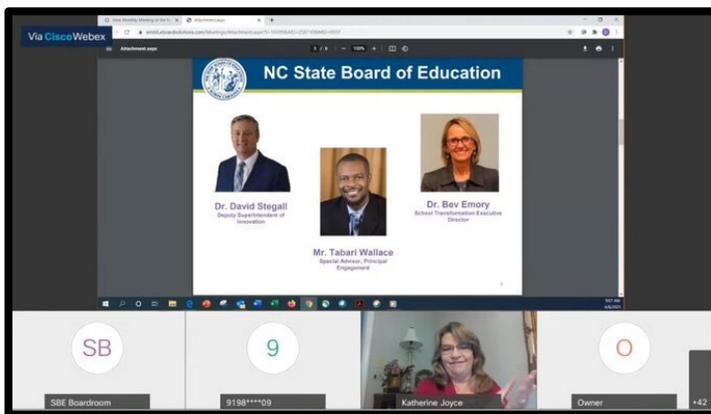


**A Publication for Members of the
N.C. Association of School Administrators**

April 8, 2021

*The State Board of Education (SBE) held its monthly meeting on April 7-8.
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/>*

MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



NC DPI Recognizes NCASA Awardees Stegall, Emory, & Wallace

The Board recognized NCASA Executive Director Katherine Joyce on Thursday to further congratulate Drs. David Stegall and Beverly Emory, as well as Mr. Tabari Wallace, for recently being granted leadership awards by NCASA. Drs. Stegall and Emory were co-awarded the 2021 Champion For Children Award, while Mr. Wallace was given the 2021 Raymond Sarbaugh Leadership Award.

ACTION ITEMS

HEALTHY RESPONSIBLE STUDENTS COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

HRS 1 - SBE Policy Amendment: Interscholastic Athletics COVID-19 Considerations (ATHL-001)

The SBE approved in April 2020 a temporary extension of preparticipation examinations for extracurricular sports, which is included in the athletic eligibility requirements of the Interscholastic Athletics policy (ATHL-001). The NC High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Sports Medicine Advisory Committee (SMAC) requested an extension through June 30, 2021, which would allow enough time for all high school sports seasons to conclude for the 2020-2021 school year.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the temporary extension as requested for ATHL-001 through June 30, 2021.

APPROVED

EDUCATION INNOVATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

EICS 1 - Telra Institute's Request to Increase Enrollment

Telra Institute (62L) is a charter school approved to open in the 2021 school year in Mecklenburg County. The school is requesting an amendment to increase its enrollment projections by 30 students in year 1 from 240 to 270 students. As of February 3, 2021, the school had a total of 378 applicants for 240 seats with a waitlist for every grade. The school outlines its justification for the request including having facility space and being able to hire more staff, in its cover letter of request.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE deny Telra Institute's Request to Increase Enrollment.

APPROVED

Action

EICS 2 - Kestrel Heights Request to Amend its Mission, Lunch Program, and Transportation Plans

Kestrel Heights Charter School ("Kestrel Heights") (32D) is located in Durham County and serves grades K-8 with approximately 450 students. State Board of Education (SBE) policy CHTR-014 requires certain material changes to a charter's application receive review and approval from the SBE. Kestrel Heights is requesting three such changes—revision to initial mission statement; request to participate in the National School Lunch program; and request to provide student transportation services.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve Kestrel Heights Charter School's Request to Amend its Mission, Lunch Program, and Transportation plans.

APPROVED

EICS 3 - 2020 Charter School Advisory Board (CSAB) Charter School Applications Recommendations

The State Board of Education (SBE) annually adopts a process and timeline by which the NCDPI Office of Charter Schools manages the solicitation and review of applications to operate a charter school in North Carolina. At the end of this process, the SBE receives recommendations from the NC Charter Schools Advisory Board (CSAB) regarding which applications for charters should be approved to start the Ready-to-Open process. CSAB recommended the following charters to begin the Ready-to-Open process:

- Central Carolina Academy Charter (Lee);
- Triangle Math & Science Academy (Wake);
- Bonnie Cone Leadership Academy (Mecklenburg);
- American Leadership Academy (Johnston); and
- Dogwood Classical Academy (Cabarrus);

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve the 2020 Charter School Application Recommendations to begin the Ready-to-Open process.

APPROVED

EICS 4 - Wilmington School of the Arts Request to Revise Grades Served

Wilmington School of the Arts ("WSA") (65H) is a charter school in its first year of operation serving grades K-2 with 153 students as of PMR4. The school is requesting the addition of 4th and 5th grade for its second year, as opposed to the originally proposed K-3. The school is seeing increased demand for these grade levels and hopes to retain siblings that would access the lower and upper elementary grades. There is no change to the original enrollment projections. The Charter Schools Advisory Board heard this request at its February 8, 2021 meeting and recommended to the school that it only modify classes served to allow 4th and 5th grade. The CSAB recommended the school can determine if it would like to add middle school grades in future years.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve Wilmington School of the Arts' Request to Revise Grades Served.

