



NC State Board of Education Monthly Review

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

July 8, 2021

The State Board of Education (SBE) held its monthly meeting virtually on July 8.

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

STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

SLA 1 - K - 12 Social Studies: 6 - 12 Unpacking Documents

Per SBE policy SCOS-012 (Process for the Review, Revision, and Implementation of the NC Standard Course of Study), the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) must review the standards for each content area. NCDPI staff presented several “unpacking documents” for grades 6-12 Social Studies courses.

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the 6 - 12 Social Studies supporting documents to move forward with the professional development and implementation process.

APPROVED (via separate 6-4 vote)

Action

SLA 2 - NC State Board of Education Appointments to the Council on Educational Services for Exceptional Children (Council)

The Council had two vacancies that represented a *Parent of a Child with a Disability*. NCDPI staff presented the cover letters and resumes for **Maegan Wilson** and **Tameeka Williams-Burchette** for consideration. Ms. Wilson represents the Southeast region and Ms. Williams-Burchette represents the North Central region. If appointed, their term will end on June 30, 2025. There is also a vacancy that represents a *Special Education Teacher*. NCDPI staff presented the resume of **Precious Smith-Scott for consideration**. Ms. Smith-Scott represents the Sandhills region.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve for appointment the individuals mentioned above.

APPROVED

EDUCATION INNOVATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Action

EICS 1 – Final 2021 Ready to Open Recommendations

Each initially approved charter school works with the Office of Charter Schools (OCS) to submit a final “Ready to Open” (RTO) Progress Report to the Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) 10-12 weeks prior to the start of the school’s first operational year. The CSAB uses this report as the basis for determining

whether to recommend that the SBE approve the school to open as planned. If a school is unable to meet the RTO standards or requirements stipulated in the charter agreement, the opening of the school could be postponed by one year or, if the circumstances are serious enough, the charter could be revoked under § 115C-218.95. The CSAB forwarded its preliminary recommendations to the SBE at its regularly-scheduled June 2021 meeting. At the June 7, 2021, meeting, the CSAB:

- Recommended to the SBE that **CE Academy** *not continue in the Ready to Open process*.
- Recommended to the SBE that **Elaine Riddick Charter School** *not continue in the Ready to Open process*.
- Recommended to the SBE that **Doral Academy of North Carolina** *continue* in the Ready to Open process and open in August 2021 with the following stipulation: **that the school acquire a complete insurance package as required by the Charter Agreement**.
- Recommended to the SBE that **Old Main Stream Academy** *continue* in the Ready to Open process and open in August 2021 with the following stipulation: **that the school acquire a complete insurance package as required by the Charter Agreement**.
- Recommended to the SBE that **The School of the Arts for Boys** *not continue* in the Ready to Open process. The CSAB recommends to the SBE that The School of the Arts for Boys, an acceleration applicant, **move to the regular Ready to Open timeline for a projected Fall 2022 opening**. In addition, the CSAB approved the school's relocation request.

At the June 23, 2021, special called meeting, the CSAB heard a comprehensive update on Faith Academy's facility and voted unanimously to recommend the school as Ready to Open in August 2021.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve the 2021 Ready to Open (RTO) Final Recommendations.

APPROVED with additions to revoke charter school agreements for CE Academy and Elaine Riddick Charter School due to their inability to meet state requirements to open for the past two years.

EICS 2 - NC ACCESS Subgrantee Recommendations

The NC ACCESS Program conducts an annual competitive application process designed to award funding for North Carolina charter schools that propose to serve an increased number of educationally disadvantaged students. Each subgrant application has been reviewed by a committee of NC ACCESS Program team members and trained external evaluators. Applications were evaluated using the approved NC ACCESS Program subgrant application scoring rubric. The recommendation made to the Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) is based on the totality of evidence provided by the applicant and all evaluations by the Review Committee. The CSAB took all recommendations, evaluations, application materials, and due diligence into account and made a recommendation for the approval of subgrants to the State Board of Education (State Board). The State Board will determine the final approval of all subgrant awards. Of the twenty-five (25) charter schools that submitted a letter of intent and were designated as eligible to submit a full subgrant application, twenty-two (22) applied.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve the NC ACCESS Program 2021 Subgrant Recommendations.

APPROVED

EICS 3 - 2022 Charter School Application Timeline

Proposed changes to the Charter School Application Timeline and Process were recommended by the CSAB with the objective of providing more time between SBE approval of a charter school application and the school's opening. The Office of Charter Schools proposed a change to the charter school application timeline beginning in 2022 to allow for additional operational planning. The shift in the timeline will provide a longer application window for prospective applicants to submit new charter applications. The change in timeline will also allow additional time for review and evaluation of submitted charter school applications, with the overall goal of increasing quality. Under the new timeline, approved charter school

applicants will have a longer Ready to Open (RTO) period, which will allow additional time for academic, financial and operational planning for applicants granted SBE charter approval.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve the 2022 Charter School Application Timeline.

