

SBE Review

January 8 - 10, 2008 Meeting

In this issue:

Assessment Updates, Teacher Education Program Changes, Policy Changes for the Teacher of the Year Program and Charter School News

The following actions took place at the SBE meeting:

1. Granted permission for NC to participate in the pilot of the Achieve Algebra II test. This test is not completely aligned to the NC SCS for Algebra II but will contain similar items to the state test. There are nine other states that will administer the Achieve test to all students taking Algebra II; NC DPI will seek volunteers to take the test. The SBE is interested in the test due to the format and diagnostic feedback the schools will receive in a timely manner, as well data to compare NC students to other states' students. The test consists of a core exam plus optional "add-on" modules. Students will have access to a calculator for one of the two 45 minute testing sessions. The 60 item test will consist of 50 multiple-choice items, 7 short-answer items and 3 extended-response items; **30% of the students' score will be based on the short answer and extended-response items.** The window for the first administration of the test will be May 1, 2008-June 13, 2008. At this time high school students in NC taking Algebra II will take both the NC EOC Algebra II and Achieve assessments, unless the SBE policy can be "seen" as flexible enough to allow the schools who volunteer to be part of the pilot to only administer the Achieve Algebra II test.
2. Approved the following alternative assessment standards, descriptors and/or cut scores: NCEXTEND2 OCS in English I and Math, NCCLAS EOC for Algebra I & II, Geometry, and English I, and achievement level descriptors for NCEXTEND2 EOG writing for grades 4 and 7.
3. Discussed the issue of high school courses taken by middle school students and the type of credit a student receives. Current policy allows students taking math or a second language course that meets the high school criteria to earn high school credit. DPI would like to add science courses to the subjects students can take to earn high school credit. This proposed policy change would afford students the opportunity to take more science courses in high school.
4. Received information on requiring a child enrolling in kindergarten to be five (5) years of age before August 31st of that school year. This new policy goes into effect the 2009-2010 school year. This policy will impact several areas in the pre-school and K arena. The More At Four and Smart Start programs will have a decrease in their cohort numbers; while more than likely expanding the exceptional children's program for the early grades. It is also estimated that the smaller cohort may possibility change the ADM in schools and thus cause a need for fewer teaching positions at the K level.
5. Received data that five LEAs still have not submitted the Healthy Active Children Policy survey on how the new policy is being implemented in schools. The survey was due to DPI the end of July, and Hyde, Lee,

**Globally
Competitive
Students**



Perquimans, Rutherford and Stanly have not yet responded.

6. Received an update on the Child Nutrition Program (CNLP). North Carolina has the 8th largest Child Nutrition Program serving 1.2 million meals a day by over 15,000 Child Nutrition employees. Over half of the student population in NC qualifies for some form of a Free and Reduced Lunch. There are at least 440,000 children that come from food insecure house holds. The cost to prepare a student meal is \$2.80, while the cost to the student is \$1.70. For more information on the CNLP contact CTL.

