

NCAE SBE Review

The State Board of Education met in Raleigh, April 1-2, 2009

1. The SBE voted to defer the current Graduation Project requirement for one year. The SBE intends to recognize the LEAs that are moving forward with 21st Century authentic assessment and work in collaboration with the LEAs that are struggling to implement the requirement. The SBE is not eliminating the requirement but allowing all LEAs to "catch up" and move forward.
2. The SBE voted to defer the new master's pay policy in an unexpected move, delaying implementation of the new policy granting graduate pay for all Masters Degrees for one year. Instead of taking effect July 1, 2009 as previously announced, the policy will now be effective July 1, 2010. The economic crisis in NC was cited as the rationale for the delay. **This will have no impact on individuals currently receiving pay for a graduate degree.** Anyone who previously intended to appeal the denial of their request for masters pay may proceed with the appeal. As a reminder, to be awarded pay for your advanced degree it must be from a regionally accredited institution of higher education and be directly related to the licensure area you hold. See your local HR representative to initiate or resume an appeal. You may also contact Julie.Dwyer@ncae.org in the NCAE Center for Teaching and Learning for assistance in determining if your degree is directly related and worth an appeal. If you intend to appeal, you will need your transcripts as well as course descriptions for the courses you took. The state typically looks for at least 18 hours of directly relevant coursework.
3. The SBE approved 14 new Mathematics and Science Partnership Grants. The grants are collaborative projects with Institutions of Higher Education and LEAs and/or consortiums. All LEAs are eligible for the grants, and only 14 LEAs applied.
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0904/tcs/04tcs01.pdf
4. The SBE was informed that NC WISE is now statewide. Every LEA is connected to NC WISE, either in real time or taped delayed.
5. The SBE approved the following invitation for textbook adoption: Mathematics 6-12, Second Languages 6-12, English Language Development (ESL) K-12, and Agricultural Education 7-12.
6. The SBE adopted the following policy regarding students scoring a Level II to have their test results calculated in the performance composite of the ABCs and AYP.

I. End-of-Grade

A. Effective with the 2008–09 school year and beyond:

1. All public school students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8 who score Achievement **Level II** on the first administration of the end-of-grade reading and/or mathematics assessments and/or their alternate assessment **shall be administered Retest 1**. Parents of students who score Achievement Level I must be notified that they may request that their children be administered Retest 1. The higher of the original or Retest 1 scores will be used for calculating ABCs Performance Composites and AYP results.

2. All public school students in grades 5 and 8 who score Achievement **Level II** on the first administration of the **end-of-grade science assessments and/or their alternate assessment shall be administered Retest 1**. Parents of students who score Achievement Level I must be notified that they may request that their children be administered Retest 1. The higher of the original or Retest 1 scores will be used for calculating ABCs Performance Composites. **Note:** Students identified as limited English proficient (LEP) in their first year in U.S. schools who score below Level 4 Expanding on the state English language proficiency reading subtest are exempt from Retest 1 because these students' scores are not used in state or federal accountability.

B. LEAs must ensure that all original administration and Retest 1 scores are submitted to NCDPI by the deadline for accountability data submission. (June 30th)

II. End-of-Course

A. Effective with the 2009–10 school year and beyond: All public school students who score Achievement **Level II** on the first administration of an end-of-course assessment (i.e., Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry, Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Physical Science, Civics and Economics, U.S. History, and English I and/or their alternate assessment) **shall be administered Retest 1**, and the higher of the original or Retest 1 scores will be used for calculating ABCs Performance Composites and AYP results (where applicable). Parents of students who score Achievement Level I must be notified that they may request that their children be administered Retest 1. **Note:** Students identified as limited English proficient (LEP) in their first year in U.S. schools who score below Level 4 Expanding on the state English language proficiency reading subtest are exempt from Retest 1 because these students' scores are not used in state or federal accountability.

7. The SBE received disturbing news from the US DOE regarding the use of OCS assessments. The US DOE has informed NC DPI/SBE that the students taking the OCS assessments are not taking rigorous enough courses and assessments. The US DOE believes that since only 12 high schools receive Title I funding, few students will be impacted by this decision. If NC wants to assess these students for AYP, they could administer the Algebra I, Biology and English I. To administer these students' regular end-of-course tests would be criminal. The SBE could not believe the cavalier attitude of the US DOE and will be sending further explanation. In the meantime, the NC DPI is going to move toward revamping the current OCS to become more aligned to the 21st Century Skills. NCAE is going to send a letter to the US DOE to express concerns over this lack of understanding that not all students fit into a nice neat little box and have the cognitive skills to take a regular state assessment.
8. The SBE heard a preliminary report on the 2008-09 writing assessment pilot. Over 5,000 teachers responded to a survey on the pilot process. There will be some changes made to the process. One change will be the name of the assessment: Writing Instruction and Assessment for 2009-10. The writing assessment should be a process that affords students the opportunity to learn that writing is a cross-curriculum process. Two content-specific assignments and two on-demand tasks will be the practice again next year, the proposed change is not to increase the prompts to six. There will be more flexibility on when to collect and score the tasks. The content-specific assignments are not to be standardized and completed on a mandated date, but could be completed in a lab, media center, home or classroom. If you would like to see all 14 proposed changes, check out; http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0904/gcs/04gcs07.pdf

9. The SBE received information on a proposed change for CTE in the area of Construction Education. The new policy calls for teachers to become certified in NCCEER (National Center for Construction Education Research), which will enable students to earn National Certification and enhance their job opportunities with the trade credential. The certification process for teachers will be paid for with Perkins funds or state PD funds. The training takes two days. Students completing the courses and passing the assessments will be placed in a national registry. The implementation timeline is August 2010. To date, over half of the 267 Career & Technology teachers have completed the national certification.
10. The SBE received a demonstration on how the NCVC (North Carolina Virtual College) at ECU is supporting 18 juniors from high schools in Pitt County. The platform used for the courses is Second Life.
11. The SBE approved the revisions to the licensure requirements for school counseling and school social work. A counselor now has to do the following: Complete a master's degree in Agency Counseling, Clinical Mental Health, Community Counseling, or Rehabilitation Counseling from a regionally accredited college or university, or complete a minimum of 18 graduate semester hours applicable toward in a school counselor program. A school social worker now has to do the following: Complete a bachelor's, master's, specialist, or doctoral degree in sociology or social work.
12. The SBE discussed how to collect and use data collected from the new administrators and teachers evaluation instruments. Possible reasons to collect the data include validation of process, research to help inform and improve teaching and leadership skills, correlation between low-performing school districts and educator evaluation.
13. The SBE approved LEAs' and Charter School's late technology plans.
14. The SBE approved school-based calendar waivers.
15. The SBE received a brief report on the success of the NC VPS on supporting students with credit recovery.
16. Superintendent Atkinson provided an update on The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act: Saving and Creating Jobs and Reforming Education. NCAE members, check out the NCAE web page regularly for updates on the ARRA stimulus act.