



From the Board Room

ACTIVITIES OF THE NC BOARD OF EDUCATION

MARCH 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>.

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DROPOUT RATE DECLINES TO 2.28%; SCHOOL CRIME RATES DOWN

Fewer students dropped out of North Carolina public schools in 2013-14 than in any year since dropout rates were tracked and incidents of crime and violence also were down statewide. This information was among the data presented in the annual Consolidated Data Report to the State Board of Education in March. The full report is online at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/research/discipline/reports/consolidated/2013-14/consolidated-report.pdf>.

For the first time, two school districts – Hyde and Tyrrell – reported zero dropouts. Last school year, 2.28 percent of high school students dropped out of school, which represents a 6.9 percent decrease from the previous year's record low of 2.45 percent. Other key findings of the 2013-04 Consolidated Data Report show that:

- A total of 10,404 high school students dropped out in 2013-14 as compared to 11,049 in 2012-13 (5.8 percent decrease).
- There were dropout count decreases in 65 of 115 of school districts.
- The number of high school students dropping out decreased at all grade levels and for all ethnic groups except American Indian students, which had an increase, and multi-racial, which remained the same.
- Males accounted for 62.7 percent of reported dropouts, which was up from the 61.5 percent reported last year.
- Attendance issues were again the reason most often cited for dropping out, accounting for 42 percent of all dropouts. Enrollment in a community college came in second at 14.8 percent.

In terms of crime and violence numbers, the total number of reported acts of school crime and violence decreased by 4.7 percent to 10,132 from 10,630 acts in 2012-13. The rate of acts per 1,000 students also decreased to 6.79 acts per 1,000 students in 2013-14 as compared to 7.20 acts per 1,000 students in 2012-13. As in past years, dangerous or violent offenses accounted for 3.4 percent of all of the 16 categories of reported offenses, and the most frequently reported acts involved illegal possession of controlled substances, weapons (excluding firearms or powerful explosives) or alcoholic beverages, and assault on school personnel. These four acts accounted for 95 percent or 9,630 of the total number of reported acts. Seventy-eight percent or 1,982 schools reported five or less acts of crime and violence. Five districts – Graham, Hyde, Jones, Tyrrell and Washington – reported zero acts at the 9-13 grade levels.

In light of these declines, student short-term and long-term suspensions (10 days or fewer) among students in all grades decreased in 2013-14.

NATIONAL TITLE I DISTINGUISHED SCHOOLS

More than half of all North Carolina schools serve large percentages of students who are low-income, qualifying these schools for federal Title I support. Two North Carolina Title I schools were recognized in March as National Title I Distinguished Schools for their work to close achievement gaps and promote high performance for students. Chocowinity Primary School in Beaufort County was named a School of High Performance. Alicia Vosburgh is the principal of Chocowinity. North Elementary School in Cleveland County Schools was named a School of High Progress. Amy Moss is principal of North.



Alicia Vosburgh, principal
Chocowinity Primary School



Amy Moss, principal
North Elementary School

BOARD MEMBERS RECEIVE A VIEW OF NORTH CAROLINA'S FUTURE

One challenge that the State Board of Education has is to anticipate the future needs of North Carolina public school students. This month, SBE members were briefed by Dr. James Johnson, professor and demographic researcher at the UNC Chapel Hill Kenan-Flagler School of Business, with projections about the state's population over the coming decades. In summary, North Carolina's population is aging, is becoming more racially diverse and continues to have areas of high poverty among young people. North Carolina's population is growing along the I-40 corridor from Forsyth County to Johnston County, in Mecklenburg County and its neighbors, and in the coastal counties of New Hanover and Brunswick. At the same time, many rural counties are losing population, and 44 of the state's 100 counties recorded more deaths than births in 2010-12. As the baby boomers age, there is a growing older population and a decline in people ages 25-44. The number of people under 25 grew by more than 5 percent. Want to see the entire presentation? It's online at <https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=1730>.