

North Carolina

# New Schools Project

## Superintendent's Career Ready Commission

June 12, 2009



“Schools haven’t changed; the world has. And so our schools are not failing. Rather they are obsolete—even the ones that score the best on standardized tests. This is a very different problem requiring an altogether different solution.”

- Tony Wagner, *The Global Achievement Gap*



# Overview: NC New Schools Project

## History:

Established in 2003 as an initiative of the Office of the Governor, the NC Education Cabinet and the State Board of Education with the support of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and others.

## Mission:

Spark and support systemic, sustainable innovation in secondary schools across the state so that all students graduate prepared for college, work and life.

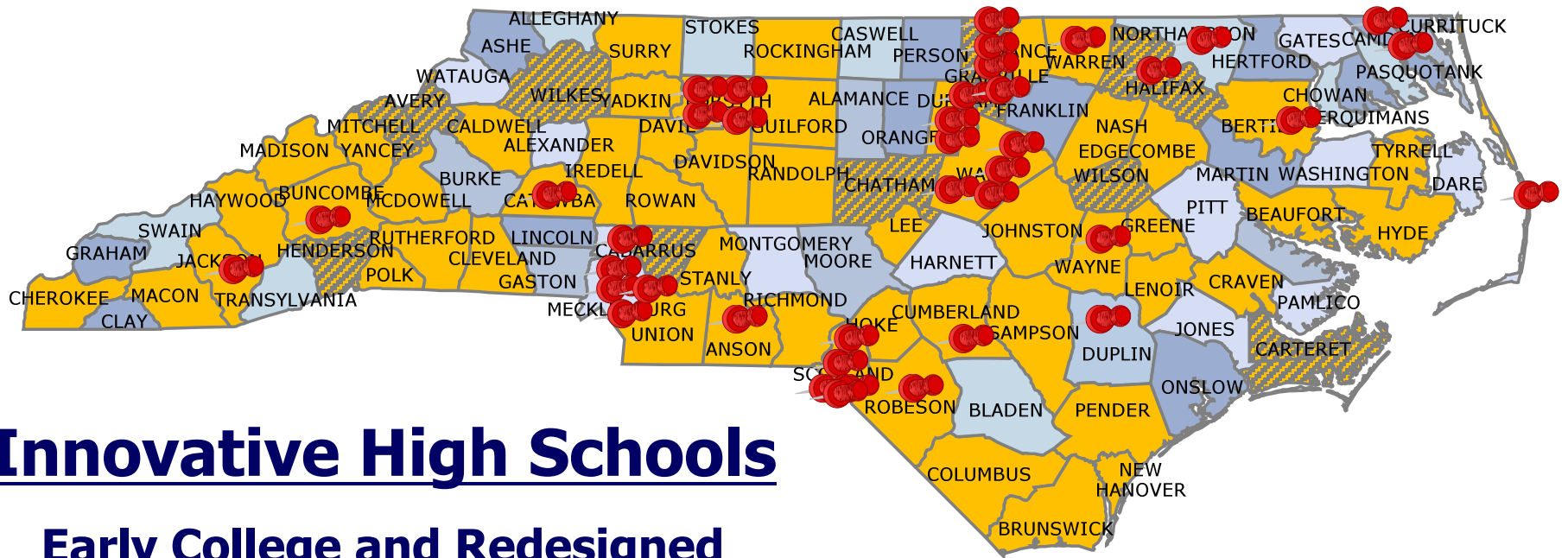


# Results

- Dropout rate in 2007-08 for 82 NCNSP schools was 3.37%, vs. 4.97% for all HS
- 39 of 82 NCNSP schools lost **no** students as dropouts in 2007-08
- 51 of the 82 schools lost no more than two students as dropouts

# Results

- Measured by NC's ABCs accountability system for 2007-08, more than six in 10 (62%) of new schools outperformed their comparison high school
- Of 52 high schools in NC where at least 25% of students took Algebra II in 2007-08, 29 were NCNSP schools



