



# NC RTT-ELC August Spotlight

August 10, 2015

## NC Provides Leadership to National Consortium for K-3 Formative Assessment

An Overview of a Groundbreaking New Early Learning Project

The RTT-ELC grant is supporting the development of a NC K-3 Formative Assessment that includes a Kindergarten Entry Assessment (KEA). With the support of a federal Enhanced Assessment Grant, North Carolina is also leading a consortium, led by the Office of Early Learning, NC Department of Public Instruction, that includes nine other states and three nationally recognized research partners to enhance a state-of-the-art system for assessing young children's learning. The K-3 Assessment will begin at kindergarten entry (KEA), generating a Child Profile of children's learning and development, and continue through third grade, making information available to both teachers and students that will be used to inform teaching and learning. Through this project, the consortium is designing an assessment process that will provide a userfriendly, effective resource for generating clear information about where children are in their learning and where they need to go next that will inform teachers, parents, students, policymakers and others who care about education in

the critical early years. States participating with NC in the consortium include Arizona, Delaware, DC, Iowa, Maine, North Dakota, [Share Oregon](#), South Carolina and Rhode Island. The three research [Past Issues](#) partners are BUILD, Child Trends, and SRI. [Read more](#) about the K-3 Formative Assessment Consortium.

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## NC Provides Leadership to National Consortium for Program Quality Measure Development

### New Measure Intended for Use in TQRIS in NC and Other States

North Carolina is leading a consortium to develop a new program quality measure for use in a Tiered Quality Rating and Improvement System (TQRIS). The consortium, led by faculty with the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, working with collaborators in Delaware, Kentucky, and Illinois, is developing this new measure to allow for a broader understanding of quality in early care and education programs than is captured with measures currently in use. Although the conceptualization of items and measurement process has a foundation in children's experiences, classroom and program practices known to promote optimal development and learning will be the focus of the measure; current measurement approaches emphasize the classroom as the unit of analysis with little attention to the programmatic systems that underlie classroom performance.

The new measure is grounded in Early Learning and Development Standards as well as current child development theory and research, leading to a focus on practices that support important developmental outcomes valued across multiple States. It includes administrative/program level items; items across infant, toddler, preschool, age classrooms; and will be relevant for the broad range of programs included in TQRISs, including centers, family child care homes, public school programs, religious-affiliated programs, and Head Start. The measure is designed to take into consideration multiple sources of evidence from programs, teachers, and classrooms, through multiple

methods of data collection including program selfassessment/document review, interviews, and observations and it will allow for continuous improvement over time. Programs will submit materials for document review prior to a verification and observation visit. The program visit will include observations in classrooms across the age rangeShare s included in the program, interviews with directors andPast Issues teachers, and additional document review. The assessment will result in a program level portrait showing program strengths and areas for improvement. [Read more](#) about this project.

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## NC RTT-ELC Quarterly Reports and Past E-Newsletters Available

Website is a Resource for Grant Reports, E-Newsletters, and More

North Carolina's RTT-ELC Quarterly Reports that document the progress of all grant projects and activities are submitted to the US Department of Education and the US Department of Health and Human Services and posted to our [website](#). Please see the website for the most recent quarterly reports.

Past issues of NC's RTT-ELC Spotlight, the e-newsletter, are also posted on the [website](#).

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Send us any updates or events you may be in our next newsletter! Email us at [earlylearningchallenge@nc.gov](mailto:earlylearningchallenge@nc.gov)

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