



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

JANUARY 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.

10-POINT GRADING SCALE BEGINS FOR ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, FALL 2015

The State Board of Education revisited an earlier implementation plan this month and decided to move forward with the 10-point grading scale for all high school students in the fall of 2015, rather than a phased-in approach that had been approved earlier. This means all high school students – grades 9-12 – will receive letter grades on a 10-point scale. This revised implementation plan addresses concerns that educators, parents and students expressed about equity of grading scales and athletic eligibility. Other changes to better align quality points for college-level courses will be phased in beginning with ninth graders, fall 2015.

ELEVEN NEW CHARTERS TO OPEN THIS FALL

Eleven new charter schools are slated to open for students this fall. The State Board of Education granted final approval in January for these new educational choices. This will bring the total number of operating brick and mortar charters to 159 schools. The new schools are:

- **Charlotte Lab** – Mecklenburg County
- **Excelsior Classical** – Durham County
- **Ignite** – Pitt County
- **KIPP: Durham Preparatory** – Durham County
- **Winterville Charter Academy (formerly Patriot Academy)** – Pitt County
- **PAVE SE Raleigh** – Wake County
- **Piedmont Classical** – Guilford County
- **Queen City STEM** – Mecklenburg County
- **Shining Rock Classical** – Haywood County
- **VERITAS Community School** – Mecklenburg County
- **Youngsville Academy** – Franklin County

TWO VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICANTS INTERVIEWED

North Carolina moved one step closer to offering a totally virtual public school option for students this month with the interviews of representatives from two applicants interested in participating in the state's first virtual public charter school pilot. NC Connections Academy and NC Virtual Academy are the two applicants interviewed for possible selection by the Board for the two four-year pilot virtual charter schools.

The NC General Assembly in 2014 directed the State Board of Education to approve two virtual charter schools to begin operation in 2015 with first year enrollment limits of 1,500 students each. Students from any county can enroll in the pilot virtual charter schools.

NEW BOARD MEMBER WELCOMED



Gov. Pat McCrory in December appointed Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Board of Education member Eric Davis to the North Carolina State Board of Education. Davis was sworn in and welcomed by his fellow State Board members at the start of the January board meeting. Davis is a senior vice president with Wells Fargo Corporate Real Estate Group. He replaces Marcella Savage from Union County and is an at-large member for a term that ends on March 31, 2021. Davis, a 1983 graduate of the US Military Academy at West Point, served as an officer in the Army Corps of Engineers. He is a graduate of East Lincoln High School (Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools).