



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 2014

NOTE FROM BOARD CHAIRMAN BILL COBEY – *The State Board of Education is comprised of the State Treasurer, the Lieutenant Governor and 11 citizens appointed by the Governor to create policies to guide North Carolina’s public schools and public charter schools. This newsletter highlights the Board’s activities on behalf of the 1.5 million school children in our state and the more than 100,000 educators who provide services to children. View all State Board of Education member and advisor information online at <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/AboutUs/AboutUs.aspx?S=10399&TID=1>*

READ TO ACHIEVE OPTIONS APPROVED

If you have connections to elementary school, chances are good that you’ve heard plenty about the Read to Achieve law approved by the General Assembly in 2012 and implemented in third-grade classrooms in fall 2013. The law, in a nutshell, requires a number of activities to assure that third graders are reading at grade level before they move to fourth grade. This month the State Board of Education approved alternative reading assessments brought to it by local school districts that want to use something other than the state-developed reading portfolio as one option for third graders to demonstrate that they have met third-grade reading standards. Districts that received approval of this must provide a request signed by the local school board chairman verifying that the local board of education had determined that the requested Alternative Assessment is a valid and reliable standardized assessment of reading comprehension and demonstrates that a student is reading at or above the third-grade level as required by the Read to Achieve Law. Other districts that want to request using one of these recently approved local options can now submit those requests to the NC Department of Public Instruction for approval on behalf of the State Board of Education.

To view the Read to Achieve law, access the budget bill here <http://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2011/Bills/House/PDF/H950v7.pdf> and see page 38. The Guide to Read to Achieve developed by NCDPI is available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/k-3literacy/resources/>.

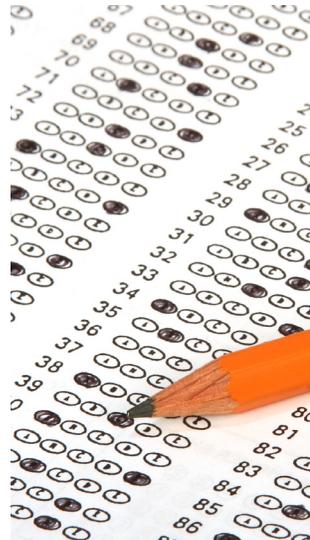
TESTING STABILITY IN PLACE FOR TWO YEARS

Students and teachers can expect to keep the current assessment program and student tests as they are for the next two school years – 2014-15 and 2015-16 – before any potential changes will be considered. An advisory group of K-12 educators, representatives from business and higher education and other stakeholders will be convened to provide recommendations about North Carolina’s future testing program and whether to stay with state-developed assessments or to move to nationally available standardized tests in 2016-17 and beyond.

CHARTER SCHOOL ACTIONS RENEW 10 CHARTERS, CLOSE TWO

Public charter schools can receive charter renewals of up to 10 years in length to continue their operations. The State Board of Education considers each school’s fidelity to its charter and in the areas of enrollment, Exceptional Children’s services, governances, finance and accountability. The following schools were renewed this month as described:

- Ten-Year Renewals: Carolina International School, Community School of Davidson, Crossnore Academy, Sugar Creek and Torchlight Academy.
- Five-Year Renewals: Carter Community, Dillard Academy, Kestrel Heights, Research Triangle Academy.
- Three-Year Renewal: Guilford Preparatory.
- Non-renewal: Coastal Academy for Technology and Science and PACE Academy. Both schools had patterns of noncompliance, low academic performance, and concerns related to the financial sustainability of each school. These schools will be allowed to operate until June 30, 2014.



SBE HIGHLIGHTS – A checklist of Board actions is posted every month immediately after the meeting’s end. Access that at <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/minutes-actions/sbe-actions/2013>. The State Board of Education’s next meeting will be March 5-6 in Raleigh. Proceedings are audio streamed through the Board’s meeting site. Go to ncpublicschools.org and click on the SBE Meetings in the top right corner of the page.