



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

February 4, 2021

The State Board of Education (SBE) held its monthly meeting on February 3-4.

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 Approves Legislative & Policy Priorities

The Board gave final approval to its \$184.7 million budget proposal month, after months of discussion and additional input from newly-elected State Superintendent Catherine Truitt and her team. During this month's Superintendent's report, Truitt shared the three "guiding priorities," or areas of focus, which helped shape her recommendations for the 2020-21 legislative and budget priorities: literacy, testing and accountability, and human capital. During the Business Operations Committee Report, NCDPI and SBE representatives presented the final joint budget proposal, which highlighted the following six areas:

- **Addressing Statewide Learning Challenges and Recovery:** \$31,782,940
- **Student Mental Health, Well Being, and School Safety:** \$55,896,000
- **Education Workforce Development (Teacher and Principal Recruitment and Retention):** \$7,478,700
- **Connecting Middle/ High School Students to Post-Secondary and Career Opportunities:** \$12,854,500
- **School Business System Modernization:** \$28,900,000 (non-recurring); \$37,355,000 (recurring)
- **Support for Other Agency Requests:** \$10,450,000

TOTAL: \$184,717,140

A further breakdown of these areas of focus and their costs can be accessed by clicking [here](#).

Revised Social Studies Standards Approved in 7-5 Vote

After months of intense debate, the majority of Board members voted to approve Draft 5 of the revised social studies content standards, which places more focus on the impact of slavery and discrimination throughout America's history. Board members discussed at length the pros and cons of the standards during a special called meeting on January 27, and in the days that followed, an editorial cartoon was shared by media depicting certain Board members who criticized the standards as members of the KKK. As a result, Board Chairman Eric Davis released a statement on behalf of the Board at the end of Wednesday's meeting condemning the cartoon, calling it highly offensive and inappropriate. The final approved version of the standards, as well as previous versions, can be accessed below:

- [Social Studies Standards Document](#)
- [Social Studies Standards Presentation](#)

ACTION ITEMS

STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Action

SLA 2 - NC Occupational Course of Study Standards: Renaming Occupational Prep Courses to Employment Preparation with associated linkage to Science, Citizenship, and Math (SCOS-000, SCOS-012, GRAD-004)

The Exceptional Children Division conducted a review and revision of the Occupational Preparation courses and standards required for graduation by the Occupational Course of Study pathway. These recommended revised standards are the result of analysis of current research associated with the predictors of postschool success and alignment with the nature of Science, Social Studies, and Math state standards and content areas. The EC Division requested the State Board approve the review, revision, alignment, and renaming of the current Occupational Preparation Courses to reflect linkage to Science, Citizenship, and Math content courses, employability skills, and research-based skills necessary to promote positive post-school outcomes.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the course revision of Occupational Preparation Courses and the renaming of these courses to Employment Preparation with associated linkage to Science, Citizenship, and Math.

APPROVED

SLA 3 - Economic & Personal Finance Extended Content Standards (SCOS-000, GRAD-004)

State Board of Education (SBE) Policy SCOS-012, the newly legislated (SL 2019-82, HB 924), and adopted Economics and Personal Finance (EPF) standards were approved by the SBE in January 2020. Students with significant cognitive disabilities must be provided access to the state standards by aligning instruction and assessments. The Exceptional Children Division, in collaboration with K-12 Curriculum and Instruction Division, is required to fully align to the newly adopted Economics and Personal Finance standards. The [draft of the revised standards](#) was presented for action by the SBE. Professional development is set to begin Summer 2021 to ensure effective implementation, and new resources are in the process of being developed.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the proposed new alignment of the NC Extended Content Standards EPF at the February 2021 State Board meeting.

APPROVED

EDUCATION INNOVATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Action

EICS 1 - Aristotle Preparatory Academy's Request to Partner with an Education Management Organization (EMO)

Aristotle Preparatory Academy (APA) is a charter school serving grades K-7 in Charlotte that has been in operation since 2013. Pursuant to State Board Policy CHTR-014, APA is requesting approval to partner with an educational management organization (EMO), "Charter One." The Board of Directors of APA 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, APA chose Charter One for its ability to help with the day-to-day management of the school. The provided service provider agreement demonstrates the range of services Charter One will provide including operational, academic, financial, compliance, and legal services. APA appeared before the Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB) at both its November and December meetings to address questions and seek a recommendation on this amendment. At its December 7, 2020 meeting, CSAB unanimously approved this request.

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

APPROVED

EICS 2 - 2020 Accelerated Charter School Application Recommendation: School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA)

At the January 2021 SBE meeting, it was decided that the vote on the School of Arts for Boys Academy (SABA) application would be tabled pending legal review of the single-sex school question. As a result, the board for SABA was asked to complete a questionnaire regarding the single-sex program on which the school is based. SABA responded to questions posed by the Department of Public Instruction intended to gauge whether the applicant met the justification necessary to operate a single-sex school. SABA's submission was reviewed by the Charters School Advisory Board (CSAB) at a special called meeting, January 20, 2021. CSAB unanimously voted to approve the application believing the applicant met the legal standard needed to justify a single-sex school.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve the 2020 Accelerated Charter School Application Recommendation for School of the Arts for Boys Academy (SABA).

