



[The Public School Forum of North Carolina](#) is expanding its **Beginning Teacher Network (BTN)** to Union County in the spring. This unique program – sponsored by Golden Corral – offers early-career teachers (1-3 years) the chance to continue their development as classroom instructors while learning how to advocate for the educational profession.

The BTN takes a three-pronged approach to teacher leadership by focusing on the areas of *education policy and advocacy*, *cross-curricular collaboration*, and *professional development*.

- **Education Policy and Advocacy:** Teachers participating in the network will gain a baseline understanding of key education policy issues and strategies for engaging in policy debates.
- **Cross-Curricular Collaboration:** Through collaboration, teachers will enhance their understanding of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and their specific disciplines.
- **Professional Development:** Teachers will strengthen knowledge, develop skills, and learn strategies to improve classroom instruction and student learning.

Work sessions are held on a monthly basis during after-school hours at a central location. Additionally, teachers will form networks using digital tools and social media for greater growth. Each session covers topics chosen by the teachers and will provide strategies, policy discussions, or guest speakers to address a full range of interest areas. By bringing together educational practice and policy, we hope to produce teachers that are “empowered to lead and informed to change” in a new era of teaching.

The Union BTN will be taking applications all throughout the fall and forming a leadership council to plan sessions beginning in January. The year will culminate with a Legislative Day in Raleigh and graduation event involving statewide participants, speakers and special guests. If you would like to participate in the Beginning Teacher Network, please fill out the online application [here](#) or contact Program Director James E. Ford at [jford@ncforum.org](mailto:jford@ncforum.org).

