

January 14, 2010

The Honorable Beverly Perdue  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

Dear Governor:

As you know, the North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE) has long fought to improve the quality of public schools and the quality of teaching in the state of North Carolina. We have embraced the collaborative effort in putting together the Race to the Top (RTTT) grant application and the honest dialogue about how provisions in the grant impact the classroom.

The NCAE believes that all education stakeholders should constantly be engaged in a conversation about how we transform our public schools so that we are meeting the needs of our citizenry and the demands of an interconnected global economy. We believe that every child has value and that a child and a teacher are more than just a test score. NCAE has long embraced the four key goals in Race to the Top; great teachers and leaders, strong assessments, innovation in the classroom, and turning around low performing schools. In order to truly transform our schools North Carolina must continue to listen to the great educators across our state and to provide them the tools they need to be successful.

The application process has been very collaborative and has included over 20 state NCAE leaders and the engagement of over 100 local affiliate presidents. We are encouraged by the guarantee that we will continue to be at the table as decisions are made.

The NCAE has long struggled with issues surrounding tying educator compensation to test scores. We believe that viewing teacher performance only through the lens of a test is unfair to both the student and the teacher. We appreciate the guarantee from you and the State Board of Education that any proposed compensation system will look at multiple measures and will continue to tie compensation to skills, responsibilities, and education level.

We support your work to improve our public school system and with the promise of continued collaboration we support the framework that is outlined in this grant.

Sincerely,

Sheri Strickland  
NCAE President