



# 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

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Nov. 30 - Dec. 1, 2005

*Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe\\_meetings/0512\\_sbagenda.html](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0512_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

*Reading/Literacy Programs and Issues in North Carolina Public Schools* - As a prelude to the Board's first in a series of reading issues sessions, State Superintendent June Atkinson noted that the Department would be applying for a \$50,000 grant from the National Governors' Association's Center for Best Practices to develop a policy plan for adolescent literacy. Atkinson asked Board members to consider what priorities are needed to ensure that all children are good readers. She suggested the following:

- use the right curriculum at all levels to ensure high levels of literacy;
- align curriculum with the assessment system;
- use empirical data to identify student needs;
- use district level literacy plans;
- identify and secure adequate funding and resources to promote reading; and
- provide state guidance and oversight.

NCDPI's K-5 English Language Arts Consultant Mary Rose provided Board members with a brief overview of reading in the English Language Arts Standard Course of Study. Rose discussed the need for balanced, integrated and effective programs of reading instruction. She also provided Board members with reading curriculum expectations for grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-12; information on what a balanced reading program involves; and the teaching model used for reading. Board discussion focused on the need to coordinate reading instruction in all curriculum areas, what schools are doing to identify and help struggling readers, professional development in reading instruction for teachers at all grade levels, resources needed to ensure that elementary school students enter middle school as strong readers and what can be done to further reading skills at the middle and high school level. Board member Tricia Willoughby said that North Carolina needs to measure its performance against other nations - not other states - and that we need to broaden the concept of literacy in a wired world.

Claudia Sikes, NCDPI's Reading First Section Chief, provided Board members with a summary of North Carolina's Reading First program. Reading First, a federally funded grant program, provides reading instruction and professional development to eligible schools based on poverty and reading performance. The program's goal is to ensure that all students read well by the end of third grade. Major requirements of the program include professional development for all K-3 teachers, selection of textbooks and supplementary materials based on scientifically-based reading research, employing a reading coach at each funded school, formative and summative assessments and accountability. Currently, 35 local school districts (98 schools) and four charter schools are participating in Reading First in North Carolina. More than 1,900 teachers and 500 teacher assistants have availed themselves of Reading First's professional development opportunities, a vital component of the program. At the end of the program's first year, all grade levels experienced student achievement growth. Board members then heard first-hand reports from representatives of four school systems participating in Reading First: Judy Goodnight, Kannapolis City Schools; Vivian Huntly, Anson County Schools; Mary Mebane, Halifax County Schools; and Rosemary Harrison, Warren County Schools.

The Board expressed an interest in learning more about the implementation of Reading First at its next Issues Session, including the barriers and challenges experienced during implementation of the federal program.

### Action Agenda

- *LEA Assistance Program (HSP1)* - State Board members voted to accept the LEA Assistance Program report - with noted edits - for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by Dec. 15. The report includes fund expenditures used to assist the state's low-performing local school districts and to assist schools in meeting adequate yearly progress (AYP) under No Child Left Behind. The report also includes criteria used for selecting school districts and schools which require assistance, measurable goals and objectives for the assistance program, an explanation of the assistance provided, findings from the assistance program, and recommendations for program continuance.
- *Assist Local School Administrative Units on the Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act (HSP2)* - The Board voted to accept the report, "Assist Local School Administrative Units on the Implementation of the No Child Left Behind Act," for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by Dec. 15. The report includes the number and location of schools meeting adequate yearly progress with subgroups specified, the assistance models developed for each subgroup, technical assistance provided to a local district or school and the need for additional resources to implement this act statewide. It was noted that schools with the strongest improvements featured principals who were effective instructional leaders and strong, caring classroom teachers. In addition, the entire staff in these schools held high expectations for the students' academic performance and for their own performance.
- *Report of the State Board of Education Ad Hoc Committee on Physical Education (HSP3)* - Board members approved accepting the report of their Ad Hoc Committee on Physical Education. The report examines the feasibility of requiring 150 minutes of elementary physical education and 225 minutes of middle school physical education, including implications and potential consequences, and a list of recommendations for Board consideration in the development of an action plan. At the same time, the Board approved appointing a subcommittee to develop the report's recommendations and create an implementation timeline for Board consideration. The committee will be chaired by Board member Michelle Howard-Vital and include Board members Kathy Taft and Shirley Harris in addition to NCDPI K-12 P.E. and Athletics/Sports Medicine Consultant Kymm Ballard.
- *Addendum to the North Carolina Arts Education Standard Course of Study (HSP4)* - An addendum to the North Carolina Arts Education Standard Course of Study to add Advanced Placement courses for Studio Art (2D, 3D, and Drawing), Art History, and Music Theory, was approved by Board members.
- *Follow-Up Activities for Senate Bill 1117 - Credit for High School Courses Taken Out of State (HSP 5)* - Board members voted to accept the report, "Credit for High School Courses Taken Out-of-State," for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by Dec. 15. Paul Gregg, Troops to Teacher Coordinator in the NCDPI Human Resource Management/ Quality Professional Division, will serve as a liaison for military issues with the public schools. He, along with other DPI staff, will advise the Board regarding any revisions to policy that might be necessary as the result of the Board's action. This is to ensure that all students, especially the children of military personnel, receive credit for courses taken out-of-state.

