

NORTH CAROLINA DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVE



The NC General Assembly, via the 2016 Appropriations Act (SL 2016-94), included funding to support continued implementation of the North Carolina Digital Learning Plan.

DIGITAL LEARNING PLAN FUNDS SECTION 8.23. The State Board of Education shall collaborate with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina State University to continue the progress in implementing the Digital Learning Plan in North Carolina public schools by doing at least the following:

- (1) Coordinate the implementation of **professional learning** programs that support teachers and school administrators in transitioning to digital-age learning.
- (2) Manage statewide **cooperative purchasing of content**, including statewide shared resources for teachers to use for lesson planning and formative student assessments.
- (3) Develop **infrastructure maintenance and support** protocols.
- (4) Modify and **update State policies** to provide the support and flexibility necessary for local digital learning innovation.
- (5) Develop and maintain a **continuous improvement process**.
- (6) Create **assessments for technological and pedagogic skills** and identify best practices from those assessments.

Background - Major Accomplishments to Date

The detailed [NC Digital Learning Plan](#) (DLP), published September 2015, articulates specific and actionable recommendations for State level leadership in supporting local education agencies and all public schools in transitioning to digital learning. Concurrent with the development of the plan, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the Friday Institute collaborated with schools and partners to:

- Develop and introduce [digital learning competencies](#) for educators;
- Establish a [digital learning progress rubric](#) as the district level DL planning tool;
- Procure \$97M in internal school network equipment using only \$14M in State funds;
- Convene a working group and develop a policy brief for a [State-Level approach to longer-term funding](#).

NC Digital Learning Initiative Leads

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Priority Digital Learning Plan implementation Tasks for the 2016-18 Biennium

NCDPI and the Friday Institute have prioritized specific DLP recommendations for implementation during the 2016-18 biennium, as summarized below



(1) Professional Learning. Plan, design, and provide ongoing, blended, regional, cohort-based digital learning-focused professional development based on readiness:

- NCDPI: Tech Directors, Principals, Teachers, DPI Staff
- Friday Institute: District Leadership Teams, Coaches, Principals, Superintendents
- Partners: NCSSA, NCPAPA, RESAs, NCCAT, IHEs



(2) Cooperative Purchasing of Content. Provide a modern content development and sharing system to facilitate district access to high quality learning resources

- Move existing content (e.g. NCVPS, NCSSM, financial literacy modules) to Home Base
- Procure Open Education Resource (OER) lesson sharing solution(s)
- Pay NC educators to create, review, curate, align, and share digital content



(3) Infrastructure Maintenance and Supports.

- Procure Asset Inventory and Mobile Device Management Platform
- Deploy roster data integration service for LEAs and charter schools
- Develop and deploy Home Base Portal



(4) Update State Policies.

- Modernize digital resources and textbook adoption process
- Form work groups for critical DLP policy issues (e.g., ITF/MC certifications, student data privacy, copyright and fair usage, outside of school access)
- Prioritize long-term funding recommendations
- Identify priority policy changes to incorporate digital learning competencies into licensure and relicensure



(5) Continuous Improvement Process.

- Implement processes for the continuous improvement of the Home Base system
- Identify specifications for Home Base Website hosting and integration system
- Build district technology data collection, reporting, and profile platform
- Update the NC Digital Learning Data Dashboard



(6) Assessments for Technological and Pedagogical Skills.

- Develop the plan for competency-based measures (e.g., micro-credentialing and badging) for demonstrating NC Digital Learning Competencies for Teachers and Administrators
- Explore alignment with NC Educator Evaluation System