



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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TO Principals

FROM June St. Clair Atkinson *JS*

SREB PARTNERSHIP

The Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) is partnering with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to help schools build capacity around standards-aligned tested strategies to advance students' grade-level mastery of literacy across all content areas and significantly improve student math achievement. SREB is working with DPI to bring Literacy Design Collaborative (LDC) and Math Design Collaborative (MDC) strategies to a third cohort of schools beginning the summer of 2016. This intense professional development will ensure North Carolina middle and high school students engage in the deep learning necessary to meet state standards and be better prepared for college and careers.

North Carolina's 2014-15 ACT results show that 30 percent of 11th graders met the reading benchmark for college-level coursework, 44 percent met the English benchmark, 30 percent met the math benchmark and 23 percent met the science benchmark. Labor market indicators show that by 2020, 67 percent of the jobs available in North Carolina will require a post-secondary credential. At least two-thirds of our students need to graduate college and career ready to meet the needs of the North Carolina's economy.

This is no-cost professional development. SREB can support 128 schools for the third and final cohort to start training in the summer of 2016. SREB provides supplemental funding to help offset costs for substitute teachers, travel and meals. SREB will help schools spread and expand knowledge of the instructional strategies over the next three years to all teachers through ongoing coaching, in-school visits and professional learning communities.

I encourage you and your lead literacy and mathematics teachers to attend a webinar to learn more about the literacy and mathematics instructional professional development. SREB is now delivering this professional development to 107 North Carolina schools and 604 teachers.

[Click here](#) to register to attend the informational webinar on March 11 at 2 p.m., where you can learn more and see how current North Carolina schools benefit from the strategies.

Further details will be available at regional meetings in March. The March 16 meeting is scheduled from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Apex Friendship High School Auditorium, 780 Humie Olive Road, Apex, NC 27502, (919-694-0500). The March 17 meeting is from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. at Linda Rader Professional Development Center (Gaston), 240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC 28032, (704-824-2828). **Pre-register to attend one of the meetings by clicking [here](#).**

OFFICE OF THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Following are a few examples of what school leaders and teachers say about SREB professional development:

Teachers are able to see the big picture in mathematics that the formative assessment lesson (FAL) is trying to communicate. It helps teachers to see how different students learn. It helps teachers to step back and let more students actively learn. — Beth Newman, instructional coach, Orange County, North Carolina

The literacy strategies work [in my science class] because they help students break down texts into easy-to-digest chunks ... then they apply what they pull from the reading to develop writing products throughout the unit. When students know why they are doing something, they are much more likely to be engaged. — Katrina Zimmerman, science and technology teacher, Turrentine Middle School, North Carolina

I am proud to report that six out of the seven students I had in class made 90 percent or above on EOC [the end-of-course exam]. I credit the higher grades to the change in the environment LDC has made. — Toby Craver, agriculture teacher, Oden High School, Arkansas

To review the professional learning design and success stories, please follow the links below:

- MDC Brochure: <http://bit.ly/mdcbrochure>
- LDC Brochure: <http://bit.ly/LDCbrochure>
- LDC/MDC Publication: <http://bit.ly/LDCMDCPublication>

Take advantage of this opportunity for no-cost professional development. Give your schools a jumpstart — prepare your leaders and teachers to advance your students' readiness for college and careers. If you have questions, please contact Gene Bottoms, SREB senior vice president, at Gene.Bottoms@sreb.org; Dan Mollette, Director of Training, at Dan.Mollette@sreb.org; or Donna Peters at donnapeters3@yahoo.com, our NC Project Coordinator.

JSA:DP:mw

c: Gene Bottoms
Dan Mollette
Donna Peters

P.S. We have sent information about this opportunity to your superintendent.