

Improving Early Literacy

Through Intensive, Literacy-Specific Induction



Wolfpack WORKS
(Ways to Optimize Reading/
Writing for Kids Statewide)

Essential to improving early literacy is improving classroom instruction. Educators need support in implementing better ways to help their students, particularly those in the early grades, become better readers and writers. Wolfpack WORKS addresses this urgent need. Started in Summer 2018, Wolfpack WORKS supports first- and second-year, K-2 teachers in 16 high-need school districts across North Carolina as they learn to implement evidence-based literacy instruction in their classrooms for all children.



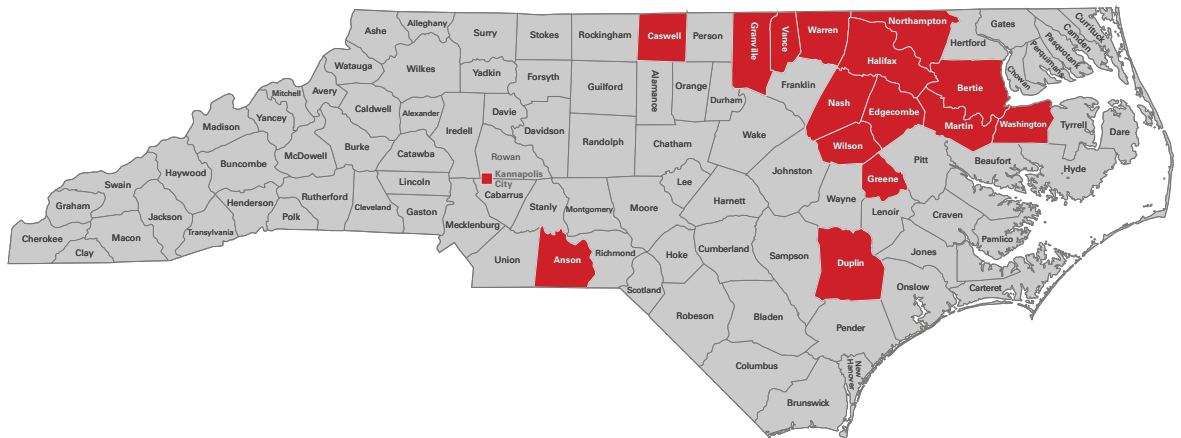
How It Works

Wolfpack WORKS provides beginning, K-2 teachers with three types of support to improve literacy instruction:

- › **blended professional development**, which includes face-to-face meetings, learning management systems, video training modules and online communities
- › **literacy-specific coaching** from experienced elementary education literacy consultants through weekly meetings with the K-2 teachers
- › **instructional literacy resources** for educators and students



Where It Is



Who It Impacts

Wolfpack WORKS employs 20 literacy coaches who reach:



16 School Districts



74 K-5 Schools



Why It Matters

Through this three-pronged and evidence-based approach, Wolfpack WORKS addresses several pressing educational issues in North Carolina and serves as the foundation for future work with teachers and students:

- 1. Improve Reading Proficiency:** Wolfpack WORKS focuses on K-2 literacy instruction because research has suggested the importance of children reading at grade level by Grade 3 and demonstrated that effective instruction in the early grades can eliminate the need for later remedial work in learning to read.
- 2. Enhance Literacy Instruction:** Wolfpack WORKS focuses on classroom teaching to assist teachers in implementing evidence-based, high-quality literacy instruction that supports students' reading achievement with the intention of significantly reducing the need for additional interventions in reading.
- 3. Reduce Teacher Attrition:** Wolfpack WORKS provides the support beginning educators need as they transition from various pathways (e.g., teacher preparation, alternative licensure and lateral entry) to teaching in classrooms in high-need districts that often have a high rate of teacher turnover and an ongoing need to hire new teachers.



160+ 1st and 2nd-Year
K-2 Teachers



2,700+ K-2 Students

“Wolfpack WORKS is a phenomenal program that is extremely valuable to beginning teachers. I am hopeful that this is something that can be continued in years to come.”

Latisa McKnight

Principal,
Creedmoor Elementary School of the Arts,
Granville County

Wolfpack WORKS Project Team Leads

Dr. Jill Grifenhagen

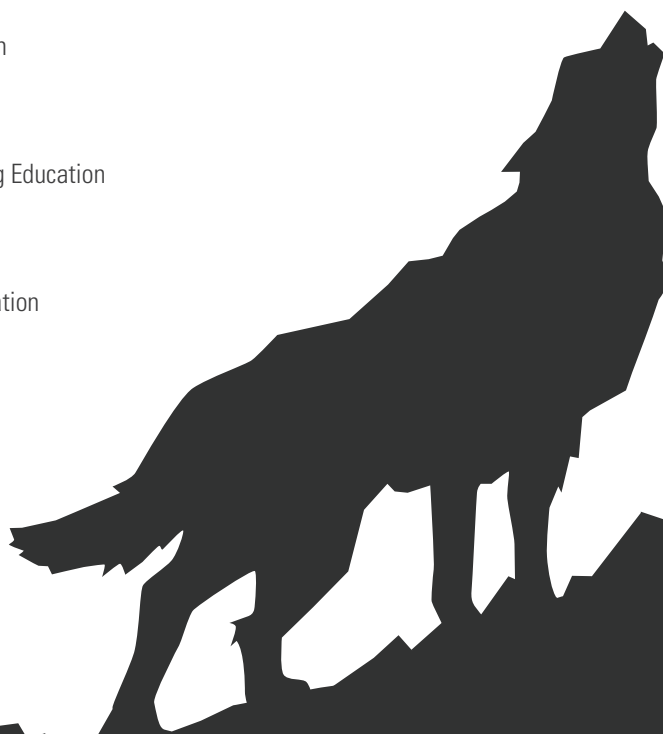
Assistant Professor of Literacy Education
Principal Investigator

Dr. Ann Harrington

Associate Teaching Professor of Reading Education
Co-Principal Investigator

Dr. Paola Sztajn

Associate Dean for Research and Innovation
Co-Principal Investigator



As a research-driven college of education

grounded in its land-grant mission, the NC State College of Education leads the way in preparing professionals, conducting research and engaging communities to improve the educational outcomes of all learners across North Carolina, the nation and the world.



#1 Producer

of Master's-Level Literacy Specialists in N.C.



#1 in Education Research

Productivity in N.C



#1 Teaching Alumni

on Statewide Performance Measures

*Sources: N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Academic Analytics and UNC System

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