



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

May 7, 2020

The State Board of Education (SBE) held its monthly meeting remotely on May 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/>

ACTION ITEMS

EDUCATION INNOVATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Action

EICS 2 – 2020 Charter School Application Timeline and Process

Per State Board of Education (SBE) Policy CHTR-012 and GS 115C.218, the SBE must establish and approve the charter school application, timeline, and process prior to each application round. The Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB), with recommendations from the Office of Charter Schools (OCS), recommended an application, timeline, and process for the 2020 application round for applicants proposing to open in 2021 (accelerated applications) and 2022 (regular timeline applications). Proposed changes to the [Charter School Application Timeline and Process](#) have been recommended by the CSAB with the objective of providing more time between SBE approval of a charter school application and the school's opening.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended that the SBE approve the 2020 Charter School Application Timeline and Process.

APPROVED

STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

SLA 1 – Governor's School Policy Revision & Appointment Recommendation: (EXP-009)

Current policy requires two voting positions on the Board of Governors to be dedicated to 1) the president or president's designee of the NC Governor's School Alumni Association and 2) the president or president's designee of the NC Governor's School Foundation. Effective in summer 2020, the NC Governor's School Alumni Association will dissolve, and all pertinent data and records will be turned over to the NC Governor's School Foundation. As a result, the current SBE policy must be amended in light of the NC Governor's School Alumni Association dissolution. The State Board of Education is asked to consider deleting the language 'president or president's designee of the Alumni Association of Governor's School' and edit: 'the president of the NC Governor's School Foundation and the president's designee of a NC Governor's School Alumnus' to ensure alumni representation on the Board of Governors. The appointment would be subject to State Board of Education approval. The term, July 1 – June 30, for all appointed members is three years, with no person serving more than two consecutive three-year terms.

Recommendations: The SBE was asked to approve the proposed Board of Governors policy and membership changes.

APPROVED

Action

SLA 2 - Report to the North Carolina General Assembly: Competency-Based Assessment and Teaching Model

Pursuant to the intent of the General Assembly expressed in Section 8.12 of Session Law 2015-241, the State Board of Education shall determine and analyze the steps necessary to transition to a competency-based assessment and teaching model for all elementary and secondary students. Based on its analysis, the State Board shall recommend transition steps that accomplish competency-based objectives. An internal NCDPI cross-division team collaborated to draft a [report to the General Assembly](#) outlining the state-level policies and guidance that will support local efforts to implement competency-based education.

Recommendations: NCDPI recommended that the SBE receive the report, subject to any final technical adjustments, for submission to the North Carolina General Assembly by May 15, 2020.

APPROVED

SLA 3 - State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) 2020 Report to the NC State Board of Education

The State Advisory Council on Indian Education (SACIE) analyzes the academic performance of American Indian students in North Carolina's public schools, outlining major findings and recommendations to the State Board of Education. The [SACIE 2020 Report to the NC State Board of Education](#) analyzes student achievement data from the 2018–2019 performance on state tests, SAT and ACT participation and performance, Advanced Placement course participation and test performance, graduation and dropout rates and compares the performance of North Carolina's American Indian students to that of other representative student groups. The data reveal disparities between American Indian student performance and statewide performance. An electronic copy of the report was provided to the Board and will be sent to Superintendents across the state, as well as posted online.

Recommendations: The Council recommended that the SBE approve and promote the report recommendations in order to encourage increased achievement among American Indian students.

APPROVED

SLA 4 - Report to the North Carolina General Assembly: Nationally Norm-Referenced College Admissions Test

State law requires the State Board of Education to use a competitive bid process to adopt one nationally norm-referenced college admissions test, to make available to local school administrative units, regional schools, and charter schools to administer to all students in the eleventh grade (unless the student has already taken a comparable test and scored at or above a level set by the State Board). The State Board is also required to plan for and require the administration of diagnostic tests in the eighth and tenth grades that align to the nationally norm-referenced college admissions test adopted by the State Board. The results of the tests will be used to help diagnose student learning and provide for students an indication of whether they are on track to be remediation-free at a community college or university. With the procurement process completed, on March 5, 2020, the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) voted to award the college and career readiness assessments to ACT as follows: (1) Grade 11 ACT, (2) Grade 10 PreACT, and (3) Grade 12 ACT WorkKeys. As required in statute, the SBE must submit a report of the outcomes of the procurement process to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The [Nationally Norm-Referenced College Admission Test Report](#) was provided for action at the SBE's May meeting.

Recommendations: The NCDPI recommended that the SBE receive the Nationally Norm-Referenced College Admissions Test report, subject to any final technical adjustments, for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by May 15, 2020.

