

and skills. Curriculum integration and interdisciplinary study link the content and skills from various disciplines, and allows students to transfer and connect those skills and concepts across disciplines. Students can apply understanding in multiple settings and will be engaged, successful (as measured by a variety of indicators, including standardized tests), and career and college ready.

As implementation of the *Common Core State Standards* and *North Carolina Essential Standards* proceeds, the infrastructure must be in place so that teachers can provide an integrated, aligned, and comprehensive curriculum. Teacher communication and collaboration within and across grade levels, with Exceptional Children (EC), English as a Second Language (ESL), Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) and other specialty area teachers, are critical to answering the *Call for Change*. Students must have access to in-depth, connected instruction, and develop concepts, rather than memorization of facts in isolation. A broad, statewide approach to implementation of the standards will ultimately reap the benefits of increased achievement and student acquisition of critical qualities for success in school and in life.

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