



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

**January 7, 2021**

*The State Board of Education (SBE) held its monthly meeting remotely on January 6-7.*

*The pages that follow summarize highlights from the meeting and the Board's actions for this month.*

*For complete SBE information, visit their website: <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/>*

## MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

### Board Discusses Legislative & Budget Priorities For Upcoming Legislative Session

- Freebird McKinney, SBE Director of Government and Community Affairs, gave a [presentation on the SBE and NCDPI's proposed legislative and budget priorities](#) for the upcoming legislative session. McKinney noted newly-elected Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt and her team would be given time over the next few weeks to examine these priorities and weigh in before the Board voted to approve. SBE Vice Chair Alan Duncan said the Board may hold a special called meeting sometime before February to allow for further Board discussion of these priorities.

### NC Education Corps Initiative Update

- Recently, an anonymous philanthropic partner committed \$500,000 to the Education Corps as a "challenge grant" which they will match dollar-for-dollar, up to an additional \$500,000. This would create a total funding stream of \$1.5 million for the program when combined with funds already provided by the Governor's office to jumpstart this initiative. The initial cohort of participating districts was approved in November, and the NC Education Corps review team met last week to consider applications from three additional districts.

## ACTION ITEMS

### EDUCATION INNOVATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

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#### *Action on First Reading*

#### **EICS 1 - Report to the General Assembly: Implementation & Progress of Innovative School District**

Per General Statute 115C-75.6, the North Carolina Innovative School District (ISD) was created in 2016 and established as the 116th school district. The ISD was developed to improve student outcomes in low-performing schools under the administration of the State Board of Education (SBE) and the Superintendent of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI). Section 7.26E. (a)(d) of 115C-75.7, states the State Board of Education, Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the Innovative School District (ISD) Superintendent shall provide an annual report *by no later than January 15* to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) to include all aspects of operation of ISD, including the selection of innovative schools and their progress. [This year's report](#) will focus on the progress of Southside Ashpole Elementary School (SAES) as the school selection process has been delayed due to the lack of summative assessment data and the Coronavirus pandemic. The ISD requests approval of the 2021 ISD Annual Report for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

**Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE receive the 2021 ISD Annual Report due to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee by January 15, 2021.**

**APPROVED**

## **Action**

### **EICS 2 - Wake Preparatory Academy's Second-Year Delay Request**

Wake Preparatory Academy (WPA) was originally scheduled to open in fall 2020 in Wake County and serve grades K-12 with 1620 students at year five. On January 22, 2020, the Office of Charter Schools granted WPA's request for a one-year delay to open in Fall 2021 with grades K-11 and 1,420 students. The reasons given for the one-year delay request were as follows:

1. Estimated timeframe for site plan approval by the Town of Wake Forest is July 2020;
2. There are no facilities large enough to house our student population as a temporary facility and the entitlements process would still impact the timeline;
3. The option for multiple temporary facilities is logistically unsustainable; and
4. After lengthy analysis by Charter One, SchoolDev East, and the Wake Preparatory Academy Board of Directors, the decision to delay one year is the most cost-efficient and in the best interest of the families.

WPA is now requesting a second year delay, an amendment that requires State Board of Education approval, to open in Fall 2022 with grades K-12 and 1,620 students.

**Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve Wake Preparatory Academy's Second -Year Delay Request.**

**APPROVED**

### **EICS 3 - Revocation Recommendation: Essie Mae Kiser Foxx Charter School**

Essie Mae Kiser Foxx (80B) is a charter school operating in Rowan County serving grades K-6 with approximately 99 students. Essie Mae Kiser Foxx was approved in 2017 and began operating in the fall of 2018. Essie Mae Kiser Foxx originally partnered with an Education Management Organization (EMO), Torchlight Academy Services, but that relationship was terminated in September 2019 with State Board of Education (SBE) approval. Essie Mae Kiser Foxx has struggled in the areas of academics, finance, and governance since operations began. At its November 2020 meeting, the Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB) discussed Essie Mae Kiser Foxx's failure to submit an audit for both the 2019 and 2020 fiscal year. Essie Mae Kiser Foxx representatives were given the opportunity to address the CSAB. On November 10, 2020, CSAB voted unanimously to begin revocation proceedings against Essie Mae Kiser Foxx.

**Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve the revocation recommendation of Essie Mae Kiser Foxx's Charter.**

**APPROVED**

### **EICS 4 - NC Virtual Public School (NCVPS) Advisory Council Appointments**

State Board of Education (SBE) Policy ADVS-010 outlines the North Carolina Virtual Public Advisory Council membership requirements. Council members serve 4-year terms that are staggered so that approximately one quarter of the Council's membership terms expire at the end of each calendar year. The terms of members expired on December 31, 2020. The following two individuals were presented to the State Board of Education for consideration to serve a 4-year term beginning in 2021 through December 2024: **Stacey Wilson-Norman**, Chief Academic Officer, Cumberland County Schools; and **Katie Cornetto**, Partner, Schwartz & Shaw, P.L.L.C.

**Recommendations: The State Board of Education was asked to review and approve the nomination of two new members to the NCVPS Advisory Council.**

**APPROVED**

## EICS 5 - 2020 Accelerated Charter School Application Recommendations

State Board of Education (SBE) policy CHTR-013 and the approved “Charter Application Timeline and Process” allows for priority consideration for certain charter applicants seeking acceleration. Applicants requesting an accelerated planning year submitted applications on or before July 24, 2020, at 5:00 pm. Five accelerated applications were received for the current application cycle. Impact statements in opposition to Spartan Charter School were submitted on behalf of Granville County Schools and Vance County Schools. Spartan Charter School withdrew before commencement of the 2020-21 interview process. No additional impact statements have been received for accelerated applicants. The remaining four applications for first-round interviews were held during the September 2020 Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB) meeting. The CSAB voted 9-1 not to recommend Falcon Academy for SBE approval. Faith Academy, School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA), and Old Main STREAM Academy were forwarded for second-round interviews held during the October 2020 CSAB meeting. These three applications were recommended for SBE approval. At the conclusion of the October 2020 CSAB meeting, all accelerated applications had received a review and decision by the CSAB. The CSAB is requesting SBE approval of the following charter applicants on an accelerated timeline:

School (County)	Recommendation	CSAB Meeting Date
1. Faith Academy (Rowan County)	Approve (Unanimous)	October 13, 2020
2. Old Main STREAM Academy (Robeson County)	Approve (Unanimous)	October 12, 2020
3. School of the Arts for Boys Academy (Chatham)*	Approve (Unanimous; Absent HP)	October 13, 2020

***Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve the 2020 Accelerated Charter School Application Recommendations.***

**\*APPROVED AS MODIFIED—Board members voted to approve only Faith Academy and Old Main STREAM Academy for accelerated charter approval.**

## STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

### Action

#### SLA 1 - Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Waiver

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has developed an [addendum](#) to the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) state plan in order to address the lack of test data from the 2019–20 school year. Without these test scores, some aspects of the accountability reports, as stated in the ESSA state plan for the 2020–21 school year, cannot be fulfilled. Given this, the addendum includes the following modifications to the 2020–21 accountability reports and identification of schools:

1. For the 2020–21 school year, the interim targets toward meeting the State’s long-term goals for reading and mathematics (grades 3–8 and high school) and for English learners (grades K–12) are the interim targets initially set for the 2019–20 school year.
2. The identification of Comprehensive Support and Improvement-Low Performing Schools, Comprehensive Support and Improvement-Low Graduation Rate and Targeted Support and Improvement-Additional Targeted Support Schools scheduled to occur in fall 2021 will occur in fall 2020.
3. The exit of Targeted Support and Improvement-Additional Targeted Support Schools is adjusted not to include 2019–20 as a school year. The evaluation for exiting will occur in fall 2021.
4. Growth models will be adjusted for the 2020–21 school year to account for missing test scores from 2019–20.

At the December 2020 meeting, there was a discussion of the rationale for each element in the drafted addendum and the input provided by stakeholder groups. After the State Board of Education’s discussion,

the addendum was posted for public comment on the NCDPI's website for 30 days. As a follow-up to the discussion of potential USED waivers from accountability and assessment for the 2020–21 school year, NCDPI presented a [draft waiver](#) for the 2020–21 school requesting relief from (1) the requirement that at least 95 percent of all students participate in the federally required state assessments; and (2) all accountability analyses. It is anticipated that if approved, the waiver will be submitted to the USED by February 1, 2021. The USED Secretary would then have 120 days to respond to the waiver.

**Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the proposed addendum and waiver request for North Carolina's ESSA state plan.**

**APPROVED**

## **EDUCATOR STANDARDS AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE**

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### **Action**

#### **ES & P 1 - Driver Education Reform Update**

Directed by SL 2010-31, Section 28.2, the Office of State Budget & Management (OSBM) conducted a study to produce recommendations on the State's Driver Education program. The study, North Carolina's Driver Education Program Management Review, was a deep dive into the program using national standards and reports gathered from program stakeholders. The review prompted the Driver Education Reform located in SL2011 – 145. This legislation outlined specific requirements by the State Superintendent to organize and administer a “standardized program of driver education to be offered at the public schools of this state.” Additionally, G. S. 115C – 215 outlined the requirement for a strategic plan and curriculum requirements. It also required that the SBE report to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee on “the most cost-effective method of delivering in the short-term and long-term.” Pursuant to the legislation, the Department of Public Instruction is in the final phase of addressing the recommendations, as reported in May of 2020. The OSBM study and the strategic plan highlight technology as the key to the success in addressing major concerns and is our recommendation. Although, producing a teacher certification program (STEP) and a standardized student curriculum (highlighted in the presentation) were monumental achievements, providing the delivery and administration hinge on the need for the program's dedicated instance of a learning management system.

**Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE accept NCDPI's update on finalizing all legislative requirements for the program. Additionally, the department requested a statutory change in legislation to allow DPI to retain up to 5% for administrative costs *\*or funded otherwise in the budget request process* to allow contracted regional support and digital curriculum.**

**\*APPROVED AS MODIFIED—Due to the possibility that the SBE may be able to secure the requested Driver Education program funding through the normal budgetary process, the recommendation was revised to include such language.**

### **Action on First Reading—*elevated from Discussion only item during meeting***

#### **ES & P 3 - Advanced Teaching Roles and Teacher Compensation**

During the November 2020 SBE meeting, Dr. Tom Tomberlin, on behalf of Dr. Dallas Stallings, presented the Year 3 results for the Advanced Teaching Roles (ATR) Pilot Program. This month, Dr. Tomberlin discussed those Local Education Agencies (LEAs) and schools that have applied for inclusion in the ATR program. NCDPI also [presented recommendations on distributing funding](#) that was made available from the withdrawal of one of the approved program applicants. Due to this withdrawal from the July 2020 RFP, the ATR fund has \$115,215.00 available to award. These funds will revert to the state on June 30th if not awarded to a program participant. During the January 2021 presentation, Dr. Tomberlin recommended the following option for allocating funds:

- **Option 1: Greater proportion to top-rated proposal. Nominal awards to other two proposals which would allow for K-3 Class Size Flexibility.**
  - Proposal 1 - \$105,215
  - Proposal 2 - \$5,000

- Proposal 3 - \$5,000

In order to provide program participants with the ability to immediately begin implementing allocated funds, this item was elevated from Discussion only to Action on First Reading.

**Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve Funding Option 1 to allocate the remaining program funding and allow for immediate program implementation.**

**APPROVED**

## **BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

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### ***Action on First Reading***

#### **BSOP 1 - Report to the General Assembly: School Connectivity Initiative**

Pursuant to Session Law 2007-323, the State Board of Education must report annually on its progress towards the School Connectivity Initiative (SCI) to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Information Technology (JLOC-IT), the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC), the Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM), the State Information Technology Officer (SCIO), and the Fiscal Research Division (FRD). [This report](#) provides an update on SCI financial activities for fiscal year 2020, fiscal year 2019, as well as operational activities for calendar year 2020 (January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020). Additionally, considerations for 2020 were also presented.

**Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE receive the School Connectivity Initiative report for the submission to the General Assembly and State Chief Information Officer by January 15, 2020.**

**APPROVED**

## **HEALTHY RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS COMMITTEE REPORT**

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### ***Action***

#### **HRS 1 - Healthy Active Children Progress Report and Proposed Policy Amendment (SHLT-000)**

Each Local Education Agency (LEA) is to submit its Healthy Active Children Policy (SHLT-000) Report to DPI annually, by September 15th. The summative report is presented to the State Board of Education for information and discussion each year. This report includes information regarding School Health Advisory Councils, minutes of physical activity, minutes of physical education, recess, and components of the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child Model, with trend data since the 2003-2004 school year. This report represents results from the 2019-2020 school year. Additionally, proposed changes to the SHLT-000 policy to require participation in regional data collection through the Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) were presented.

**Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the Healthy Active Children Policy Report and the amendments to the Healthy Active Children Policy - SHLT-000.**

**APPROVED**

**To view the agendas for the State Board of Education's meetings, including links to all handouts and PowerPoint presentations presented to the Board, which may include discussion and informational items not discussed above, please click [here](#).**

**To view the monthly State Board of Education newsletter archive, including this month's newsletter, please click [here](#).**

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*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 Katherine Joyce, Executive Director, at [kjoyce@ncasa.net](mailto:kjoyce@ncasa.net) or Elizabeth Yelverton, Legal Affairs & Policy Manager, at [eyelverton@ncasa.net](mailto:eyelverton@ncasa.net).*