APPROVED

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

BSOP 2 - McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act/Education of Homeless Students

NCDPI receives funds from the U.S. Department of Education under Title X-Part C of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The McKinney-Vento allocation to North Carolina for the 2020-2021SY school year is estimated to be \$2,909,082.00 and includes support for statewide activities as well as competitive subgrants to LEAs. Based on the applications received, if all applications are awarded, the estimated funds to be awarded in subgrants to LEA's for 2020-2021SY would be \$1,950,000.00. NCDPI staff shared the [2020-2023 McKinney-Vento Subgrant Competition Applicants and Recommendations](#) during the SBE's May meeting.

Recommendations: The Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division recommended that the SBE approve the McKinney-Vento subgrant allocations outlined in the accompanying documents.

APPROVED

BSOP 3 - Annual Report - Low Wealth and Small County Supplanting

State law requires the State Board of Education to report to the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly prior to May 15, 2020, if it is determined that counties have supplanted local current expense funds with funds appropriated for Small School Systems or Low-Wealth counties. After the analysis of the LEA's financial records, one LEA, Graham County Schools, which receives both Low-Wealth and Small School Systems Supplemental, had supplanted funds. The legislation allows the county to show that it has remedied the deficiency in funding or that extraordinary circumstances caused the county to supplant local current expense funds with the Small School System or Low-Wealth Supplemental funds. If the LEA does not do one of these two things prior to the 2020-21 initial allocations, the LEA is not eligible for the supplemental funds, approximately \$1.9m for Graham County Schools.

Recommendations: It was recommended that the SBE accept the report for submission to the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly prior to May 15, 2020.

APPROVED

BSOP 4 - School Nutrition Equipment Assistance Grants

The United States of Agriculture (USDA) has issued a one-time appropriation to the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) in the amount of \$962,408.00 to be used for grants to School Food Authorities (SFAs) participating in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) for the purchase of commercial equipment for use in the preparation and service of nutritious, appealing school meals. In awarding the grants, the USDA requires preference to be given to schools where 50% or more students are eligible for free or reduced-price meals or the Identified Student Percentage (ISP) exceeds fifty percent. A Request for Application (RFA) was issued to all SFAs on October 15, 2019. Applications were returned to the State Agency on or before the deadline of December 11, 2019 and SFAs will be notified of their grant award(s) upon approval of the SBE. Grant funds will be allotted to the awardees through the department's allotment system and reporting requirements will be issued simultaneously with the grant award. SFAs will be required to expend the grant funds, in their entirety, by September 11, 2020. The NCDPI will issue its final report to the USDA once confirmation has been received by all awardees that the equipment has been successfully installed and is in use by the SFA. NCDPI School Nutrition Division staff presented to SBE the [2019-2020 NSLP Equipment Assistance Grants](#).

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the Equipment Assistance Grant Award Recipients.

APPROVED

Action

BSOP 5 – SBE Policy Amendment: COVID-19 Federal Funding Grant (ALOT-003)

In response to the economic and public health emergency associated with the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, Congress passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act. Among other things, the CARES Act authorized \$30,750,000,000 to be used to support the nation’s K-12 and higher education systems in dealing with the financial, logistical, and educational impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. As part of this appropriation, the U.S. Department of Education (USED) will be making grant awards to States through the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund based on the proportion of funding each State is allocated through the Title I, Part A program in the most recent fiscal year. From the amount that NC receives, DPI will be required to subaward at least 90% of the funds to LEAs, ISD, regional schools, charter schools, and lab schools, with each entity receiving the same proportion of funds as it did for the Title I, Part A program. LEAs, charter schools, and lab schools that receive funding will be able to use K-12 Emergency Relief Funds for any expenditure that would be allowable under any of the ESEA programs, the IDEA programs, or the Perkins V program, as well as a broad range of COVID-19 related activities. NCDPI staff presented to the SBE a [revised K-12 Emergency Relief Fund Board Policy](#).

Recommendations: It was recommended that the SBE approve the modifications to SBE Policy ALOT-003 – Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act – K-12 Emergency Relief Fund.

APPROVED

BSOP 6 – SBE New Policy Amendment (GOVR-007): Supervision and Administration of State and Federal Education Funds to Support NC’s General and Uniform System of Free Public Schools

Per the Constitution and State Board of Education (SBE) policy the SBE is responsible for the supervision and administration of the free public school system and the educational funds provided for its support. Following committee and SBE meetings, as well as discussions with the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), the SBE BSOP committee recommended a [new policy amendment](#) to GOVR-007: Supervision and Administration of State and Federal Education Funds to Support North Carolina’s General Uniform System of Free Public Schools.

Recommendations: It was recommended that the SBE approve GOVR-007: Supervision and Administration of State and Federal Education Funds to Support North Carolina’s General Uniform System of Free Public Schools.

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](#).

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 or Elizabeth Yelverton, Legal Affairs & Policy Manager, at eyelverton@ncasa.net.