



State Board Review

A Publication for Members of the
N.C. Association of School Administrators

December 5, 2008

The State Board of Education (SBE) met December 3-4 at the Education Building in Raleigh. The pages that follow summarize the board's actions for this month.

DISCUSSION ON OPTIONS FOR RETESTING CONTINUES

The State Board of Education's (SBE) Globally Competitive Students (GCS) Committee this week continued discussion regarding a proposal for allowing retest results in the calculation of performance composites of the ABCs for Public Education, a recommendation that was included in the SBE's *Framework for Change* report (Immediate Improvement #5) and was sent forward by the SBE's Blue Ribbon Commission on Testing and Accountability.

The following three options have been presented to various groups of educators for feedback:

1. No changes to current policies or practices
2. Retest at Grades 3, 5, and 8 for student accountability standards (SAS) and for 5 EOCs for high school exit standards
 - Students meeting SAS with 1 standard error of measurement (SEM) would still need to be retested for AYP determinations (per USED)
3. Retest at Grades 3-8 and for all 10 EOCs
 - Students meeting SAS with 1 SEM would still need to be retested for AYP determinations (per USED)
 - Must be SBE mandated (per USED)

NCASA supports the third option for retesting in grades 3-8 and all 10 EOCs based on the feedback we have received from an overwhelming majority of our membership. The NCSSA Executive Board has also unanimously endorsed this option.

With this endorsement it has been suggested that retesting in the 10 EOC tests should wait until the end of the second semester of the 2008-09 school year or be effective for the 2009-10 school year.

At Thursday's SBE meeting GCS committee chair Kathy Taft presented the recommendation to go with the option to retest in grades 3, 5, and 8 for this year.

State Superintendent June Atkinson spoke up to say that at Wednesday's Superintendents' Quarterly meeting superintendents again confirmed their recommendation of option 3 and that it was her and their understanding that the discussion will continue.

Board member Melissa Bartlett again raised concern about taking action without knowing the costs associated with the three options.

Superintendent Atkinson recommended that no action be taken and the discussion and opportunity for feedback should continue over the next month.

This issue is to come back to the committee at January's meeting, where they will be provided with a cost analysis of each option.

Anyone who wishes to share feedback on this issue before the January SBE meeting should contact Betsy West of the SBE staff at bwest@dpi.state.nc.us and ask that she share that information with all Board members. Please also share your feedback with NCASA by contacting Katherine Joyce at kjoyce@ncasa.net.

PLAN FOR NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFICATION FOR PRINCIPALS APPROVED

Members of the State Board of Education took the first step in ensuring North Carolina as a pilot site for a *National Board Principal Certification*, which is being developed by the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Board members approve the report on Thursday that outlines six recommendations including utilizing the *National Board Principal Certification* rather than developing its own board certification for principals and assistant principals.

Dr. Joseph Aguerrebere, President and CEO of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards ensured that North Carolina will be a pilot site for the new certification, which will be implemented in 2010-2011 school year.

"I was very encouraged myself when I read the letter," said Shirley Harris, State Board of Education member.

Another significant recommendation found in the report allows for National Board Certified Teachers who move into the role of assistant principals to be able to receive the higher of their salary as a teacher or their salary as an assistant principal, provided they are working with teachers in instructional roles as assistant principals. This recommendation could be implemented at no additional cost to the state, since the individuals would already qualify for the higher salary.

"Any obstacles that prevent movement into administration should be removed," said John Tate, State Board of Education member. "This report is the first step in the process to make that occur."

The N.C. Principals & Assistant Principals' Association (NCPAPA) and the N.C. Association of School Administrators (NCASA) have both highlighted securing funds for the pilot as one of their major goals for the 2009-2011 General Assembly Session.

"It is an initiative both organizations feel strongly about," said Emily Doyle, NCPAPA Assistant Director. "Schools' success is determined largely by its leadership, we want to ensure that we have a steady pipeline of high-quality leaders to run our schools."

A full copy of the report and recommendations can be found at:
http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/sbe_meetings/0812/tcp/0812tcp02.pdf.

NCPAPA and NCASA would like to thank all members who contacted their State Board of Education members on this issue. We truly appreciate your efforts.

ACTION ITEMS

The State Board of Education is expected to act on the following items:

BUSINESS/FINANCE AND ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

APPROVED TCS 1 - Approval of Grants

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcs/0812tcs01.pdf

APPROVED TCS 2 - Replacement of Compliance Commission Members

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcs/0812tcs02.pdf

APPROVED TCS 3 - Extended Employment for Science and Mathematics Teachers Receiving Career Awards

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcs/0812tcs03.pdf

GLOBALLY COMPETITIVE STUDENTS

Action on First Reading

APPROVED GCS 1 - Changes to the 2007-08 ABCs/AYP Results

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/gcs/0812gcs01.pdf

APPROVED GCS 2 - Recommended Interim Academic Achievement Standards (Cut Scores) and Achievement Level Descriptors for the NCEXTEND1 Alternate Assessments in Reading and Mathematics Grade 3 Pretest

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/gcs/0812gcs02.pdf

APPROVED GCS 3 - Recommended Final Cut Scores and Achievement Level Descriptors for NCCLAS Reading and Mathematics Grade 3 Pretest

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/gcs/0812gcs03.pdf

APPROVED GCS 4 - Recommended Final Academic Achievement Standards (Cut Scores) and Final Achievement Level Descriptors (ALDs) for the North Carolina Reading Grade 3 Pretest

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/gcs/0812gcs04.pdf

APPROVED (moved to Action on First Reading) GCS 6 - Policies on Student Accountability and Graduation Project

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/gcs/0812gcs06.pdf

HEALTHY, RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS

Action on First Reading

NO ACTION (will come back in January) HRS 1 - Report on Gang Prevention and Intervention

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/hrs/0812hrs01.pdf

21st CENTURY PROFESSIONALS COMMITTEE

Action

APPROVED TCP 1 - Addition of Middle Grades Literacy Coach as a License Area

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcp/0812tcp01.pdf

APPROVED TCP 2 - Proposed Framework for North Carolina Board Certification for Principals.

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcp/0812tcp02.pdf

APPROVED TCP 3 - Proposed Standards for the Evaluation of School Counselors and School Social Workers

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcp/0812tcp03.pdf

APPROVED TCP 4 - Proposed Revisions to the Graduate Pay Policy

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcp/0812tcp04.pdf

APPROVED TCP 5 - Annual Report on the Reasons Teachers Leave (Teacher Turnover Report)

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcp/0812tcp05.pdf

Action on First Reading

CLOSED SESSION TCP 6 - Recommendations from the Advisory Board on Requests for Exception from Teacher Licensing Requirements

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcp/0812tcp06.pdf

APPROVED TCP 7 - Final Decision in Contested Cases

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/tcp/0812tcp07.pdf

LEADERSHIP FOR INNOVATION COMMITTEE

Action

APPROVED LFI 1 - Cooperative Innovative High School Program Waivers

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/lfi/0812lfi01.pdf

Action on First Reading

APPROVED LFI 2 - NC 1:1 Learning Initiative Pilot Expansion

http://www.ncpublicschools.org/sbe_meetings/0812/lfi/0812lfi02.pdf

Members of the NCASA staff represent NCASA at all meetings of the State Board of Education. If you have questions about the issues discussed in this State Board Review, please contact Beth Worsley, NCASA Director of Communications, at 919-828-1426 or bworsley@ncasa.net or Emily Doyle, Assistant Director for the N.C. Principals & Assistant Principals' Association, at 919-833-3205 or edoyle@ncpapa.net.