



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

FEBRUARY 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.

FIRST SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES PRESENTED IN FEBRUARY

North Carolina's first School Performance Grades were presented to the State Board of Education in February, and 65.4 percent of elementary and middle schools earned a grade of C or better. For high schools, which have additional indicators of career and college readiness included in their grade, 88.8 percent earned a grade of C or better.

In addition, of the schools with a growth status, 79.5 percent of elementary schools met or exceeded academic growth goals, 73.1 percent of middle schools met or exceeded academic growth goals, and 69.5 percent of high schools met or exceeded academic growth goals.

"The state has taken the first step toward establishing an easy-to-understand grading system for school performance," State Board of Education Chairman Bill Cobey said. "The State Board will be considering how to assist schools that received a letter grade of D or F. We have requested funding from the General Assembly to support school turnaround efforts and professional development for teachers so that we can continue intervention services for the lowest-performing schools."

As required by state legislation, the School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on the school's achievement score and 20 percent on students' academic growth. The only exception to this is if a school meets expected growth but inclusion of the school's growth reduces the school's performance score and grade. In that case, a school may choose to use the school achievement score only to determine the final performance score and grade. All public schools, including charter, receive grades.

The School Performance Grades reflect student performance during the 2013-14 school year as required by legislation passed during 2013. The full School Performance Grades report is available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting/> and the School Report Cards are at www.ncpublicschools.org/src/

Overall Performance Grade	# of Schools	% of Schools
A	132	5.4%
B	582	24.0%
C	1,003	41.4%
D	561	23.1%
F	146	6.0%
Total	2,424	100%*

* Due to rounding, the percent of schools will not total 100%.

NC'S FIRST VIRTUAL CHARTER SCHOOLS APPROVED FOR FALL 2015 OPENING

Two virtual charter schools will join the list of public school choice options for students and their families in the fall of 2015 following the Board's approval at its Feb. 5 meeting. These schools will serve as a pilot for this new way of education delivery in the state, and Board members anticipate having frequent updates as these schools prepare to open and begin serving students. The two new schools are: NC Connections Academy, which will serve grades K-9 and up to 1,500 students in the initial year; and NCVirtual Academy, which will serve up to 1,500 students in grades K-10. By the fourth year, these schools will serve grades K-12, and students will be able to graduate from a virtual school.



Michael Lewis



Rich Sheldahl

NC CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION TEACHER AND ADMINISTRATOR OF THE YEAR RECOGNIZED

Since February is Career and Technical Education Month, Board members recognized the NC CTE Teacher of the Year Michael Lewis, carpentry teacher from the Career Center in Robeson County; and Rich Sheldahl, Durham CTE Director.