

CREATIVE LEARNING.
HEALTHIER FUTURES.

Creative Learning as Essential Infrastructure for Youth Thriving

Music Impact Coalition
North Carolina Overview



WHY NOW

The future will reward what makes us distinctly human.

Knowledge remains essential, but as routine work is automated, young people will need to master the capabilities that technology cannot supply for them.

CREATE

ADAPT

COLLABORATE

COMMUNICATE

PERSEVERE

NAVIGATE
UNCERTAINTY

These are not soft skills. They are future-ready human capabilities.



CREATIVE LEARNING + YOUTH THRIVING

Music helps build the conditions in which young people can thrive.

- **Connection + Belonging**

A reason to show up — and a community in which to be celebrated.

- **Expression + Agency**

A way to process experience, take creative risks, and develop voice.

- **Discipline + Resilience**

Practice, feedback, setbacks, and progress made visible.

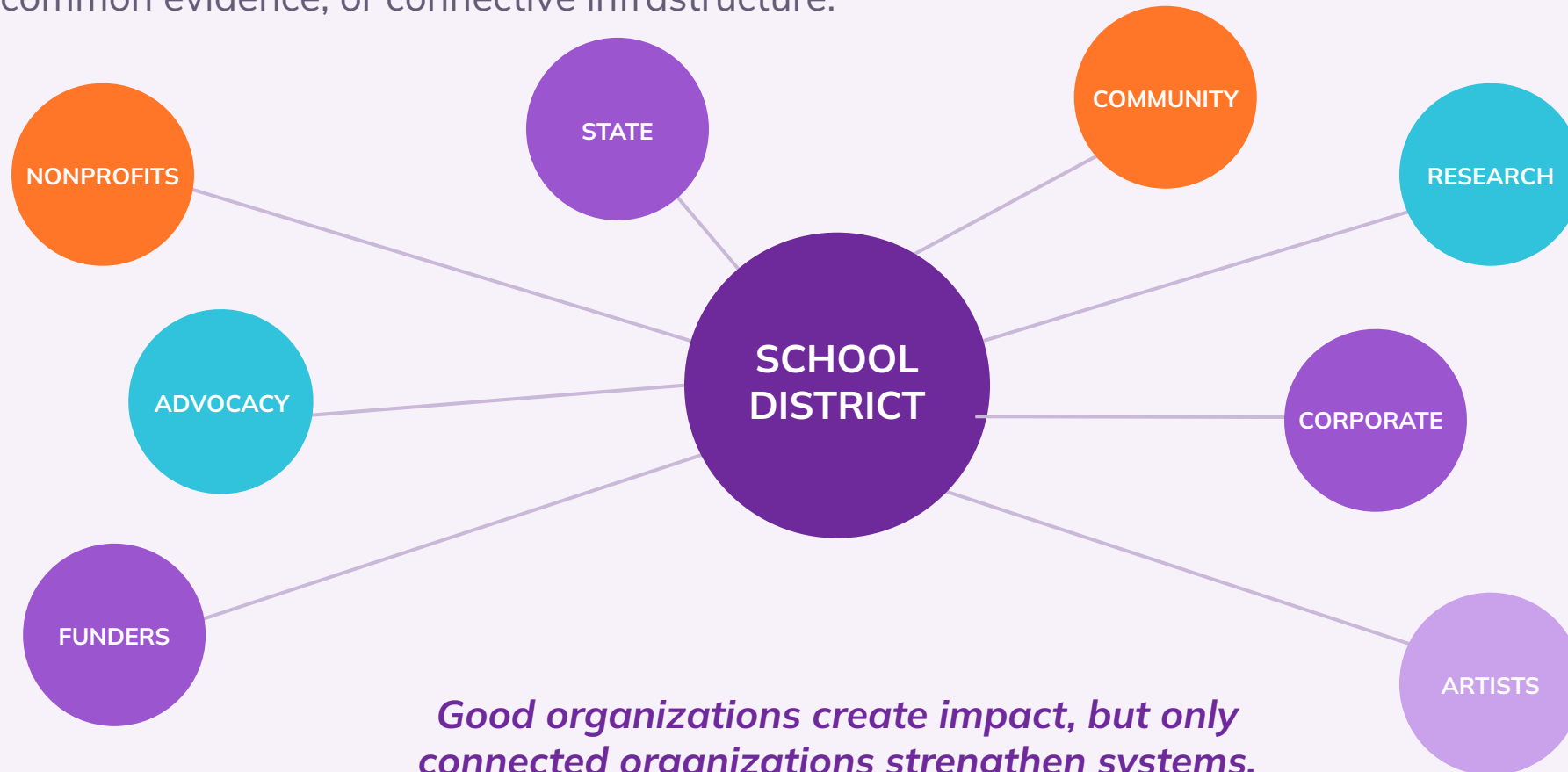
- **Engagement + Confidence**

Authentic contribution that strengthens participation in school and life.

MIC strengthens upstream conditions associated with learning, well-being, and possibility.

The problem is fragmentation — not a lack of commitment or existing resources.

The key players already have committed leaders, willing partners, and substantial assets — but too little shared planning, common evidence, or connective infrastructure.



THE MODEL

MIC is the connective infrastructure — not another program.

One coordinated strategy aligns six mutually reinforcing areas around district-defined need.



Seeded by a \$2M commitment from the Tullman Family Office, MIC brings together nationwide funders and champions who recognize the systemic opportunity and are ready to deliver more than the "bare minimum" to our next generation.



