

**Unite**  
**Organize**  
**Empower**

We are **NCAE!**

# NCAE SBE REVIEW

NCAE SBE

OCTOBER 2011

## Accountability and Standard Issues

### Impacting Students and Staff

The certified staff in the [118 Persistently Low Performing Schools](#) are eligible for Race to the Top bonus funds. An incentive will be distributed to certified staff in the schools that achieved higher than expected improvement for the 2010-11 school year. The maximum an eligible certified staff will receive is \$1,500. A staff member returning to the same school for 2011-12 will receive 100% of their eligible bonus and if they did not return to the school they shall receive 50%.

1. The following schools requested to be exempt from the field-tests and were denied: Central Park School for Children, Doris Henderson Newcomers School, Gillespie Park Elementary School, High School Ahead Academy, Oak View Elementary School, Colfax Elementary, Enloe Magnet High School, Fox Road Elementary and Charles Bugg Elementary.
2. [Career and College Promise](#) legislation calls for consolidating and replacing existing high school transition programs to provide clear pathways for dual enrollment students. Dual enrollment has been an option for students since 1987. NEW eligibility criteria and rules of procedure for the dual enrollment programs begin in January 2012 have been approved by the NC Community College System, NC DPI and the State Board of Education.
  - ◆ College Transfer leading to a college certificate,
  - ◆ Career and Technology Education leading to a certificate, diploma or degree,
  - ◆ and Cooperative High schools must fit into one of the new pathways by 2014.
3. The 2011 General Assembly passed legislation entitled the **Founding Principles Act** calling for a new high school graduation course and assessment. Socials Studies staff at NC DPI have reviewed all social studies content, specifically US History and Civics & Economics and have outlined the content showing that there is **100% alignment** to the “founding principles.” One simple modification was to change the name of US History to American History. The General Assembly also passed legislation to eliminate statewide assessments not required by the US Department of Education; there by eliminating the US History and Civics and Economics end-of-course tests; both of which would have measured the “founding principles.” Assessment tasks have been created by NC DPI, as well as formative assessments created by teachers. NC DPI is strongly encouraging LEAs to use the Online Writing Instruction to conduct assessments to measure knowledge of the “founding principles’.”

*Information continued on page 3*

## Renewal Credits Update

**It is true!** Teachers now only need 7.5 renewal credits (CEUs) to renew their teaching license. Renewal credits should align to the professional development plan of the educator. All teachers (**K-12**) will need to earn **1 CEU** in Literacy and **1 CEU** in their subject/content area during each five year renewal cycle. The remaining 5.5 CEUs needed will be called “general credits” and should be connected to LEA goals, school issues, and relevant needs of the teacher. Completing the National Board Certification process will allow teachers to earn 7.5 and a NBCT renewing will earn 2.5 CEUs. Educators will no longer receive renewal credit for completing a year of teaching.

Teachers who allow their teaching license to expire will need to earn 15 CEUs to earn a new valid license. This new policy will be voted on in November.



NC Teacher of the Year Tyronna Hooker and Angela Farthing of NCAE both served on the Renewal Credit Task Force.

## NC FALCON Rocks!

Don't be afraid of the FALCON! This tool is here to enhance teaching and student learning. SERVE conducted a review of the NC FALCON implementation in NC and the results are phenomenal! What follows are some highlights of teacher and student feedback to the SBE members.

One student shared that the Criteria for Success strategies were the reason she is now a successful math student. The rubric assisted her in understanding what she would learn because the terms were in common language. Two teachers, one a NBCT, said that NC FALCON was just as transformative as the National Board Certification process. NC FALCON supported their PLC conversations on student targets and how to approach each student with specific targets. The other Math teacher said he volunteered to work with the pilot because he wanted to be a great teacher and the tools provided via NC FALCON made him a better teacher. These teachers, from Millbrook High School worked together using NC FALCON and 100% of these students had growth in math. Check out [www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/falcon/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/falcon/)

## Accountability Issues continued



Farthing and Angela Quick of DPI discussing ACRE.

4. The NC Accountability Model and ESEA/NCLB Act has new flexibility components and will allow NC to implement the **ACT** assessment to all 11th graders this school year on March 6th. **NO** test results will be used for school accountability in 2011-12. The ACT will not be a high stakes test for students but one for school performance.
5. NC is applying for the new ESEA/NCLB waivers. The plan is to submit in the first round due in November. NCAE will keep member apprised of the changes.

## Calendar Notes

In accordance with Section 5.1.2. – Benefits & Employment Policy Manual

Personal leave may be used only upon authorization of the immediate supervisor.

Unless approved by the principal, a teacher shall not take personal leave on the first day teachers are required to report for the school year, on required teacher workdays, on days scheduled for State testing, on the last working day before or the next working day after holidays or annual vacation days scheduled in the calendar.

On all other days, if the request is made at least five days in advance, the request shall be automatically granted subject to the availability of a substitute teacher.

A teacher who requests personal leave at least five days in advance cannot be required to provide a reason.

Personal leave may be used on any instructional day or workday except as noted in (b) above.

For the additional days (formally protected work days) the board is able to grant a waiver to use as teacher workdays that will enhance students' performance.

Non-Protected Workdays – Workdays that are not designated as mandatory attendance workdays.

**2 of the 10 non-instructional days** must be designated as days that teachers may take accumulated annual leave (optional workdays).

Limited to the accrued personal leave balance as of the leave date.

Workdays that the local board can designate as mandatory workdays; if not mandatory, non-protected workday provisions apply.

*“If public education ceases to become the hallmark of our democracy—who must bear the blame?”*

*Former State Superintendent C Phillips*



## Race to the Top

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/readyssetgo/>

This web site will provide you with reports, forms and actions to date on how the RT3 funds are being used for educational reform in NC.. You can find the 117 LEAs Detailed Scope of Work if you are not aware of what you LEA is doing to meet the plans voted on by stakeholders.

## Other SBE Actions

1. Approved the Downtown Middle School charter changes based on the following conditions: DTMS Board of Directors will continue to be a brick and mortar school and not a virtual charter school; All teachers shall deliver face to face instruction on the premise of the brick and mortar school. The school is free to use supplemental services or instructional aides; however, any online courses provided by DTMS must be pre-approved by NCVPS, and the Office of Charter Schools will follow up with site visits to ensure these conditions are adhered to.
2. Heard that NC DPI is conducting research on how a balanced calendar may better impact students in NC.
3. Received the 2011 Institution of Higher Education Report for Teacher Education Programs. Currently there are 48 approved undergraduate programs, 29 approved graduate programs and 19 MSA approved programs. A snapshot of trend data shows the budget problems have impacted higher education. For example; in 2007-08 94% of the graduates earned a license and 68% were hired in NC schools. In 2010-11 80% were licensed and 48% were hired in NC schools.
4. Approved the Race to the Top NC Education Cloud Blueprint, which can be found on the RT3 web site noted above.
5. Approved the first ever regional school. The Northwest Regional School of Agriscience and Biotechnology will serve students in Beaufort, Martin, Pitt, Tyrell and Washington. Partnerships include the Vernon James Center, NCSU, NC New Schools Project and NC STEM. The goal is to have the school to open in 2012-13.
6. Received information on the NC VPS Revenue Plan as well as an update on strategic planning within the Virtual School. There is a Virtual Peer Tutoring Program that has 36 students to assist other students with a teacher recommendation. This group also has a Blog Tutor Talk that provides tips and strategies for first time virtual students.

