



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

JUNE 2015

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.

SBE REVIEWS WAY TO GIVE A "THUMBS UP" TO SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

Since 1998, 13 NC public school students have died because of injuries sustained when they were hit by motorists passing a stopped school bus. This number does not include five students who were seriously injured in similar circumstances in this school year. The students injured or even killed in this way ranged in age from elementary to high school. Annual counts show that more than 3,000 motorists pass stopped school buses daily in North Carolina. To help prevent accidents that occur while students are boarding or exiting the school bus, the State Board of Education is considering a policy change that would require local school bus drivers to use a specific hand signal sequence with students to give them one more indication that it is safe to cross the road to board or cross the road after exiting the school bus. The hand signal was successfully piloted in two school districts in 2013. The Board this month learned how a hand signal sequence can add one more safeguard for students in addition to the school buses' stop arms and blinking lights. If Board members give final approval to this policy change, the hand signal protocol of waiting/making eye contact, an OK signal, and a Proceed signal from the bus driver could be in place in some districts as early as this fall and required in January 2016.



program and offers digital access to instructional curriculum and certifications that enable students to learn productivity applications such as Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Access, as well as the fundamental skills necessary in the studies of Computer Science and IT Infrastructure. Because the Academy includes computer-based instruction in addition to traditional instruction, students may take advantage of a variety of options to complete the programs at their own pace, both in the classroom and at home. Students have the opportunity to earn certifications as a Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS), MOS Expert or MOS Master, as a Microsoft Technical Associate (MTA) and/or a Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) by completing the Microsoft IT Academy coursework and passing the appropriate certification exams. Faculty and staff have access to professional development learning plans and also have the opportunity to earn industry credentials through the program.



STUDENT AND STAFF MICROSOFT CERTIFICATIONS REACH 200K; STUDENTS RECOGNIZED AT SBE MEETING

Nearly five years after the launch of the nation's first statewide Microsoft IT Academy, North Carolina students and teachers have earned more than 200,000 professional certifications through this innovative program. State Superintendent June Atkinson joined State Board of Education members, teachers, students, legislators and others in celebrating this milestone at the SBE Meeting. Eighteen North Carolina high school students who earned top honors in the 2015 NC Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) competition also were recognized. The Microsoft IT Academy is part of the state's Career Technical Education

FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES COMING TO LOW-INCOME SCHOOLS

The US Department of Agriculture's Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program will be providing \$4.34 million to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables for students in 196 NC public schools throughout the academic day to promote healthy snacks and healthy food choices and preferences. These fruits and vegetables are to be provided to students in a variety of locations on the school campus throughout the school day, in addition to the fruits and vegetables provided in school breakfast and lunch programs. The Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program will reach approximately 86,500 students statewide.

LEGISLATIVE BREAKFAST: NC General Assembly members enjoyed breakfast at the Education Building before the June SBE meeting to learn more about services the Department of Public Instruction offers to local school districts. Lawmakers also discussed technology, curriculum, and school and district financing with State Board of Education leaders.



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-minutes/2015-minutes>. The State Board of Education's next meeting will be July 9 by conference call.