# Innovative High Schools

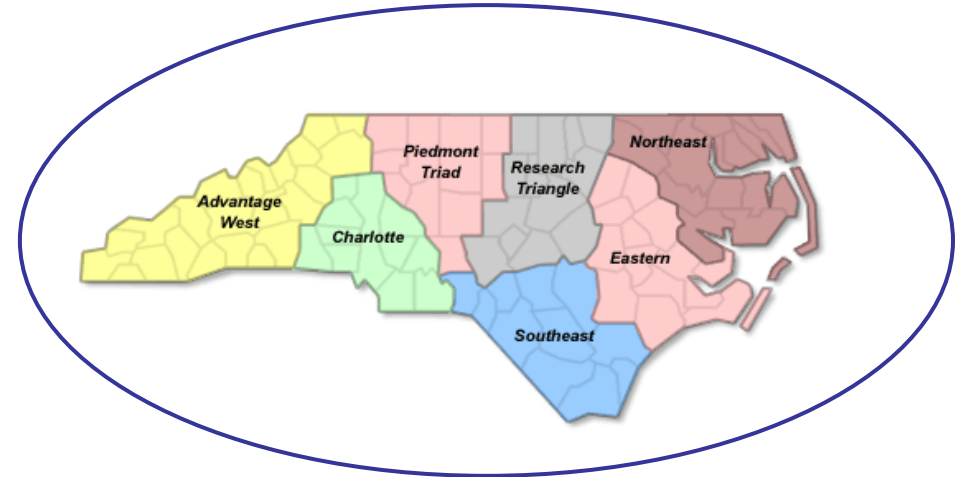
## Early College and Redesigned High Schools

# Pursuing Change across Three Levels



**“Transform a school”**

**“Demonstrate to all of NC what successful schools look like and increase demand for transformation”**



**“Transform high school education in North Carolina”**

- **Government, education and business leaders leverage NCNSP’s success and work together to create widespread innovation**

# Two Kinds of Innovative High Schools

## Learn & Earn early colleges

- **Co-located on a college campus, with students graduating high school with two years of college credit**

## Conversions/redesigns

- **Transformation of conventional secondary schools into focused and academically rigorous smaller schools**

### Key differences from conventional schools

**All students complete college prep curriculum\***

**All students graduate with transferable college credit\***

**Most schools have a maximum of 100 students per grade**

\*With the exception of a small percentage of students served in the Occupational Course of Study



# Essential Design Components

- **Design principles**
  - **Research based elements required for school success**
- **Six year program of service**
- **Integrated system of support**
  - **Principals, teachers & district administrators**

# Many Innovative Schools Organize Around Academic Themes

## Examples of themes

- Biotechnology
- Leadership and public service
- Health and life sciences
- Science/Technology/Engineering Mathematics
- International studies

## Partners who support themes

- New Tech Foundation
- Asia Society
- NC Science, Math, Technology Center
- Center for 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills
- Local partners

