

In this issue:

... *ABC and AYP updates, Graduation Project concerns, policies impacting teachers, administrators and students.*

At the regular monthly meeting in Raleigh, the SBE:

**Globally
Competitive
Students**



1. Approved the **ABCs of Public Education: 2007-08 Growth and Performance Report, including AYP results.** There are 2,418 public schools in North Carolina that now have a new ABC/AYP status. This year, the data is not as positive as in past years due to higher standards and expectations for both students and educators. The new assessments require students to answers more questions correctly to be considered proficient.

- **Honor Schools of Excellence – 29**
- **Schools of Excellence – 4**
- **Schools of Distinction - 204**
- **Schools of Progress – 1, 089**
- **No Recognition – 220**
- **Priority Schools – 701**
- **Low Performing Schools – 101**

A Low Performing School has less than 50% of the students at grade level and does not meet the growth goal. In the past, would have ABC Assistant Teams assigned to them for a year. The NC DPI and SBE have a new comprehensive support program where schools and LEAs receive support based on specific needs of the school for a period of three years. The new comprehensive support builds more capacity for long term improvement and success. The SBE will approve the support plan at the December meeting.

- There are **551 Title I** schools in a sanction level of 1 to 6 School Improvement based on NCLB and AYP data
- **Twenty two Title I schools have exited** the School Improvement of NCLB
- **Five LEAs** are exiting the School Improvement status of NCLB
- **Sixty three LEAs** are in some phase of Corrective Action based on NCLB AYP data
- In North Carolina there were **40,516 AYP** targets and **34,266** of those targets were met **or 85%.**
- There were 748 schools that met AYP and 1,664 schools that did not make AYP. School targets varied from 1 AYP target to 34 AYP targets or hurdles to “jump over” for student success.

As you are aware, under the NCLB Act, every school has AYP targets to meet based on demographics and sub group make up of the student population. A school does not make AYP when one student within a sub group misses their growth target. For more details on your school or LEA, check out <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org>

2. Approved changes to policies governing services for children with disabilities. The changes surround discipline issues.
3. Approved AYP status changes for Roanoke High School and Williamston High School from not met to Met AYP. Approved the ABC status change for Knightdale Elementary to High Growth.

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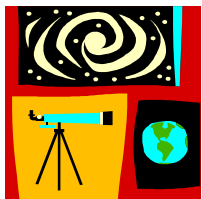
4. Approved the revised policy on High School Exit Documents. The policy allows the LEA to confer a graduation certificate to students who do not earn a high school diploma but did attend school and met the IEP requirements connected to courses.
5. Discussed issues surrounding students who are allowed to have retest results count in the calculation of performance composites of the ABCs. Both NCAE and the Blue Ribbon Testing Commission had requested that students who are retested, be allowed to have the retest score count toward ABCs. The SBE agreed with the policy change; however, there are some unintended consequences and NCLB issues that may create more problems. The SBE has asked the Compliance Commission to review the policies and make recommendations to the SBE for December.
6. Discussed the Student Accountability Standards Graduation Project policy revisions that will need to go to APA, public hearing. The proposed policy will have the following: North Carolina public high schools shall implement the NC High School Graduation Project in accordance with the philosophy, rubrics, procedures and guidelines as described in the NC Graduation Project Implementation Guide. The guide covers many issues that are seen as barriers in some LEAs. **Implementation of the Graduation Project**, no longer calling it a Sr. Project, due to the fact the graduation project should begin at least in middle school, if not before. **Preparation of the Project** should not be left to the last year in school, nor should it be the responsibility of the English teacher. **Leadership** is an issue and all school administrators must embrace the requirement and allow teachers the time necessary to create schedules that will afford **community support**. There should be **no time specific** requirements regarding when a student "works" on the project. The only consistent time schedule would be the final project culminating during one's Sr. year in high school. The graduation project is not a one time event, but a process that a student works on for several years. Every student should have a **mentor**. The mentor should not be a teacher on staff at the school, but a community member/resource that can support the student throughout the entire project. The teachers should be a support system within the school community as students work on the paper, presentation, project and portfolio. Schools should use the **Future4KIDs** (<http://www.futureforkids.org/>) web site to assist them in finding mentors. **All faculty members should** be involved in the graduation project, not just English or Social Studies teachers. The guide provides answers to questions about **how to grade**, who grades and what is graded. The guide calls for allowing students to resubmit a part of the project, if they don't meet the standard.

