



# 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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### April 5-6, 2006

*Special Note: To review background materials on each item, please go to [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe\\_meetings/0604\\_sbagenda.html](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0604_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).*

### Action Agenda

- *Presentation of 2006 Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption in North Carolina (HSP1)* - The 2006 Invitation to Submit Textbooks for Evaluation and Adoption for Arts Education K-12 and Family and Consumer Sciences Education 6-12 was approved as presented. The 2006 Invitation will be emailed to all publishers on the Publishers Registry and posted to the NCDPI Web site.
- *Add-on Licensure in School Administration (QP 1)* - Board members approved the recommendation to re-institute add-on licensure programs in school administration. Individuals who holds a master's degree from a regionally accredited institution and have three years of teaching or other professional education experience or who have been employed by a local school system as an assistant principal can be issued an individualized plan of study for a license in school administration. The individual would still need to complete a supervised internship as part of the plan of study, satisfy any requirements prescribed by the institution of higher education and successfully meet testing requirements.
- *Licensure Appeals Process for Extenuating Circumstances (QP 2)* - Board members approved the establishment of an Advisory Board to consider requests for exceptions from licensure requirements in State Board Policy due to extenuating circumstances for individuals who are following initial licensure but have not completed the course work required to maintain a license or who have not met other licensure requirements. The Advisory Board is to be composed of two or more members of the State Board and at least four professional educators. From those individuals appointed to the Advisory Board, the State Board Chair will construct review panels consisting of no less than four professional educators and one State Board member, who will chair the committee, to evaluate applications for exceptions from licensure requirements and make recommendations to the State Board of Education. The appeals panel may require the individual and a representative of the local school system or Institutions of Higher Education to appear before the panel and respond to questions. Staff members also were directed to carry out any rulemaking proceedings as appropriate.

### Action on First Reading

- *Verification of Ability to Impact Student Learning (QP 3)* - Board members adopted an evaluation instrument that can be used in lieu of testing requirements to evaluate teachers converting from a Standard Professional 1 License to a Standard Professional 2 License. Elements evaluated under the instrument are importance of the content, student pride in work and expectations for learning and achievement.
- *Approval of LEAs and Charter Schools Technology Plans (EEO 1)* - School technology plans were approved for Buncombe County Schools, Clay County Schools, Haywood County Schools, Hyde County Schools, Jackson County Schools, CG Woodson School of Challenge, Hope Charter School and Union Academy. Approval qualifies these school systems and charter schools for the School Technology Trust Fund, No Child Left Behind, and federal eRate monies, as well as a variety of private technology grants.

### Discussion Agenda

- *Exemption Requests Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act (HSP 2)* - Board members discussed calendar waiver requests being made under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act. These requests are due for action in May. The Innovative Education Initiatives Act authorizes community colleges, the university system, independent colleges, and local boards of education to jointly establish cooperative innovative programs in high schools and community colleges that will expand students' opportunities for education success through high quality instructional programming. The programs target at-risk students and students who would benefit from accelerated academic instruction. Requests were placed in one of three categories: exemptions being requested for the first time, exemptions also requiring community college approval, or exemptions that have been requested before by high school reform sites and approved by the State Board.
- *LEA Assistance Program (HSP 3)* - A draft report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee detailing State Board activities and funds expended to assist districts identified as low performing and schools needing help meeting Adequate Yearly Progress was presented to the Board. Board members were asked to review the report and to provide input and guidance regarding its contents.
- *Revision of Provisional Licensing Requirements for Media Coordinators (QP 4)* - Board members considered a proposal that would allow individuals with 18 graduate semester hours applicable toward a school media coordinator program to be issued a provisional license. Currently, an individual must have either an "A" level teaching license or a bachelor's degree in media.
- *Revision of Add-On Licensure Testing Policy (QP 5)* - A proposal that would allow individuals with a clear teaching license in one area to add an additional teaching area to the license by satisfying Praxis II testing requirements was presented for consideration.
- *Charter School Grade Changes and Enrollment Increase Requests Above 10% (EEO 2)* - Board approval for enrollment increases was requested for Thomas Jefferson Classical Academy, New Century Charter School and Metrolina Regional Scholars' Academy. Approval for grade span changes was requested for Quality Education Charter Academy and for grade span changes and enrollment increase for Arts Based Elementary School. Board members will act on these requests at their May meeting.