Business, Finance and Advocacy



21st Century Systems

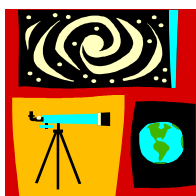
1. Received the framework for the ROPES – Reaching One’s Potential for Excellence Scholars Program. This pilot drop-out prevention program has not received funding. If you need more details go to: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0801/tcs/0801tcs01.pdf
2. Approved the Joint Technology Commission Report which requests at least \$12 million for school technology needs. The full report can be found at: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0801/tcs/0801tcs02.pdf
3. Approved appointments to the State Evaluation Committee on Teacher Education. This year for the first time there are two practicing classroom teachers on the committee; Roy Beaman from Montgomery County and Tom Turner from McDowell County.
4. Approved the membership for BETA (Business Education Technology Alliance).
5. Approved **with conditions**, 114 class size waivers for grades K-2 in Wake County. There was much discussion and frustration over the request for class size waivers for grades K-2. The waivers were granted under these conditions: Wake must inform DPI by next month how parents are being notified of overcrowded classes; parents with children in these overcrowded classes may request a transfer and Wake must accept the request. Wake must also provide a corrective action plan for 2008-2009 school year and ensure that this issue will be resolved. No later than February 11, 2008, Wake must provide data on how class size is not exceeding the school average. A possible solution to the issue of class size in any grade would be to seek legislative changes on how the ADM is calculated and the length of time a LEA has to correct overcrowded classes.
6. The SBE TCS committee discussed at length, proposed policies for implementing EVAAS, Educational Value Added Assessment System, for all LEAs and not just the DSSF LEAs. This tool was first used in TN and is a tool to support teacher growth and not be used as part of one’s evaluation. The proposed policies have been changed with major input from NCAE. There is still controversy over how the EVAAS tool can be used and how the data is to be kept. The SBE will continue to discuss this issue in February. For more information on this issue contact CTL.
7. Received as information updates on various reports the DPI and SBE provided the Joint Education Oversight Committee.
8. Received as information reports from the Blue Ribbon Testing Commission and the Blue Ribbon Charter School Advisory Committee. The SBE received the reports without any action. The SBE will begin reviewing the recommendations and working on some of the recommendations in the coming months.

Items of interest from the Charter School Committee include: raising the current 100 cap, calling for stronger charter authorizing processes, providing more effective oversight and closure for schools not meeting the mandates prescribed in the legislation and seeking more support from valuable partners and organizations. NCAE does support charter schools that are following the legislative mandates and providing strong academic and innovative support for students. NCAE does not think removing the 100 Charter School Cap is prudent at this time.

Items of interest from the Blue Ribbon Testing Commission include: reducing the number of assessments currently being used, revising the K-12 curriculum to include the essential skills instead of the current broad and narrow focus, providing diagnostic assessments and professional development for teachers to conduct better formative and project-based assessments, removing the writing tests and assessing writing skills in a different manner, and replacing the current 8th grade Computer Skills test with more authentic assessments of computer literacy with the curriculum and graduation project. Some technical changes are being recommended as well; any student who scores with the standard error of measure of Level III on an EOG/EOC test or retest be counted as proficient. **NOTE:** retests scores are to **count!** For more details on this contact CTL or:

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0801/0801sagenda.html

21st Century Professionals

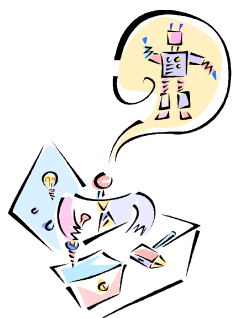


1. Approved the following Teacher Education Programs for: East Carolina University, Elon University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, Saint Andrews Presbyterian College, and Winston-Salem State University.
2. Approved revisions of Teacher Education Program Approval process. Some of the major changes include: separating NCATE and State Evaluation and making national accreditation voluntary, replacing the annual seven-year review cycle with the McREL candidate evidence evaluation instrument, replacing the Praxis I with a 21st Century Assessment, requiring school leaders to complete a portfolio instead of taking the SLLAC Assessment, making the 2.5 GPA a licensure requirement rather than a program admission requirement. For more details on these changes go to:
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0801/tcp/0801tcp02.pdf
3. Approved the Annual Report on Reasons Teachers Leave the Profession which can be downloaded at:
http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0801/tcp/0801tcp03.pdf
4. Approved the request to establish a fourth Regional Alternative Licensure Center. Currently the three RALC are located in Nash/Rocky Mount, Cumberland, and Cabarrus.
5. Approved revisions in the policy on financial incentives for the state and regional teachers of the year. The changes include beginning with the fiscal year 2008-09. Upon returning to the classroom after his/her year as North Carolina teacher of the year, the teacher will retain the three (3) step or six (6) percent (if the teacher has twenty-seven (27) years or more of experience) salary increase above the base pay. This incentive will remain in place as long as the teacher remains in the classroom in an instructional role. The teacher will also have the option of eleven or twelve months of employment. The additional one or two

months may include work on local, regional and state initiatives; working with beginning teachers; serving on local, regional and state committees; developing and delivering professional development; or other functions as assigned by the employing LEA. The teacher will be responsible for signing a waiver form if he/she opts out of the twelve (12) months of employment. This policy is to help keep the NC TOY in the classroom.

