



# North Carolina State Board of Education

The State Board of Education is charged with supervising and administering "the free public school system and the educational funds provided for its support."

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## sbe highlights

Notes on the state board of education...

Sept. 1-2, 2004

*Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to [/sbe\\_meetings/0409\\_sbagenda.html](#) Click on the appropriate agenda category, High Student Performance (HSP); Quality Teachers, Administrators and Staff (QP); Effective and Efficient Operations (EEO); Healthy Students in Safe, Orderly and Caring Schools (SS); or Strong Family, Community and Business Support (FCB).*

### Issues Session

The September Issues session was held in conjunction with the New Schools Project R3 Northeastern North Carolina High School Conference at the K. E. White Graduate Center in Elizabeth City. A panel discussion with State Superintendent Patricia Willoughby and Board members John Tate and Michelle Howard-Vital focused on business expectations for high school graduates, the motivation to become involved in high school reform and the goal of restoring "joy of learning" in high schools. The panelists also described characteristics of the restructured high schools they had visited. Some of their observations included observable student learning, active learning, enlightened leadership, well-prepared teachers and an emphasis on high standards regardless of student activities.

### Action Agenda

The following items received approval this month. In each case, these items were discussed in August's meeting.

- *North Carolina Early Learning Standards (HSP 1)* - North Carolina is the first state to prepare preschool standards.
- *Proposed Changes to Mathematics Tests Implementation Schedule and ABCs (HSP 2)* - These changes are outlined in detail in the chart attached to HSP 2 in the Board materials.
- *Policy on Teacher Assignment in Local School Administrative Units Receiving Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding (QP 1)* - This policy requires that schools with grades kindergarten through eight that receive Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding to assign highly effective teachers to provide focused interventions to students who have personal education plans. This policy will be effective for 2005-06.
- *Approval of Amendment to SBE/APA Policies Following Public Hearing Input (QP 2)* - Recognition of the Teacher Education Accreditation Council (TEAC) as an Alternative to the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) for Teacher Education Program Approval.

### Action on First Reading

- *Corrections to the 2003-04 ABCs/AYP (HSP 3)* - Corrections for two schools, Casa Esperanza Montessori Charter School (Raleigh) and Guilford County Middle College High School (Guilford County), were approved and a list of non-Title I schools that did not make AYP for two consecutive years in the same subject also was approved.
- *Recommendations Responding to Appeals to Participation in Field Testing (HSP 4)* - No appeals were approved.
- *Procedures Governing Programs and Services for Children with Disabilities (HSP 7)* - This manual is used by local education agencies, public charter schools and state-operated programs to administer their programs for students with disabilities. Each state education agency is required to prepare such a document. The Procedures book was amended to meet requirements by the Office of Special Education Programs, the U.S. Department of Education. This item was moved to action on first reading to facilitate the release of the state's FY 2004-05 grant award to the Department of Public Instruction.
- *IHE Performance Reports (QP 3)* - The State Board approved the annual IHE Performance Reports for the 2003-04 school year. One institution, Livingstone College, was designated as low performing.
- *Healthful School Food Choices Pilot Program (EEO 1)* - The State Board was directed to establish up to eight sites to participate in the Healthful School Food Choices Pilot Program. This program will focus on offering healthful, nutritious food choices in elementary schools. The pilot sites will be the following school systems: Buncombe, Cumberland, Henderson, Hoke, Pitt, Stanly, and Stokes.
- *Approval of Charter Schools Technology Plan (EEO 2)* - Technology plans were approved for Torchlight Academy (Wake County), Bethel Hill Charter (Person County), Healthy Start Academy (Durham County), Kinston Charter Academy (Lenoir County).
- *Approval of Federal Grants (EEO 3)* - Federal Startup Grant Funds for Charter Schools were awarded to Carolina International School (Cabarrus County), Kinston Charter Academy (Lenoir County), Children's Community School (Mecklenburg County), and PACE Academy (Orange County).