### Action on First Reading

- *Recommended Interim Academic Achievement Standards (Cut Scores) for the NCCLAS Alternate Assessment (HSP6)* - Interim academic achievement standards (cut scores) for the North Carolina Checklist of Academic Standards (NCCLAS) effective with the 2005-06 school year were approved by Board members. The NCCLAS is a new grade-level alternate assessment for eligible English language learners and eligible students with disabilities.
- *Revision of Standard Professional 1 and Standard Professional 2 Licensure Requirements (QP 5)* - Board members approved revisions to the Standard Professional 1 and Standard Professional 2 Licensure Requirements to facilitate the employment of teachers. Revisions were based on deliberations of the Working Group on Teacher Licensure and Retention to develop criteria for ensuring that teachers with less than three years experience are highly qualified and have options for achieving Standard Professional 2 Licensure through using other state standards in addition to PRAXIS II. The new policy will be sent to all local human resources directors.
- *Recommendations for Charter Schools Advisory Committee Membership (EEO1)* - Board members approved the list of new members and renewal recommendations for the Charter School Advisory Committee.
- *2004-05 Annual Report on School Crime and Violence (SS1)* - Board members approved the 2004-05 Annual Report on School Crime and Violence. North Carolina public schools reported 10,107 acts of crime and violence among the state's 1.3 million students in the 2004-05 school year. In addition to providing totals for specific types of incidents, the report also lists the number of acts of crime per 1,000 students. In 2004-05, that number was 7.485 acts as compared to 7.371 in 2003-04. This number is lower than in 2001-02, the first year that the report included the complete list of 17 reportable acts. The NCDPI Safe Schools and Climate Section provides training and technical assistance to local school systems throughout the school year. Superintendent Atkinson also stressed the need for parent involvement to ensure safer schools. If students come to school without drugs, alcohol or weapons, the number of reportable offenses would drop by about 80 percent based on the 2004-05 statistics. The Board continued to be concerned about the accuracy of the data via the self-reporting process.

### Discussion Agenda

- *Calendar Bill Waivers (HSP 7)* - A summary of school calendar waiver requests for educational programs by local school systems was presented to Board members for discussion. Nov. 15 was the deadline for LEAs to request a waiver. Thirty-one districts submitted waiver requests for 65 schools. Department staff recommended revising the recommendation for Martin County's four high schools (Roanoke, Jamesville, Bear Grass, and Williamston High) to approve these requests because these high schools are in the process of increasing the number of students enrolled in early college programs. The Board will consider approving 38 calendar waiver requests and not approving 27 calendar waiver requests at its January meeting.
- *Revision of the North Carolina Healthful Living Education Standard Course of Study (HSP 8)* - Board members received a revised copy of the Healthful Living Standard Course of Study based on input received from a number of stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, representatives from institutions of higher education, and public health officials. The Board is expected to take action on the revisions at its January meeting.
- *Research-Based Methods to Reduce the Dropout Rate and the Number of Suspended Students (HSP 9)* - Per Senate Bill 408, DPI staff presented to Board members a preliminary report identifying research-based methods to reduce the dropout rate and the number of suspended students for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee in January. Staff requested feedback and guidance regarding the report's recommendations and findings. Following Board discussion regarding the overall report's redesign, Board members decided to request a meeting with the chairs of the Joint Education Oversight Committee in January to discuss this issue in depth and to address the overall need to consolidate the large number of reports the Board is required to prepare, especially since some of these reports address related topics. Chairman Lee will report back to Board members on this request.
- *Amendment to the Policy Defining Academic Rigor (HSP 10)* - A revised policy defining academic rigor (based on a recent meeting of the State Board's Ad Hoc Rigor, Relevance and Relationships Committee) was presented to Board members. Additions to the policy include a "Parents Should" section as well as proposed changes that reflect the state's participation in the American Diploma Project. The Board asked that a timeline be developed to reflect the expectations of the American Diploma Project. The Board is expected to take action on this item at its January Board meeting.
- *Revision of Praxis I Testing Requirement for Admission to Teacher Education Programs (QP 1)* - Board members received a proposal for consideration to allow students who scored at least 1100 on the SAT or a composite ACT score of 24 to be exempt from taking the PRAXIS I. Students who score 550 on either the verbal or math portions of the SAT or 24 on either the English or math portions of the ACT can opt-out of that part of the PRAXIS. Undergraduates seeking admission to a North Carolina-approved teacher education program must pass the PRAXIS I for entrance. Board members are expected to act on this recommendation in January.
- *Revision of Requirements for Preservice Training of Prospective Teachers and Lateral Entry Teachers (QP 2)* - Revised preservice training requirements for prospective teachers and lateral entry teachers were presented. These revisions address positive management of student behavior and the safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint. If Board members approve the revisions at their January meeting, the changes will be effective with the 2006-07 academic year.
- *Revision of Initial Licensure Annual Program Report (QP 3)* - State Board members received a revised Initial Licensure Program Report for consideration. The report addresses recommendations of the Task Force on Teacher Retention and the Select Committee on Lateral Entry. These include measures of both the impact of teacher retention programs and the support local school systems provide to lateral entry teachers. School systems also will begin reporting retention numbers for beginning teachers as well as the reasons for departure. Board members are expected to act on the revised report at their January meeting.
- *Renewal Recommendations for Charter Schools (EEO 2)* - A list of North Carolina Charter Schools seeking renewal for the 2007-08 school year, their performance as per the expectations of the renewal rubric and the recommendations of the Charter School Advisory Committee were presented. Board members are expected to take action on the renewal recommendations at their January meeting.
- *LEA-Wide Calendar Waiver Requests (EEO 3)* - A summary of weather-related waivers to the calendar law was presented for discussion. Seventeen local districts met the weather criteria of missing eight or more days of school because of inclement weather in four the last 10 years. Action on these requests is expected in January.