6. Received as information the report on Professional Development for School Leaders. This report calls for major overhauls in how school leaders receive professional development and are engaged in the communities they serve. Copies of this report will be provided to the NCAE Administrator Board.
7. Discussed possible changes in the lateral entry licensure policies, such as allowing a LE candidate to seek a second LE license if needed.

Leadership for Innovation



1. Approved a ten year charter renewal for: Brevard Academy, East Wake Academy, Franklin Academy, Lake Norman Charter School, Lincoln Charter School, Hawbridge School, River Mill Academy, Tiller School and The Woods Charter School. Approved a two year charter renewal for Cape Lookout, and a three year renewal for Kestrel Heights. Pulled from the renewal list for more discussion; Dillard and Kennedy. Denied a renewal for SPARC, which will close in June 2008.
2. Approved most enrollment changes requested by charter schools, with exceptions for Gaston College Preparatory and Pine Lake Preparatory.
3. Approved Charter School Technology plans.
4. Received information and approved the report on the Evaluation of Learn and Earn Early College High Schools. Overall this innovative approach to teaching high schools students is a success. The highlight of the report is that there are students who are the first in their families to be able to earn a degree.
5. Received updates on NC Virtual Public School policies. The NCVPS is meeting the needs of students who want to be challenged and/or take courses that their high school does not offer.
6. Received an update on the Comprehensive Support Pilot program which is replacing the former ABCs Accountability Assistance Team Model. This new DPI Comprehensive School Project is to afford the type of support each school and/or LEA needs without the one-size-fits all type of support or assistance. This year Columbus County and Lexington City are receiving services under this new redesigned support program. The schools and/or LEA participate in a collaborative screening and review process to gather data to decide what type of support is needed to improve the schools and student achievement. The framework has menu options for schools to select assistance and each site will have a District Coach to align support and resources. The DPI is also supporting statewide 75 high schools, 40 middle schools and 20 elementary schools with this newly redesigned assistance support.
7. NC WISE has a 91% customer approval rating.

Other News

1. DPI is working on creating a coordinated conference process to bring together more stakeholders at one time, instead of conducting a variety of conferences through out the year.
2. The Gates Foundation has awarded DPI a grant to work on a Data Management Program to better support the Instructional Technology

- Systems and to provide faster service to the LEAs.
3. The following schools received Kate B. Reynolds Trust funds to support Physical Education Programs with new and innovative methods to ensure students are active and healthy: Snowden, West Bertie, Colerain, Aulander, Windsor, East Arcadia, Whitnel Four Seasons, West Lenoir, James Love, Coker Wimberley, Scotland Neck, Inborden, Bearfield, Riverview, Candor, Garysburg, Central, Mineral Springs, Rohanen, Rex-Rennert, RB Dean, Southside/Ashpole, Knuckles Montessori, Hargrave, Green Grove, West Lumberton, Ellis Johnson, and Carver Elementary Schools, Bertie Middle and High Schools, and Darden Middle School. The grants range from \$15,000 to \$38,000.
 4. The following NCAE members are Presidential Awards Finalists for North Carolina: Pat Ligon of Wake County in Science and Dorothea Sinclair of Hickory in Science. The national recipient will be awarded \$10,000.

Important NCAE dates to remember:

- **Terry Sanford Award due to NCAE CTL- *January 31, 2008***
- **NEA Teaching Excellence Award due to NCAE CTL- *February 1, 2008***
- **NCAE Joint Instructional Issues Conference – February 21-24, 2008 at the Koury Center in Greensboro**
- **Deadline to register is 2/10/08 and Deadline for reserving your room is 1/22/08. The registration form can be found at this link: <http://www.ncae.org/pod/workshops/conference08.pdf>**