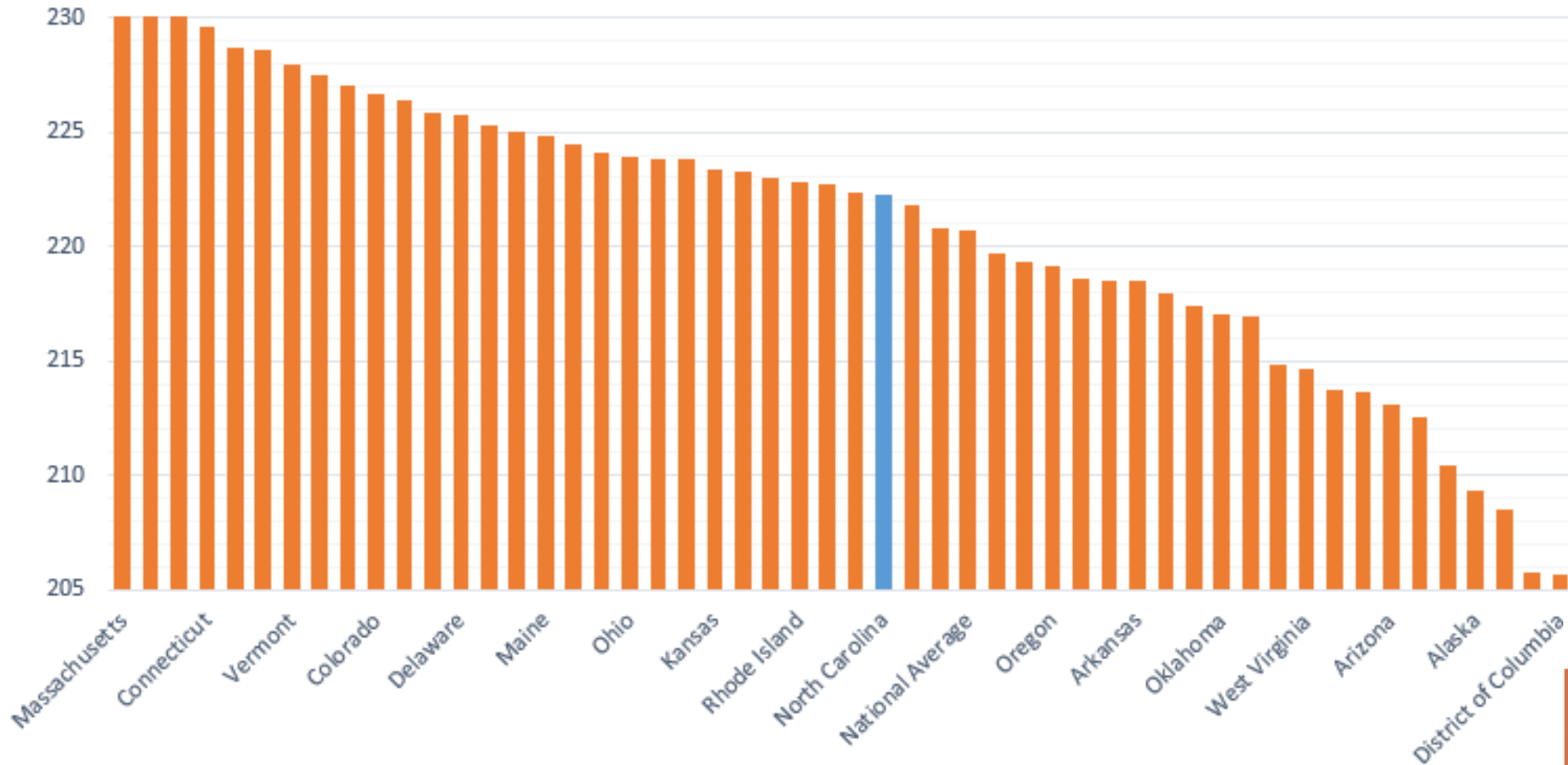
## BEST NC Priorities

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 **Every Student will be Ready to Learn & Globally Competitive**

# Ready To Learn - Literacy

## 2013 4th Grade NAEP Reading Scores






Source: National Assessment of Educational Progress



## BEST NC Priorities

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-  Every Student will be Ready to Learn & Globally Competitive
-  Every Student will have an Excellent Teacher & School Leadership
-  Every Student will Graduate with Relevant Globally-Competitive Career & Life Skills



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