

NCAE State Board Review

Provided by the NCAE Center for Teaching and Learning
October 2, 2009

The SBE met in Raleigh, September 30-October 1, 2009. The following actions took place.

1. Approved honors course policy revisions, providing clarity on grade calculations, and the applications schools must use to seek honors course credit. Many of the changes were based on an external audit of the honors programs offered across the state.
2. Approved an additional high school course that can be taken by eighth graders. The new course is English I. This policy change is not a mandate, but an opportunity for middle school students who are strong in humanities to be allowed more challenges and rigor.
3. Approved the Supplemental Educational Service Providers evaluation policy. This policy was created to ensure that students receiving support based on AYP data under the ESEA NCLB Act, are indeed meeting the needs of the students and that the students are successful.
4. Approved the new list of instructional materials for Mathematics 6-12, Second Language Education 6-12, English Language Development K-12, Agricultural Education 7-12. There were 23 publishers who submitted titles, with 22 publishers being selected with over 260 titles. The main criteria for selection included alignment to the NC SCS, 21st Century Skills, and technology integration. A caveat for schools this year and next is that there is no textbook money in the state budget for new adoptions. There is only state funding for new students or replacement books. If a LEA or school wants to purchase the newly adopted instructional materials, they can use other funding sources.
5. Discussed proposed revisions to HRS A 000, which is Definitions of Reportable Acts, known to principals as guidelines for reporting crimes to law enforcement. This policy is being revised due to concerns raised by educators calling for new legislation. There was some confusion over the intent of the changes and the members of the SBE asked for clarification and better language for the November meeting.
6. Approved new evaluation standards for school psychologists that are aligned to other new evaluation systems.
7. Approved the Institution of Higher Education Report Card. Based on the criteria adopted for rewards and sanctions, no institution is designated Low Performing.
8. Approved Learn and Serve America program grants. \$275,000 is being awarded to the schools who applied and the \$193,000 remaining will be used for professional development tied to the new essential standards.

9. Received a report from Lt. Governor Dalton on the E-Learning Commission. He noted the progress North Carolina has made over the last four years.
10. Received an up date on the ACRE (Accountability, Curriculum Reform Effort). This work includes revisions that will become the new essential standards for all curriculum areas, assessments that are both created by teachers as well as standardized tests, and accountability issues. There will be a breakout session at the NCAE Fall Joint PD Conference on ACRE and You.
11. Received an up date on the Transformation work being conducted in six LEAs and Halifax.
12. Received an up date on CEADRS, Common Education Data Analysis and Reporting Systems. This is the new longitudinal data system to better support student achievement.
13. Received an up date on the America Diploma Project (ADP) Algebra II assessment that over 27 states participate in last spring. The consortium results were not all that positive; however, NC students obtained the highest average scale score. Last spring 17 LEAs, 26 schools and 2,551 students participated in the ADP Algebra II assessment. The SBE granted permission for LEAs to volunteer again this year to participate in this assessment. Students who take the ADP Alg II assessment will not need to take the NC EOG Alg II test.
14. Received information from the formative evaluation of the NCVPS. This evaluation was based on three years of data. Some highlights of the evaluation:
 - 43% of the teachers reported that their students were learning more online compared to face-to-face
 - 77% of the teachers said the professional development was supporting their needs
 - 95% of the teachers noted that the curriculum was more rigorous than last year
 - Career and Technical students were significantly more likely to agree with success compared to the Foreign Language students taking online courses
 - 72% of the students noted the courses were rigors and engaging, while 92% of the teachers said the courses were rigors and engaging
 - There is still a barrier for some students to have access to the NCVPS: barriers could be technology, counselors or teachers not recommending this type of course for students or principals not supporting the concept
15. Approved the Care for School Children with Diabetes – Additional Requirements and forms. Please check out this link <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/stateboard/meetings/2009/10/hrs/10hrs02.pdf> which contains the forms needed and the dates for upcoming training sessions for educators.
16. Approved the annual report on Reasons Teachers Leave the Profession. The report can be found at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/stateboard/meetings/2009/10/tcp/10tcp04.pdf>