APPROVED

EDUCATOR STANDARDS AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Action

ES & P 1 – Policy Amendment: LICN-001 Audiology Degree Requirements & Additional Licensure Areas for Residency License; LICN-003 Licensure Exam Timeline for Completion, Chinese Licensure Area, & Audiology Licensure Exam Requirements; LICN-005 Audiology Renewal Requirements; and EVAL-024 Licensure Exam Timeline for Completion

Based on various statutes, State Board of Education policies LICN-001, LICN-003*, LICN-005, TCED-008, and EVAL-024 require policy amendments to align with state law as listed below:

- G.S. 115C-270.15(d) – Timeline for Licensure Exam Completion
 - LICN-001
 - LICN-003
 - EVAL-024
- G.S. 90-295(b) – Audiology License Requirements
 - LICN-001
 - LICN-003
 - LICN-005

*In addition to the above list, LICN-003 also has an update to the licensure area of Chinese to specify the two dialects accepted by licensure. **LICN-001 also includes a correction that references the requirements to clear multiple licensure areas for a Residency license.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the policy amendments to LICN-001, LICN-003, LICN-005, and EVAL-024 as presented.

APPROVED

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

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

The proposed contract for \$22,000,000 would enable the School Connectivity Initiative (SCI) to provide Internet access, Content Filtering, and Firewall Services to NC public schools through NCDIT and the North

Carolina Research and Education Network operated by MCNC for one year. NCDPI RFP “40-IT00103-17 School Connectivity Internet Bundle” was issued on December 16, 2016 with no technically sufficient bids received. Under North Carolina procurement law, NCDPI established an MOU with NCDIT to provide the services for the time period as specified in the RFP (three years and two optional one-year extensions). The SCI will be releasing a new RFP/IFB in July 2021 to seek competitive bids for K12 Internet access, Content Filtering, and Firewall Services in accordance with North Carolina procurement law and federal E-rate program requirements.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the proposed School Connectivity Initiative contract.

APPROVED

BSOP 2 – 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) – Summer Mini Grant Competition

Federal 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) funds are made available under the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA), Title IV, Part B. The Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division (FPMS) at NCDPI proposed utilizing part of the State Education Agency (SEA) sub-award of Title IV, B funds to run a 2021 Competitive Summer Mini-Grant Program. The purpose of the mini-grant program will be to provide federal funds to establish or expand community learning centers that operate during out-of-school (OTS) hours to mitigate learning loss due to COVID-19 and extended public school closures. Potentially funded mini-grant projects must serve at minimum 50 students and operate for a minimum of twenty hours per week for four or more weeks. FPMS projects grant awards ranging between \$50,000 to \$300,000 based on the needs identified in the community and schools; the scope of the program; the proposed number of students served; and program design. Upon State Board of Education approval, grant awards will be made available only as a reimbursement grant. Potential sub-grantees would be awarded funds for the 2021 summer months starting on May 10, 2021 and ending on September 1, 2021. Due to the short duration of the program, only existing or previously federally-or state-funded District/Charter/Lab/Non-LEA Organizations will be eligible to apply for the competition. Additionally, FPMS proposes to award a minimum of 2 mini-grants to each of the eight regions of the state.

Recommendations: The Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division recommended the SBE approve the 21st Century Community Learning Center subgrant allocations outlined in the [Request For Proposal documents](#).

APPROVED

BSOP 3 – Innovative Partnership Grant (IPG) Competition

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 Director for the Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division recommended the identified districts, representing the identified schools, to be awarded the first round of the Innovative Partnership Grants following a detailed competitive application process.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the use of the [Request for Proposal to conduct the IPG competition for Cohort II](#).

APPROVED

BSOP 4 - Approval of Digital Learning Initiative Grants for Public School Units

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), on behalf of the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE), issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Digital Learning Initiative Grants in March 2020. Based upon available funding, the following RFPs were approved for the identified school years:

- DLI Planning Grants in 2020-2021
- DLI Implementation Grants in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 (2-year grant program)

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 2020-2021 school year must be expended by recipients prior to June 30, 2021.

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 5 - SBE Policy Amendment: NC Public School Employee Salary Manual – Principal and Salary Determination for Merged Schools. (SLRY-000)

Session Law 2020-97 modified salary changes for NC public school employees, resulting in modifications to the Employee Salary and Benefits Manual (SLRY-000). Changes include the criteria used to determine principal pay. The revised salary schedule document can be accessed [here](#).

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the modifications to SLRY-001 - NC Public School Employee Salary Manual – Principal and Salary Determination for Merged 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.