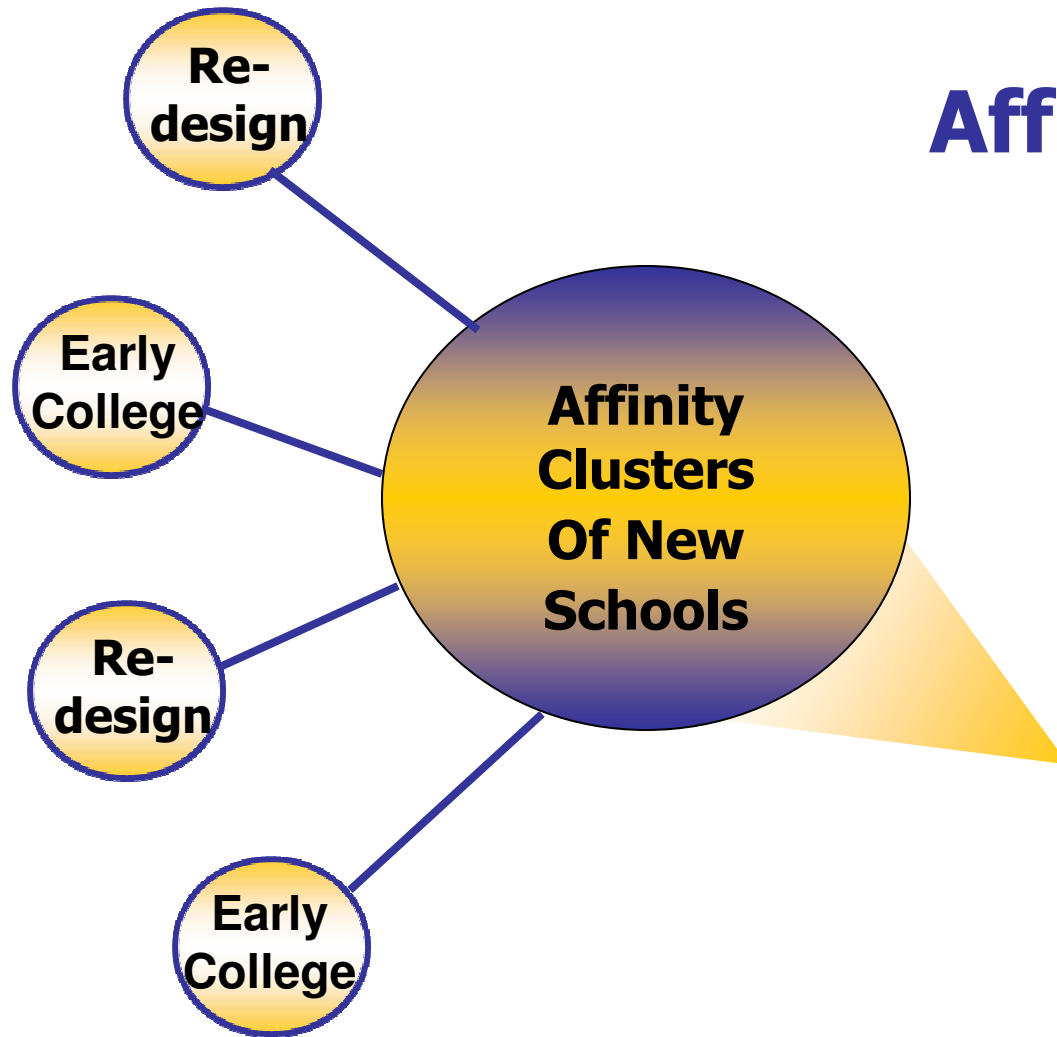


**Schools choose themes based on local community and economic interests**

**Themes and partners align with Design Principles**



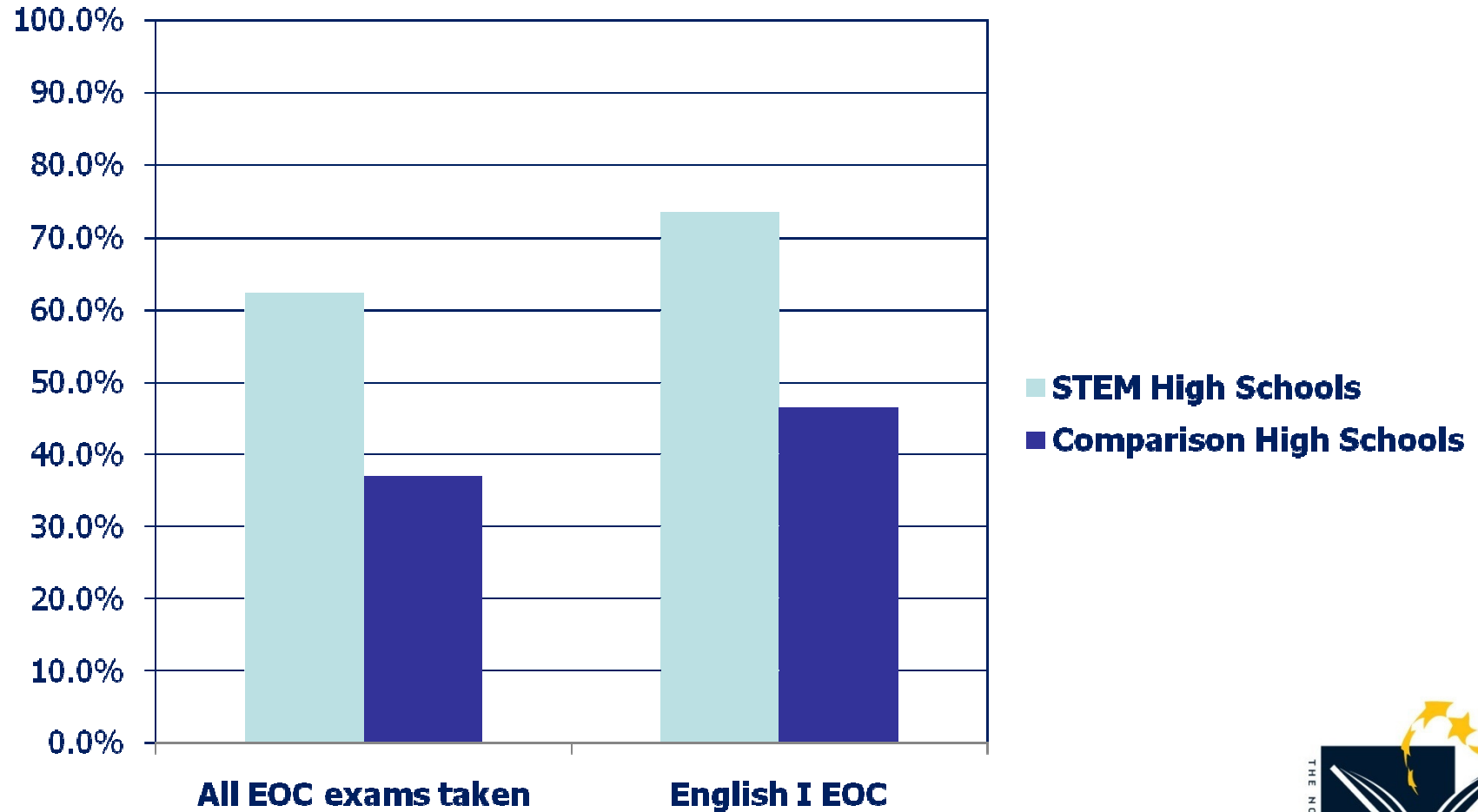
# Affinity Clusters



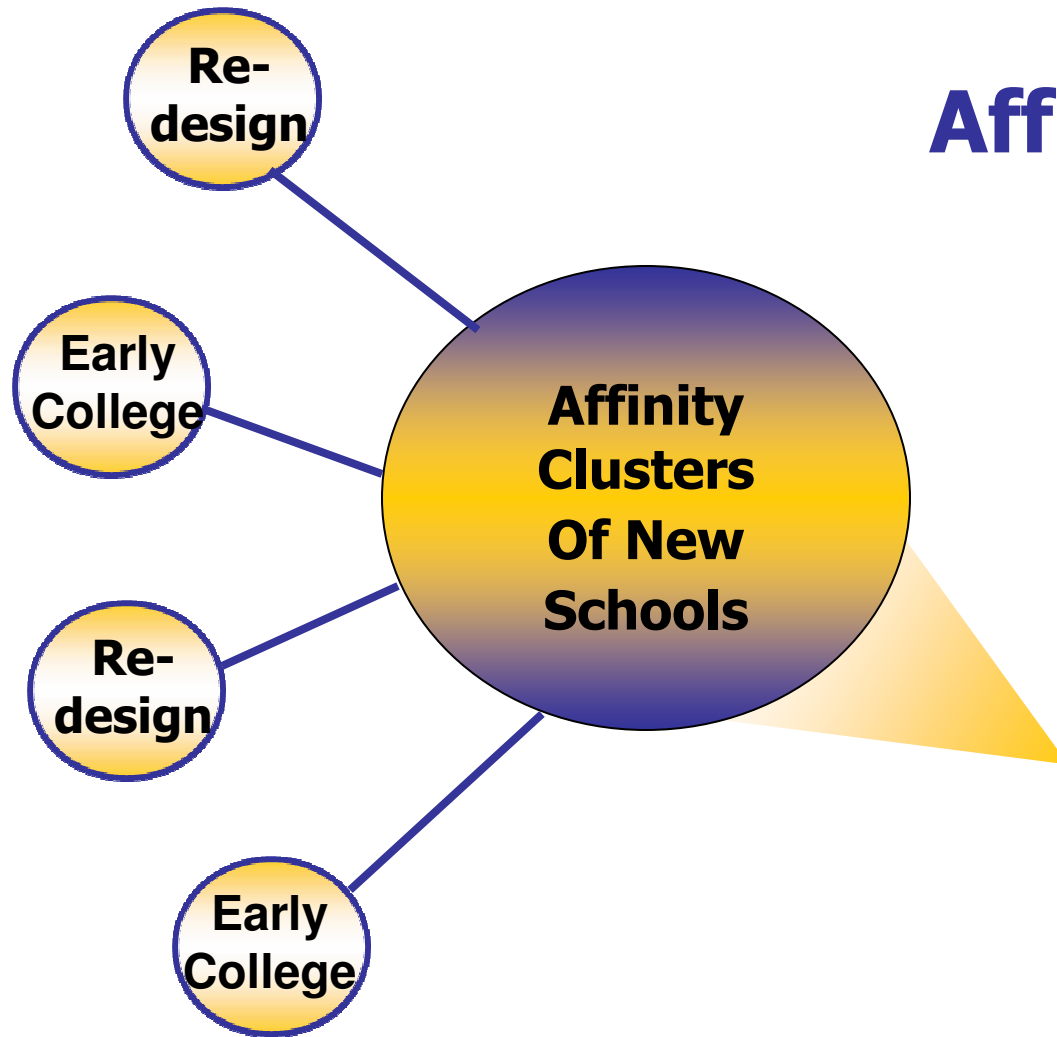
**Higher Education**  
**Private Sector**  
**Associations and interest groups**



# STEM results vs. original schools



# Affinity Clusters



**STEM/pre-engineering**  
**Health and Life Sciences**  
**Biotechnology**  
**One-to-One Computing**  
**Learning Laboratory with UNC Systems**  
**Virtual Early College HS**  
**Global**  
**Leadership and public service**  
**Others**



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