


The pathway to success can take many routes; from education to workforce

North Carolina was selected as 1 of 10 states selected by Excellence in Education ([ExcelinEd](#)) to analyze the education-to-workforce policy continuum progress. ExcelinEd is a 501(c)(3) national organization launched by former Governor Jeb Bush to advance a broad range of student-centered policies to increase student learning, advance educational equity, and ready graduates for college and career. Their stated goal of this analysis is to celebrate the state's successes and to offer opportunities for us to strengthen.


Ensuring strong education to workforce pathways takes coordination and cohesion across stakeholders and policies. In formulating the framework for North Carolina, myFutureNC engaged leaders from NCDPI, NC Commerce, NC Community College System, UNC, and NCICU.

To see a copy of the North Carolina case study click [here](#) and for more details click [here](#). Many successes underway in our state are reflected in the report, along with several opportunities for growth, many of which are already in the works or are under discussion within the various sectors. There is alignment with several [myFutureNC policy priorities](#), including things such as non-degree workforce credentials, high school remediation, and longitudinal data (2021 myFutureNC policy briefs can be found [here](#)).



STATE POLICY CASE STUDY

North Carolina



Analyzing the learner continuum in North Carolina.

North Carolina's Workforce Credentials initiative is a great example of how the state is thinking about pathways quality and working collaboratively across agencies and industry to support the postsecondary attainment goal. The NC Workforce Credentials workgroup is focused on identifying high-quality credentials that are valued by employers and support in-demand living wage jobs. North Carolina is well-positioned to build on this progress and address remaining gaps such as the need to strengthen its access to, and use of, outcomes data, reduce legal barriers for employer engagement, and broaden its cross-sector shared definitions and priorities.

<p>STRENGTHS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• North Carolina's focus on CTE grade expansion to middle school and development of postsecondary and business partnerships.• North Carolina's integrated college acceleration offerings, funding and incentives that support learners in obtaining college credit in high school.• North Carolina's last mile grant, Finish Line Grants, for emergency needs.	<p>OPPORTUNITIES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conduct a full audit of secondary and postsecondary CTE program offerings for alignment, quality and equitable access.• Strengthen the longitudinal data system, including governance, to evaluate program quality and learner outcomes.• Expand statewide articulation mechanisms and processes for credit obtained in K-12 to postsecondary institutions.
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1 | PathwayMatter.org | RLEatContinuum

Resources and additional information on the Learner Continuum can be found on the last page of this state case study. Please contact PathwayMatter@excelsined.org for questions about this state case study or about the policy continuum in your state.

Learn more from this ExcelinEd webinar on how all stakeholders can use state policy to ensure learners of all ages in their state are prepared to meet the demands of today's evolving job market. [Pathways Matter Recording](#)