**Business,
Finance and
Advocacy**

**21st
Century
Systems**

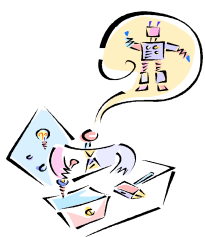
1. Approved the 2009-11 Biennial Budget requests.
2. Approved the Reading First Supplemental Funding Grant. \$1.4 million dollars will support 36 LEAs with K-3 reading.
3. Discussed the waiver request from Halifax County regarding payment incurred for overspending on programs and salary issues dating back to FY 2005-06. To date the money owed the state is \$852,256.57 with \$205,262.70 in penalties. The SBE is waiving the penalties amount, but is not granting the waiver for the 1% interest payment of the loan balance. The SBE is not granting the waiver to repay the position allotment at the lowest salary in the PRC. A payment schedule has been created for Halifax County to repay the state \$18,957 per month for 60 months.
4. Approved eight of 46 waiver requests from teachers obligated to the state for their NBPTS fee.
5. Discussed possible funding formulas for the NCVPS. The NCVPS can not charge students a fee for taking a Virtual Course. Funds are needed to support the school, since the General Assembly did not fully fund the new program.

21st Century Professionals



1. Approved the report on Effectiveness of Representative Mentor Programs, which is a report for the Education Oversight Committee. The report has three recommendations; allow school systems the flexibility to use mentor funds in ways to best support beginning teachers on the needs of the LEA, funding for mentors be based on a 1:15 ratio and fully fund a full-time Beginning Teacher Support Program Coordinator for each LEA. There will be other recommendations presented to the SBE in December based on ideas from a special Mentoring Task Force.
2. Discussed, once again, the proposed policies for non-teaching working experience and graduate pay. The SBE will vote in December on the graduate pay policy changes and discuss one more change to the non-teaching experience policy. The new policies, if passed, will not be retroactive.
3. Discussed the revised Teacher Education Specialty Content Area Standards. The revised standards are being aligned to 21st Century skill sets. These are standards the colleges and universities will use in Teacher Education programs.
4. Discussed a proposed framework for an advanced certification for administrators. The proposed certification will be created by the NBPTS. More details will be shared as the framework is crafted. If you are a NBCT in an administration role and would like to be part of the pilot, contact Karen Garr.
5. Discussed the possibilities of creating a new licensure area for Middle Grades Literacy Coach. The new proposed licensure area is connected to the current middle school literacy coaches and the three year training process conducted by the NC TA participants complete as they work with schools under Governor Easley's literacy plan. The NC Teacher Academy will assist in conferring the add on, if approved by the SBE.
6. Discussed the Annual Report on Reasons Teachers Leave (Teacher Turnover Report). The reporting format has changed some what and the data will be different. In 2007-08 the state turnover average is 9.36%. In 2007-08, 13,432 teachers left the profession. Reasons by categories; turnover initiated by the LEA – 7.5%, Turnover that could be reduced based on working conditions, mentoring or assignment 24.14%, Remaining in Education – 27%, and Turnover beyond teacher control – 41.2%. Weldon City had the highest turnover rate at 41.5% and Graham County had the lowest at 4.55%. The NC Teacher Working Condition Survey results provide some interesting data on the LEAs and their turnover rate.

Leadership for Innovation



1. Approved school-based calendar waivers for 12 LEAs and denied the Randolph high schools requests.
2. Discussed the Blue Ribbon Commission on Charter Schools and will continue to review the recommendations in the report. NCAE shared with the LFI Committee members our revised Charter School Paper that can be found on the NCAE web site.
3. Received information on the 1:1 Laptop Initiative and the positive impact it is having on student achievement.
4. Heard a report on the NC VPS. The NC VPS ranks 8th in the nation.

Healthy, Responsible Students



1. Received an update on the Think Tank for Child Obesity Pilot Program.
2. Recognized three North Carolina schools that received National Recognition from the Alliance for a Healthier Generation. In all there were 43 schools across the nation that received this honor. The three NC schools are all based in Halifax County: **Mclver Elementary School, Pittman Elementary School and Scotland Neck Primary School.**

Other News Taking Place at the SBE meeting



1. Celebrated the election victories of Dr. June Atkinson, Governor Elect Bev Perdue and President Elect Obama, and Senator Elect Kay Hagan as being friends to Public Education.
2. Recognized the achievement of women in leadership roles in Cabinet positions in North Carolina.