APPROVED

EICS 4 - Doral Academy NC's Request to Implement a Weighted Lottery & Revise Enrollment Projections

Doral Academy NC is a charter school scheduled to open August 2021 in Wake County and requested approval to implement a weighted lottery. General statute §115-218.45(g1) states, "If a procedure for a weighted lottery reflecting the mission of the school has been approved by the State Board as part of the charter, and a lottery is needed under subsection (h) of this section, the lottery shall be conducted according to the procedure in the charter." State Board Policy CHTR-014 requires State Board approval for specific material revisions to a charter application such as a weighted lottery. Doral Academy NC is also requesting an enrollment decrease. The school's location can only accommodate 325 students and therefore the original projections are not possible. While a contractual agreement was not met to secure additional space for the first year, the terms of the lease allow for the option to buy in two years with greater capacity. The school is requested a decrease from 500 students in Year Two (the first year of operation as the school was in a delayed year) to 270 students.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve Doral Academy NC's Request to Implement a Weighted Lottery and Revise Enrollment Projections.

APPROVED

EICS 5 - Coastal Preparatory Academy's Request to Partner with an Education Management Organization (EMO)

Coastal Preparatory Academy (CPA) (65F)) is a charter school serving grades K-8 in Wilmington. CPA has been in operation since 2017. Pursuant to State Board Policy CHTR-014, CPA requested approval to partner with an educational management organization (EMO), Charter One. The Board of Directors of CPA chose Charter One due to the organization's experience and expertise in the curriculum used by the charter including Core Knowledge and Singapore Math. In addition, CPA chose Charter One for its ability to help with the day-to-day management of the school and experience managing a network of schools across Arizona, Nevada, North Carolina, and Florida.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve Coastal Preparatory Academy's Request to Partner with an Education Management Organization (EMO).

APPROVED

EICS 6 - Asheville PEAK Charter Academy's Request to Revise its Enrollment

Asheville PEAK Academy Charter School is a charter school scheduled to open this upcoming fall 2021 in Buncombe County. The school is sought a reduction of enrollment from 128 students in year one to 102 students in year one, a reduction of 26 students. This request is the result of facility size and more specifically, classroom sizes that better accommodate smaller class sizes. The school has stated that in later years, the facility will be renovated and expanded to hold a greater number of students, but for year one the enrollment needed to be reduced.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve Asheville PEAK Academy Charter School's Request to Revise Enrollment Projections.

APPROVED

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

BSOP 1 – Approval of Contracts Over \$500,000:

- [\\$7,565,000 contract with Research Triangle Institute \(RTI\)](#) for continued implementation and program support of RTI for the Rethink Education Program.
- [\\$596,200 contract with Microsoft](#) to renew the statewide Microsoft Imagine Academy (MSIA) agreement, which was initiated in 2010.
- [\\$400,215 amended contract with Coylar Technology Solutions](#) for maintenance and enhancement of the School Nutrition Technology System (SNTS).

APPROVED

BSOP 2 – Innovative Partnership Grant Competition Recommendations

Discretionary (competitive) school improvement funding grants authorized under section 1003(a) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015 (ESSA), are grants for use in the State’s lowest-achieving and federally identified Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) schools. These funds are reserved from the State Education Agency’s (SEA’s) Title I, Part A funds to make discretionary grants available to organizations who have already received formula grants from the same section of ESSA. Based on flexibility offered in the ESSA, the State may determine that an organization may apply for additional school improvement funds through a discretionary grant process (Innovative Partnership Grant Program (IPG)) for eligible schools identified under the federally approved definition for “Comprehensive Support and Improvement” (CSI). The Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division recommended the identified districts, representing the eligible schools, be awarded the second round of the Innovative Partnership Grants selected through a detailed competitive application process. This process included the required Level I, Level II, and Level III reviews for competitive (discretionary) grants.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the recommended districts/schools for the Innovative Partnership Grant.

APPROVED

BSOP 3 – Digital Learning Initiative Grants for Public School Units

NCDPI, on behalf of the SBE, issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Digital Learning Initiative (DLI) Grants in March 2021. Based upon available funding, DLI Planning Grants 2021-2022 RFP were approved. The North Carolina Digital Learning Plan recommended the provision of grants to support the development and dissemination of local innovative digital learning models. The goal is to have effective digital learning practices spread across all North Carolina K-12 public schools. All Public School Units were eligible to apply for the competitive grant programs. Funds awarded for the 2021- 2022 school year must be expended by recipients prior to June 30, 2022.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the applications identified by the grant evaluation team to distribute funding to school districts and charter schools.

