

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC)  
**FROM:** Jeffrey Warren, Ph.D., Executive Director, NC Collaboratory  
**RE:** Office of Learning Research Transmittal Letter  
**DATE:** March 18, 2025

### Related Legislation

SECTION 2A.8.(c) Collaboratory May Relocate OLR. – After the Collaboratory establishes OLR, the Collaboratory may, in consultation with The University of North Carolina Office and the Provost at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, relocate OLR within the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### The purpose of this memo is to:

- Provide an update on the establishment of the Office of Learning Research at the NC Collaboratory,

### Key takeaways:

- NC Collaboratory leadership has worked with the senior UNC-CH officials to develop a staffing plan and, as soon as they are approved, will post positions to fulfill the legislative mandate for OLR.
- NC Collaboratory has determined, in consultation with the provost and other senior UNC-CH officials, that OLR will become a permanent part of its research portfolio.

## PROGRESS TO DATE

The [NC Collaboratory](#) is a funding agency that was established by the NC General Assembly to advance academic research that generates practical information for use by State and local governments and the communities they serve.

Pursuant to S.L. 2024-57, SECTION 2A.8.(a-e), the North Carolina Collaboratory will establish and operate the Office of Learning Research (OLR), beginning in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The purpose of OLR is to identify and evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of programs, activities, initiatives, procedures, and any other factors related to elementary and secondary education in the State.

The newly created OLR will provide information and support needed by elementary and secondary public schools, university leaders, and elected officials to make evidence-based decisions; collaborate with constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and other stakeholders to implement innovative policies and programs to accelerate learning for all students; work with external research resources and partners to evaluate local, State, and federal programs to establish metrics and assess return on investment; and support the operations of OLR.

The NC Collaboratory has consulted with The University of North Carolina System Office and the Provost and other leaders at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and determined that OLR shall remain at the NC Collaboratory as the scope of the NC Collaboratory's research priorities expand from environmental and natural resources research, to include projects focused on public health, education, technology, and infrastructure.

The NC Collaboratory commits to administer funds appropriated for OLR for the operations of OLR; determine, fund, manage, and oversee the research portfolio of OLR; and report to the Joint Legislative



Education Oversight Committee no later than July 1, 2025, on the progress made in establishing and operating OLR. For each fiscal year OLR is in operation, the Collaboratory shall include in the annual report required by G.S. 116-256 information on the activities of OLR from the prior fiscal year (see Figure 1).

Figure 1. Calendar of Activities for OLR

	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL
Establish OLR Operations	Write staffing plan, create positions, get approval, and post positions							Report to JLEOC
Identify Pressing K12 Policy issues		Meet with NCGA members and other critical K12 stakeholders						
Facilitate and Fund Research			Solicit applications and fund research studies on pressing K12 issues					

## PROGRAM CONTACTS

- Jeffrey Warren, Ph.D., Executive Director, NC Collaboratory, [jeff\\_warren@unc.edu](mailto:jeff_warren@unc.edu)
- Jeni Corn, Ph.D., Director of Impact Evaluation and Strategy, NC Collaboratory, [jeni\\_corn@unc.edu](mailto:jeni_corn@unc.edu)