



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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INSTRUCTIONAL IMPROVEMENT SYSTEM PROJECT ABSTRACT

A major cultural and pedagogic shift is underway in North Carolina to provide educators with a central location that offers instructional/learning tools, resources, and data to improve and enhance both the teaching and learning process. NCDPI seeks to achieve this goal by providing an online resource for all school districts that will enable educators to use and evaluate instructional materials, strategies, and approaches for educating all students. For the IIS to be effective, it must provide all school districts with equal access to rich instructional resources and a complete collection of information needed to improve instructional practices, make learner-centered decisions, enhance staff productivity, and assess overall effectiveness over time.

As in any profession, the right tools and data can enhance effectiveness and productivity. In education, access to just-in-time information about what we teach (curriculum/instruction), with what we teach (instructional resources), whom we teach (learners), who teaches (staff), and the effectiveness of the teaching and learning (assessment) is essential if our schools are to realize the full potential of twenty-first-century learning.

The vision for the IIS is a comprehensive system that manages the process of teaching and learning through a continuous improvement cycle of: (a.) curriculum design, (b.) instructional delivery, (c.) assessment at the classroom, district, and state level, and (d.) the review and analysis of data. Integral with these functions will be a wealth of high-quality instructional resources and professional development opportunities. North Carolina's IIS will also include a place to store and retrieve work samples that holds both exemplars of student work as well as artifacts of teacher work.

In summary, an IIS is a mission-critical technology solution that:

- generates accurate and timely information in order to improve student achievement
- permits students to assume an active role and accept responsibility for their educational experience
- enables parents and community members to participate more fully in the learning process
- empowers staff to work cooperatively, collaboratively, and interdependently in order to increase student achievement, enhance productivity, and improve accountability
- links staff development programs and supervision/evaluation activities with student learning
- correlates state/district curriculum standards to instructional programs and assessment strategies
- identifies gaps in instructional programs, such as adequacy of instructional resources, assessment items, and/or staff proficiencies

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is wholly committed to improving instruction for all students in every classroom every day. Achieving this most important goal requires that the state ensure that appropriate data are being used effectively by all stakeholders—students, parents, teachers, principals, administrators, and researchers—with the necessary professional development and supports in place.

LEARNING SYSTEMS

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

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PROJECT TIMELINE: June 2011 – August 2014

PARTICIPANTS:

- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- Local and Regional Education Agencies (LEAs) in North Carolina
- Major Education Associations in North Carolina

PROJECT METHODOLOGY:

- Comprehensive Research Review
- Field-Based Assessment and Needs Analysis:
 - Key Stakeholder Interviews
 - Document Reviews
 - Focus Groups
 - Webinars
 - Web-Based Survey
- Review Meetings and Implementation Planning

PROJECT MILESTONES:

• Project Organization and Management	June 2011 – October 2011
• Technical and Business Requirements Gathering	Summer and Fall 2011
• Request for Proposal	February 2012
• Vendor Evaluations	Summer 2012
• Award Contract	Fall 2012
• Design and Build	Fall 2012
• Data Integration Pilot	Fall 2012
• IIS Pilot	Early 2013
• Phased-in Rollout	2013-2014 school year

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