APPROVED

BSOP 4 – Approval of Education and Workforce Innovation Commission (EWIC) Grant Recommendations

The purpose of the Grade Expansion Program is to expand career and technical education (CTE) programs by prioritizing the inclusion of students in sixth and seventh grade through grant awards provided to selected local school administrative units for up to seven years. Funds appropriated for the Program shall be allocated to selected local school administrative units as competitive grants of (i) up to seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and (ii) to the extent funds are available, up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years. Grant funds

shall be used only for employing additional licensed personnel in career and technical education areas, career development coordination areas, and support service areas necessary for expanding the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade students. The funds may be used for CTE programs at one or more schools in the local school administrative unit. Grant funds allocated to the local school administrative unit each fiscal year under the Program shall not revert but shall be available for the purpose of the grant program until expended.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the recommended applicants for awarding for the 2021-22 – 2022-23 grant cycle for the 6th and 7th Grade CTE Grade Expansion Program.

APPROVED

BSOP 5 - Pre-approval of Financial and Business Services Policy Manuals (SLRY-000; ALOT-003; ATND-000)

The State Board of Education (SBE) is requested to approve, in advance, the issuance of the following manuals upon the adjournment of the General Assembly, allowing the Department to incorporate changes approved by legislative action that do not require State Board approval to change any policy directives. It will also allow the Department to distribute resources and disseminate these documents to the local education agencies (LEAs) and charter schools in a timely manner (example, the state salary schedules cannot be implemented by the LEAs until passed in legislation and approved by the SBE). The documents impacted are as follows:

- Public School Personnel State Salary Schedules and Manual (SBE Policy SLRY-000)
- Allotment Policy Manual (SBE Policy ALOT-003)
- School Attendance and Student Accounting Manual (SBE Policy ATND-000)

Should circumstance and/or legislative action require the SBE to revise a current policy or institute any new policies referenced in these documents, these items would be brought to the SBE for separate action as appropriate.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE pre-approve the amendment of manuals (Public School Personnel State Salary Schedules and Manual; the Allotment Policy Manual; and the Benefits and Employment Policy Manual for Public School Employees) at the July SBE meeting and take action upon adjournment of the General Assembly or the passage of the budget bill for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 and supporting legislation.

APPROVED

BSOP 6 – United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Grant

NCDPI has been awarded the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) for the period of the 2021-22 school year. The program will provide \$5,723,687 to the School Nutrition Division to be distributed among 223 elementary schools selected throughout the State for the coming school year. The primary goal of the USDA FFVP is to create healthier school environments by providing healthier food choices. To achieve this goal, the FFVP offers Public School Units (PSUs) the opportunity to expand the variety of fruit and vegetables students experience, increase students' overall fruit and vegetable consumption, and make a difference in students' diets to impact their present and future health. Principals, teachers, and school nutrition personnel in participating schools will be encouraged to promote fresh fruit and vegetables to students throughout the academic day. The fruit and vegetables purchased with FFVP funds must be in addition to those served as part of the school breakfast and lunch programs. Fresh produce will be available to students in a variety of locations on the school campus to include: some schools providing a basket of fruit and vegetables to students as they come into their classrooms in the mornings or as a mid-afternoon snack; other schools will locate fresh fruit and vegetable kiosks in the corridors to enable students to grab a quick and healthy snack between classes.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the distribution of the FFVP annual grant funding to NC's 223 elementary schools selected for participation in the FFVP for the 2021-22 school year.

APPROVED

EDUCATOR STANDARDS AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Action

ES & P 1 – Policy Amendment: Licensing Testing Requirements (LICN-003) – edTPA Cut Scores for 2021-2022

Based on G.S. 115C-269.25(g), educator preparation programs shall require a nationally normed and valid pedagogy assessment, in addition to a content assessment, to determine clinical practice performance. The State Board of Education shall determine the passing scores and mastery criteria as stated in the statute. The pedagogy assessments that are SBE-approved for the state of North Carolina are the edTPA and PPAT, and they became consequential on September 1, 2019. For SBE policy LICN-003 – Licensing Testing Requirements, the cut scores for edTPA were discussed and approved by the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC) to remain as stated in policy LICN-003 for 2020-2021 for the next two years (2021-2023). This discussion and action by PEPSC took place on May 19, 2021.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the policy amendments to LICN-003 – Licensing Testing Requirements that maintain the current cut score for the pedagogy assessments, edTPA and PPAT for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 and for the changes currently outlined in the policy to be reconsidered for the 2023-2024.

APPROVED

HEALTHY RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS COMMITTEE

Action

HRS 1 - 2021-2022 Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual Updates

Each year, updates are made to the Middle School Athletic Manual to reflect any changes in rules or language. A [summary of changes](#) for the 2021-2022 manual is included along with the manual.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the changes to the [2021-2022 Middle School Athletic Manual](#).

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](#).

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.