



# 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...

**November 22, 2004**

*Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe\\_meetings/041122\\_sbagenda.html](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/041122_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).*

*The State Board of Education held a conference call meeting on Nov. 22 to handle some action items that ordinarily would have been on its December meeting. This conference call meeting expedited the December agenda to enable members to attend the Action Plan for High School Innovation Conference on Thursday, Dec. 2.*

### Action Agenda

- Evaluation of High Priority Schools Initiatives: Second Annual Report (HSP 1) — This evaluation report was approved by the Board. It reports findings from the second year of the study of the efforts to provide 35 high priority schools with funds to reduce class size in K-3, to extend teacher contracts by five days for professional development and to add five additional days to the school calendar. The report, prepared by Metis Associates, provided three recommendations:
  - Offer guidance on best practices for implementing the four components of the HP Schools Initiative.
  - Provide the HP districts and schools with more flexibility to design the extended school year component in a way that best meets local needs.
  - Consider using a K-2 assessment to help measure the extent to which the reduced class size component is impacting academic growth for students in these grade levels.
- Evaluation of Teacher Recruitment and Retention Initiative (HSP 2) — This legislative required evaluation was approved this month of a program that provided \$1,800 salary bonuses to mathematics, science and special education teachers in selected middle and high schools who were teaching in-field and were fully certified in those fields. The evaluation of this program noted that it had a positive effect on the ability of eligible middle and high schools to retain math and science teachers. However, the report noted that the program's design caused some difficulties because of its complexity and timing of implementation. This program has been discontinued. The Board requested that the cover letter to the General Assembly accompanying this report should include statements regarding the facts that the Board believed this program was discontinued prematurely and provided information as to why the bonuses should be reinstated.
- Revision of the North Carolina Second Language Standard Course of Study (HSP 3) — Revisions of the Second Language Standard Course of Study were approved. Major revisions were not recommended to the 1999 Second Language Standard Course of Study. However, the revisions do include Advanced Placement courses for French, German, Spanish and Literature in French and Spanish were added. Also, the Spanish for Native Speakers curriculum was developed as a result of a three-year federal Foreign Language Assistance Program grant. The Latin document, developed by a group of Latin educators, provides a 7-12 grade –by-grade and course-by-course curriculum and includes an Advanced Placement course.
- English Language Arts Standard Course of Study Clarification (HSP 4) — Minor clarifications of goals and objectives of the North Carolina English Language Arts Standard Course of Study were approved. These minor changes are designed to allow for more understanding of the intent of the standards. Standards for Advanced Placement courses (English Literature and Composition and English Language and Composition) also are included with this version of the Standard Course of Study.
- Report on Diversity Training in Teacher Preparation Programs (QP 1) — Session Law 2004-116 directed the State Board to determine whether teacher preparation programs should require courses in diversity training, anger management, conflict resolution and classroom management and to report findings and recommendations to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.
- Revision of the Provisional Licensure Requirements for Health Occupations Teachers (QP 2) — Revisions were approved to the qualifications required for health occupations provisional teacher licenses. These revisions, initiated at the request of local education agencies would allow individuals who are not licensed registered nurses but with degrees in the allied health area, biology and areas related to biology to qualify for provisional licenses. The new policy gives LEAs additional flexibility to attract and hire individuals other than RNs to teach health occupation related courses in the high schools.

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