### Discussion Agenda

- *High School Exit Standards (HSP 5)* - The Board continued its consideration of using the five end-of-course tests and a performance-based component such as a senior project, service learning or a work-based learning experience as the new high school exit standard. The EOC tests that would be used would be Algebra I, Biology, English I, Civics & Economics and U.S. History. Board members discussed sending this idea to the Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Rigor for discussion and asked staff to provide further recommendations on how the final policy would be handled, especially regarding the performance-based component of the policy. The approval of Option 1 is expected to be considered for action in October with other components such as a timeline for implementation and rubrics for the performance-based component following at a later date.
- *Criteria for Honors Courses (HSP 6)* - In February, the State Board of Education endorsed an agreement with the University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Community College System regarding credit for honors courses. Criteria presented this month are an outgrowth of part of this agreement. Honor course standards will be developed and effective with the 2005-06 school year, with the exception of the Career-Technical Education honors courses, which provide national certification and 5 weighted credits. The Career Technical Education honors courses were approved this month to go into effect for the 2004-05 school year.
- *Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the Impact of Mentor Program Flexibility on Teacher Retention (QP 4)* - The 2003 Budget Bill contained a special provision to allow local education agencies flexibility in the use of mentor funds. The status report was presented this month for discussion showing WHAT. This report will come back to the Board in October for approval.
- *Annual Teacher Turnover Report (QP 5)* - The 2003-04 teacher turnover report showed that 11,299 teachers of the 92,166 teachers employed during the 2003-04 school year left their systems for an average system level turnover rate of 12.37 percent. This rate is relatively stable across the last few years. System-level turnover ranged from a high of 25.76 percent in Bertie County to a low 2.73 percent in Graham County. The top reason for teachers leaving is to teach elsewhere.
- *2005-07 Biennial Budget Process (EEO 5)* - DPI's continuation and expansion budget request for the 2005-07 Biennium is due to the Office of State Budget and Management on Oct 29, 2004. Input into the budget has been received from superintendents, school administrators, teachers, local boards of education, education associations, State Board members and DPI staff. Discussion this month noted that mentoring should be added to the list, and that there could be other items added related to lateral entry and professional development.

### Information Agenda

- *Update on the Teacher Working Conditions Survey (QP 6)* - Ann McArthur, teacher advisor to the Office of the Governor, in conjunction with the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards Commission and the North Carolina Association of Educators, completed the second statewide survey of teacher working conditions. The preliminary data from the second survey was presented for information. Responses were received from more than 34,000 educators, representing 90 percent of the schools and 100 percent of school districts. Results of the survey will be used to identify schools that will be highlighted through the Governor's Award for Schools that are Great Places to Teach and Learn. Good News and Special Recognitions

### New Business

*SBE Leadership* - Howard Lee was re-elected as Chairman of the State Board and Jane Norwood was re-elected as vice-chair.

*Delegation of Authority to Superintendent of Public Instruction* - The Board members voted to rescind the delegation of authority to the Superintendent of Public Instruction until a new State Superintendent is elected, with the exception of the authority to approve contracts.

*Agency Organization* - The State Board of Education approved a new organizational chart for DPI this month. This new plan places the Accountability Division and the division of Human Resource Management directly under the Deputy Superintendent. Exceptional Children and Federal Programs will be under the Area of Curriculum and School Improvement, and Charter Schools will be placed under Financial and Business Services. A new position, Executive Director for Internal Operations, will be created. It will report to the Deputy and will oversee agency-wide initiatives, including Communications.

### Good News and Special Recognitions

- *Ward Recognition* - State Superintendent Mike Ward was recognized and honored for his service over the past nearly eight years.
- *Local Recognition* - Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Schools' Superintendent Dr. Tony Stewart welcomed the State Board members to his community. The Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Board of Education Chairman Paul Small gave a brief history of the city and the county's involvement in public schools, and the phenomenal growth made by the system's schools under the ABCs.

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