NORTH CAROLINA

A statewide learning laboratory built for real variation.

8

DISTRICT SYSTEMS

~213K

PUBLIC-SCHOOL STUDENTS

355

SCHOOLS

7

REGIONAL CONTEXTS

From a seven-school city system to an 86-school military-connected district; from western mountains to eastern agricultural communities.

The goal is to learn what must stay consistent — and what must adapt — as MIC scales.

Variation is the point: the model must travel.

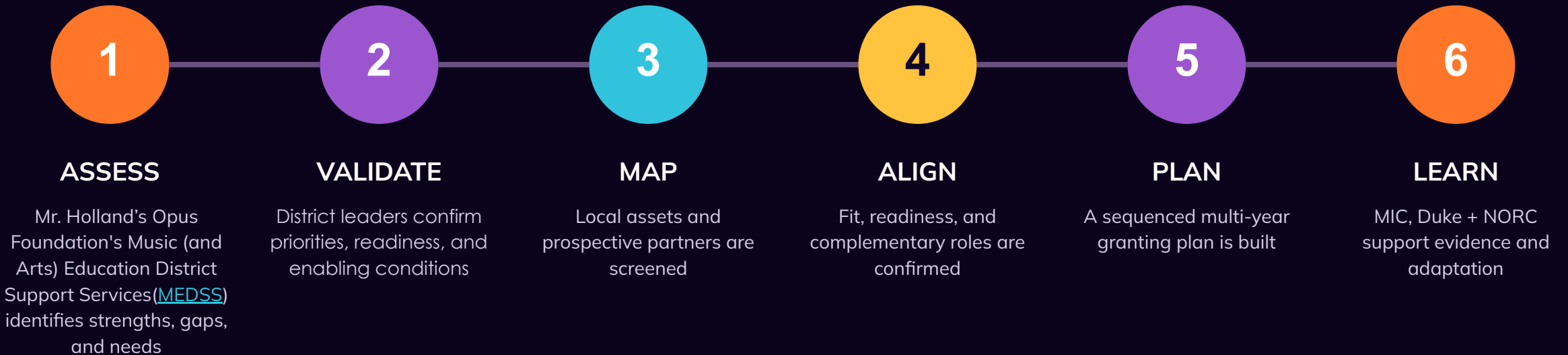
Three examples show the range of MIC’s North Carolina footprint.

 Newton-Conover City SMALL CITY SYSTEM	2,654 students 7 schools	Close-knit relationships create conditions for coordinated action and rapid learning.
 Winston-Salem / Forsyth LARGE URBAN-SUBURBAN SYSTEM	52,430 students 80 schools	Scale and diversity test how a shared strategy adapts across schools and communities.
 Cabarrus County FAST-GROWING CHARLOTTE-METRO SYSTEM	35,772 students 43 schools	Rapid growth tests whether staffing, facilities, and access can expand together.

Across the cohort: county median income spans ~\$58K-\$94K; population growth since 2020 spans 1.1%-11.6%.

One disciplined pathway turns insight into action.

The process is consistent. The solution is locally designed.



Sustainability is a design criterion at every step.

BUILT TO COORDINATE

The essential parts of the system are already at one table.

PUBLIC SYSTEM

NC Department of Public Instruction | NC Arts Council | Arts North Carolina |
8 School Districts

EVIDENCE + EVALUATION

Internal MIC Evaluator | Duke Sanford School of Public Policy | NORC at the University
of Chicago

DELIVERY + FIELD

20+ national nonprofit partners | NC-based organizations | artists | educators |
communities

PHILANTHROPY

Tullman Family Office as coalition architect | aligned funders supporting
district-defined priorities and data-informed, vetted needs

MIC's job is to turn this collective capacity into coherent, durable district action.

A SHARED BELIEF

**Opportunity should not depend on geography,
income, or the challenges a family faces.**

*MIC applies the same equity principle to the creative learning
experiences that help young people thrive in our modern world.*

A SHARED STANDARD FOR MODERN EDUCATION

Institutional and corporate partners bring more than capital.

The right role begins where a partner's strengths align with district-defined, data-informed, and vetted needs.

01 PLACE-BASED FUNDER

Support priorities in districts where the sponsor has operations, employees, customers, or community commitments.

02 SYSTEMS CHAMPION

Back the connective infrastructure that enables engagement with schools and partners by fueling staffing and operational resources.

03 WORKFORCE + YOUTH THRIVING

Connect creative learning to the human capabilities young people need in modern workplaces and communities.

04 STRATEGIC CONNECTOR

Bring local, state, corporate, and philanthropic leaders — and relevant assets — to the table.

05 LEARNING ALLY

Support measurement, shared learning, and the responsible spread of what works.

AUGUST - OCTOBER 2026

The work now moves from assessment to launch.

Each month narrows the distance between district evidence, vetted partners, aligned capital, and sustainable action.

AUGUST

Complete Mr. Holland's Opus
Foundation's MEDSS findings

District review + validation

Launch NC nonprofit
call to action

SEPTEMBER

Map local assets + gaps

State and MIC partner review

Build district granting plans

OCTOBER

Oct. 14 - Funders Dinner

Oct. 15-16 - Statewide Launch

Move priorities toward action

By launch, funders will see not a list of wants — but a coordinated pathway from evidence to implementation.



BUILD WITH MIC

Where does your footprint intersect with MIC's district priorities?

Help turn vetted needs into sustainable district action — through funding, expertise, relationships, and public leadership.

The future belongs to young people who can create it.

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