### Information Agenda

- *North Carolina Part B. State Performance Plan for 2005-2010 (HSP 11)* - Board members received for information the State Performance Plan (SPP) for Exceptional Children Programs for 2005-2010. Twenty monitoring priorities and indicators are included in the SPP as specified by the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Program. NCDPI Exceptional Children Division staff and members of the Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children developed the SPP with input from parents, advocacy groups, other divisions within NCDPI, local education agencies, charter schools, state-operated programs, the community and the NC Collaborative for Child and Family Services. The plan will be submitted to the U.S. Department of Education.
- *Virtual Schools Update (HSP12)* - Lt. Gov. Beverly Perdue provided Board members with an update on NCVirtual (NCV). NCV Advisory Board, chaired by SAS External Relations Director John Boling, has made major progress in keeping NCVirtual on track for opening in the fall of 2006. The Advisory Board will announce its new executive director on Dec. 9, and by late summer the school will have its curriculum in place. Perdue thanked BellSouth for sponsoring a \$100,000 grant from the National Governor's Association, CISCO Systems for providing an executive on loan to work full time with NCV to develop a marketing and communications plan, and Nortel for providing resources as needed.
- *BETA Action Matrix (HSP 13)* - Lt. Gov. Perdue updated Board members on the activities of the Business Education Technology Alliance (BETA). The BETA is required to report annually to the Board on the progress of its recommendations for education technology in the public schools. BETA recommendations were made to the State Board and Joint Education Oversight Committee in January 2005. Several studies were approved during the 2005 session of the General Assembly. Recommendations based on these studies' results will be presented to the Board and the Joint Education Oversight Committee. The General Assembly is expected to consider these recommendations during its 2006 session. Board members received a matrix providing information on actions taken to date and the status of other recommendations.
- *Carl D. Perkins Consolidated Accountability Report (HSP 14)* - In session as the State Board of Career-Technical Education, Board members received for information the Carl D. Perkins Consolidated Accountability Annual Performance Report, which provides a brief overview of Career-Technical Education programs and accomplishments at both the secondary and postsecondary levels in addition to financial and accountability reports.
- *Summary Report from the NC Policy Summit of National Board Certified Teachers on Supporting and Staffing High-Needs Schools (QP 4)* - In August, over 600 North Carolina National Board Certified teachers, other educators, and policy makers met in Greensboro for a day-long conference focused on supporting and staffing high-needs schools. NCAE President Eddie Davis, Karen Garr with the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards and Pat Orange with the Next Level Consulting Group provided a summary of the conference and the recommendations generated by participants.

### Special Recognitions

*FCCLA* - Katie Wade, an eighth grade student at Reedy Creek Middle School (Wake County Schools) and Vice President of North Carolina's chapter of Family Career Community Leaders of America (FCCLA), provided a brief presentation to Board members on her involvement with FCCLA. Wade is serving as page to State Superintendent June Atkinson.

*SBE Local Board of Education Advisor* - Asheboro City Schools Board of Education member and 2006 North Carolina School Board Association's Raleigh Dingman Award Recipient L. Stanley Haywood joined the State Board of Education this month as its Local Board of Education Advisor.

*2006 NCASA Superintendent of the Year* - Wilson County Schools Superintendent Dr. Larry Price was recently named the North Carolina Association of School Administrators' 2006 North Carolina Superintendent of the Year.

*SBE Superintendent Advisor* - Chairman Lee recognized Wake County Schools' Superintendent Bill McNeal on his recent announcement of retirement from Wake County Schools.

*Advisory Commission on Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps* - Fayetteville State University Dean of Education Dr. Joseph Johnson is the new Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Raising Achievement and Closing Gaps.

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