### Information Agenda

- *NC Virtual Public School (HSP 4)* - NC Virtual Public School Director Bruce Friend updated Board members on the seven identified goals for implementation of the NC Virtual Public School (NCVPS). A chart identifying the goals, progress and work to be done was shared with Board members. Friend asked for Board participation or recommendations for participants to assist with the various working committees. State Board Chairman Howard Lee recommended that Department of Public Instruction staff be on these committees. Friend concluded his presentation with an update on Advanced Placement (AP) course offerings through NCVPS and how the program is currently offering AP exam reviews free-of-charge for students taking AP courses. The school also has launched its Web site, [www.ncvps.org](http://www.ncvps.org), where students can register online for the AP exam reviews.
- *Long Range Facility Plans (EEO 3)* - Every five years, each school district is required to submit a long-range plan to the State Board of Education. The survey assesses each district's long-range facility needs based upon the condition and extent of existing facilities, current average daily membership, projected pupil populations for the next 10 years and assessments of other needed facilities. The North Carolina Public Schools' Facility Needs Survey, presented to the Board for informational purposes and later forwarding to the N.C. General Assembly, tabulated the total cost and types of all school facility improvements needed by the state to be a little over \$9.7 billion. This number may change as 30 school systems have yet to submit their data. Consistent with past Facility Needs Surveys, construction costs for new schools outweigh additions to schools by nearly twice as much. Costs for land, furnishings and equipment make up approximately 10 percent of total costs. Elementary schools account for over one-third (37.9 percent) of the total construction costs, and middle schools account for more than one-fifth (22.1 percent) of the total. Growth in student population was given as the most common justification for reporting needs for new schools, renovations and additions.
- *Sixty-five Percent Funding to Instructional Programs (EEO 4)* - The "65% Solution" is gaining serious attention nationally as a way to improve educational outcomes. The "65% Solution" mandates school systems to direct 65 percent or more of their expenditures to classroom activities. NCDPI staff compared per pupil expenditure and ABCs performance composites by school district and found that the 65% proposal would be unlikely to help North Carolina school districts. More details about this idea will be provided to Board members in the future.

### Special Recognition

*CoSN 2006 Team Award Winner, Perquimans County* - The Perquimans County School System was recognized for their receipt of the national CoSN (Consortium for School Networking) 2006 Team Award. The Team Award recognizes school districts that integrate the effective use of technology; demonstrate the use of technology to improve the educational experience for students, teachers, administrators, parents and the community; and deploy innovative ways for technology to differentiate instruction and improve student learning. Although Perquimans County has virtually no industry, one of the lowest average incomes in North Carolina and little local funding for computer purchases, the district has managed through grants, donations, state, and federal funding to achieve a computer/student ratio of less than 1:3, with steady growth in the numbers of computers each year. The district supplies each preK-8 school with a locally-funded technology facilitator who works with teachers and students to ensure that technology is integrated seamlessly into instruction. Additionally, the district provides two locally-funded technicians and a district-level technology coordinator. Perquimans County High School has been the site of a local Cisco Networking Academy to provide students with hands-on courses in computer networking and computer engineering. In addition, a partnership with IBM gave Perquimans Central the opportunity to review and acquire new hardware and software that would be appropriate to preK-2 students. Board members presented Perquimans County Schools' Superintendent Dr. Kenneth Wells, Technology Facilitator Cynthia Stallings, Media Coordinator Melissa Fields, 2nd Grade Teacher Tracy Gregory and Technology Director Victor Eure with a plaque and State Board of Education mugs in recognition of their honor.

### Chairman's Remarks

In his Chairman's remarks, State Board Chairman Howard Lee outlined the proposed timeline for the Board's work to address globalization and 21st century learning opportunities. Board members are expected to receive a presentation on globalization at their May meeting and to have an opportunity to provide input. Input from this meeting will be used to further refine the priority for discussion at the Board's June meeting and retreat. At the retreat, Board members are expected to review all of their strategic priorities to ensure they are relevant to Board priorities and make final adjustments to all priorities. In August, the Board is expected to take action on all its strategic priorities for inclusion in its work plan for the coming year. Chairman Lee also discussed all the work being done at the turnaround high schools. He said he would be spending time at some of these schools and will be talking with principals, teachers, students, parents, community members, business and religious leaders, and hopes other Board members will avail themselves of similar opportunities.

### State Superintendent's Report

In her monthly report, Superintendent June Atkinson discussed a letter sent by the Department to Gov. Easley updating him on the turnaround teams and areas where policy intervention may be needed in order to move students to higher achievement. All 44 high schools identified as having performance composites below 60 percent have submitted their school improvement plans to the department. Department staff will use the information in these reports to plan future activities with these schools.

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