



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

DECEMBER 2014

The State Board of Education is comprised of the State Treasurer, the Lieutenant Governor and 11 citizens appointed by the Governor. This newsletter highlights the Board's activities on behalf of the 1.5 million public 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>. To access current and archived versions of From the Boardroom, visit <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/> and select the "SBE Newsletter" tab.

OUTSTANDING MATH AND SCIENCE TEACHERS RECOGNIZED

The North Carolina State Board of Education recognized six public school teachers in December who are finalists for the Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. These six individuals will compete with other finalists from all 50 states and the District of Columbia for national recognition. The US Department of Education recognition program recognizes K-6 teachers and 7-12 teachers in alternating years.

K-6 Math Teachers:



HEATHER LANDRETH
W.H. Robinson Elementary
Pitt County



KAYONNA PITCHFORD
Stoney Point Elementary
Cumberland County



MEREDITH STANLEY
Haw Creek Elementary
Buncombe County

K-6 Science Teachers:



JUSTIN OSTERSTROM
Martin Middle
Wake County



KRISTIN BEDELL
Efland Cheeks Elementary
Orange County



WENDY DISTEFANO
Bostian Elementary
Rowan-Salisbury Schools

HIGH SCHOOL CIVICS COURSE TO BE CLEARLY ALIGNED TO FOUNDING PRINCIPLES ACT

The State Board considered a recommendation to edit the name of the Civics and Economics course that all North Carolina high school students are required to take for graduation so that it reflects the course's inclusion of standards related to the Founding Principles. The new course name would be: *American History: The Founding Principles, Civics, and Economics*. This change would make it clear that students receive instruction in all three topics during this required course. North Carolina law explicitly requires students in high school to study the Founding Principles. Students are required to take Civics and Economics, United States History and World History in order to graduate from high school. While the Founding Principles information is woven into US history courses, students directly study the principles during the civics course as they learn foundations for American democracy and the United States system of government. The Board considered this change after hearing information about the AP US History standards during a special conference call meeting on Dec. 1. In that meeting presentations were made by College Board Executive Director for AP Curriculum, Instruction and Professional Development John Williamson and retired teacher and author Larry Krieger. The Civics course change would ensure that all students receive ample instruction in the Founding Principles before moving on to US History I and II or to Advanced Placement US History. Action is expected on this change in January.

NORTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL'S ENROLLMENT AT ALL-TIME HIGH

NC's Virtual Public School is now serving 35,205 students enrolled in nearly 53,000 courses online, according to the *2014 NCVPS Annual Report*. More than 150 courses, including 20 Advanced Placement courses, 16 world languages, 10 Occupational Course of Study courses and 12 arts courses are offered through the NCVPS. This total is up from 2012-13 when 47,715 virtual courses were taken by North Carolina students. Since 2007-08, enrollment has more than tripled. Several new courses launched this year, including ACT Prep, AP Physics I, Math 2 and 3, Middle School Art and Music, Spanish 3 and Career Management. Students are successful in the virtual courses with NCVPS exceeding state averages on all end-of-course tests for the general/honors population in the three high school end-of-course tests and exceeded state and national averages for five AP Exams: AP English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science, US Government and Politics, and Chinese Culture.