

NCAE State Board Review

Provided by NCAE Center for Teaching and Learning

The State Board of Education met in Raleigh on August 5-6, 2009. The following actions took place:

1. The SBE approved the 2008-09 ABCs Growth and Performance report and the AYP status for the 2,467 public schools. Individual school reports can be found at <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org>.
 - Honor Schools of Excellence; exceeding growth and making AYP = 121 schools
 - School of Excellence; exceeding growth but not making AYP = 5 schools
 - Schools of Distinction; made at least expected growth with 80% at Level III = 502 schools
 - Schools of Progress; made at least expected growth with 60% at Level III = 1,062 schools
 - No Recognition; schools not making growth, but 60% at Level III = 253 schools
 - Priority Schools; less than 60% at Level III (making some growth) = 361
 - Low Performing Schools; failed to make growth and 50% below Level III = 75

This year for the first time, student's first retake scores counted toward ABCs growth for the school. This impacted 81% of the schools/students in North Carolina.

- Results regarding AYP status for schools improved from 84.6% to 95.4%. Four-year graduation cohort rate improved from 70.3% to 72%.
- There are no ABC funds for bonuses this year. Schools will receive banners, plaques and certificates as appropriate.

2. Approved remaining Reading First grants and Education for Homeless Children and Youth grants. Data from LEAs show that there are 15,000 homeless children attending NC schools. This number increased over the last six months.
3. Discussed creating an evaluation policy to review the current Supplemental Education Services Providers.
4. Received an updated report on the **Essential Standards** work and discussed the curriculum areas that are now in **DRAFT 3; K-12 Math, English 10, Occupational Course of Study, and K-12 Information and Technology**. Public opinion is still being collected, <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/>. The new essential standards connect to the national standards being developed in math and reading/writing. Classroom teachers from 47 LEAs, college professors, business leaders have all assisted in crafting the language for the new standards. A foundation component for the new work is the Revised Blooms Taxonomy. The curriculum outlines will be more focused, 21st Century relevant and assist teachers in creating their own formative assessments.

5. Received as information that 80 LEAs, 70% of the school systems are requiring students to complete The Graduation Project as an exit standard for the 2009-10 school year. A few LEAs have some high schools requiring the project and 31 LEAs are not requiring the project this coming school year.
6. Approved the following three charter schools to open in 2010-11; Lake Lure Classical, Henderson Colligate, and Mountain Island. North Carolina now has 100 Charter Schools.
7. Discussed the option for K-6 educators to add an additional content area concentration to their license. This concentration would be a master's degree allowing teachers to be experts in specific content subject areas.
8. Received as information an update on the work of the Mentor Task Force as the mentor program standards are being revised to align with the NC Professional Teaching Standards and the new evaluation process for both administrators and teachers.
9. Received the final report on the 2008 NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey. The data has been available since June 2008. Research briefs on specific topics, tools to assist administrators and teacher with the new evaluation process, and reports on leadership can be found at www.ncteachingconditions.org. NC will administer the NC TWC Survey in the spring of 2010. The data from the 2008 survey confirms that supportive leadership, time for teachers to plan and collaborate, a climate of trust and strong school improvement teams impacts high student achievement.
10. Discussed the proposed new cut score for the School Leaders Licensure Assessment Series. This test will be used until the Schools of Education fully implement the new electronic evidence support for candidates seeking an administrator license. The new cut score will be 163 instead of 155. The new assessment is now 4 hours, with Section 1 being 2 hours 20 minutes consisting of 100 scenario-based multiple-choice questions and Section 2 being 1 hour 40 minutes for 7 constructed-responses.

Dr. Atkinson recognized Assistant Superintendent and NCAE member, Angela Quick for being awarded the **21st Century Partnership Award** for the new writing assessment process in North Carolina. Dr. Quick stated the work was a team effort and she appreciated the outside stakeholders, such as NCAE in ensuring all educators were informed of the new process.

Dr. Harrison, SBE Chair shared how he and the NC DPI would be having direct conversations with all Local Superintendents regarding the use of the Federal Stimulus funds to ensure class size and student support were being adhered to as the new state budget dictated. For more information on the 2009-10 state budget check out the NCAE DPB on the NCAE web page.