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**Module Overview** In 2006, the North Carolina State Board of Education adopted their mission, *“Every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st Century.”* Because of this new mission, the State Board charged the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards Commission with aligning the *Core Standards for the Teaching Profession*, originally adopted in 1997, with the new mission. The Commission members, 16 practicing educators from across the state, considered what teachers need to know and be able to do in 21st Century schools.

These new Professional Teaching Standards were adopted by the State Board of Education in 2007. These standards serve as the basis for teacher preparation, teacher evaluation, and professional development. The different demands on 21st Century education dictate new roles for teachers in their classrooms and schools. These standards define what teachers need to know and be able to teach students in the 21st Century.

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**North Carolina  
Professional  
Teaching  
Standards**

**Standard I: Teachers demonstrate leadership.**

Teachers demonstrate leadership by taking responsibility for the progress of all students by establishing a safe, orderly environment, and create a culture that empowers students to collaborate and become lifelong learners.

- Teachers lead in their classrooms.
- Teachers demonstrate leadership in the school.
- Teachers lead the teaching profession.
- Teachers advocate for schools and students.
- Teachers demonstrate high ethical standards.

**Standard II: Teachers establish a respectful environment for a diverse population of students.**

- Teachers provide an environment in which each child has a positive, nurturing relationship with caring adults.
- Teachers embrace diversity in the school community and in the world.
- Teachers treat students as individuals.
- Teachers adapt their teaching for the benefit of students with special needs.
- Teachers work collaboratively with the families and significant adults in the lives of their students.