APPROVED

EICS 5 - 2021 Charter School Application Timeline and Process (16 NCAC 06G .0508, Charter Schools Application and Review 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), now recommends a timeline and process for the 2021 application round for applicants proposing to open in 2022 (accelerated applications) and 2023 (regular timeline applications). The 2021 application is in development and any revisions will be presented for SBE approval at a later date. 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. There are no major changes from last year's timeline and process although the document has been streamlined to make it easier to understand for stakeholders.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the SBE approve the 2021 Charter School Application Timeline and Process.

APPROVED

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

BSOP 2 – 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 \$905,285.00 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. Guidance for State Agencies administering the grant has been provided by the Food and Nutrition Service of the USDA. According to the guidance, equipment is defined as "nonexpendable, tangible property with a useful life of more than one year and a per unit acquisition cost of \$5,000; however, for this grant, USDA specified the threshold for equipment purchased with these funds at a threshold of \$1,000. This is a one-time exemption and this threshold only applies to FY 2020 equipment grant funds. Therefore, grants may not be awarded for a lesser amount. A Request for Application (RFA) was issued to all SFAs on November 2, 2020. Applications were returned to the State Agency on or before the deadline of January 8, 2021. SFAs were required to complete a SFA Application Summary that enabled the SFA to prioritize their equipment requests, and a School Application that described the specific school for which the equipment was requested. 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. Reporting requirements will be issued simultaneously with the grant award. SFAs will be required to expend the grant funds, in their entirety, by September 17, 2021. 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.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SEB approve the Equipment Assistance Grant Award Recipients at presented in the attached document.

APPROVED

BSOP 3 – Elementary & Secondary School (K-12) Emergency Relief (ESSER) III Application

The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides \$121,974,800,000 for a new Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund for the United States with \$3,599,191,706 coming to NC. Section 2001(c) of ARPA requires the US Department of Education to allocate the ESSER III Fund based on the proportion that each state received under Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA) in the most recent fiscal year. NCDPI must pass through 90 percent of ESSER III funds (\$3,239,272,535) received to eligible public school units (PSUs). Similarly, the proportion of the share received by each PSU will be based upon the proportion received under Title I, Part A of ESEA in the most recent fiscal year. The funds must be distributed "in an expedited and timely manner and, to the extent practicable, not later than 60 days after the receipt of such funds." The NC Department of Public Instruction

has developed an [application for Public School Units to apply for their portion of the funds](#). ARPA requires PSUs use 20 % of their allocation to address learning loss through evidence-based interventions that respond to students' academic, social, and emotional needs. In the ESSER III (PRC pending) application, PSUs will outline how they plan to use ESSER III funds.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the Elementary & Secondary School (K - 12) Emergency Relief Fund III Application.

APPROVED

BSOP 4 - Elementary & Secondary School (K-12) Emergency Relief (ESSER) I, II, & III Allotment Policies

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 \$13,229,265,000 for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER I) Fund. To provide further support to schools in responding the pandemic, Congress authorized additional appropriations for the ESSER Fund through the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations (CRRSA) Act (ESSER II -- \$54,311,004,000) and the American Rescue Plan Act (ESSER III -- \$121,974,800,000). Of the funding received by the State of North Carolina for each ESSER program, 90% of the funds are required to be allotted to public school units based on the proportion of Title I, Part A funds each unit received in the most recent fiscal year. The State may use the rest of the funds from each program to administer the ESSER programs and to address emergency needs as determined by the State Educational Agency to address issues responding to coronavirus, which may be addressed through the use of grants or contracts, in accordance with limitations established in the CARES Act, CRRSA, and American Rescue Plan Act. Under the CARES Act, CRRSA, and the American Rescue Plan, States must return to the U.S. Department of Education any funding not awarded within one (1) year of receiving funds from the Federal government. On March 11, 2021, the North Carolina General Assembly passed House Bill 196/SL 2021-3, which provided requirements for the use of the 10% of ESSER II funds that the State is permitted to reserve for emergency needs under the CRRSA. To address these requirements and enable the distribution of funds for ESSER I, II, and III, NCDPI recommended several [changes](#) to the Allotment Policy Manual.

Recommendations: It is recommended the SBE approve the modifications to the ALOT-003: NC Public Schools Allotment policy manual.

APPROVED

BSOP 5 - NC Education Corp Education Fund Grant Request

The NC Education Corps requested \$500,000 in grant funding to further its mission as a recently-incorporated 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Further, Corps representatives requested Dr. Deanna Townsend-Smith and Mr. James Ford be appointed as liaisons to the Corps Advisory Board.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the funding request for NC Education Corps and appoint the proposed liaisons to the NC Education Corps Advisory Board.

APPROVED

Action

BSOP 6 - The Education and Workforce Innovation Commission Report

The Education and Workforce Innovation Commission (EWIC) oversees two grants: the Career and Technical Education (CTE) 6th and 7th Grade Expansion Grant and the Education and Workforce Innovation Fund grant. The Commission is responsible for the following aspects of the grants: application creation; grant parameter creation (amount of grant years, amount of grant funds possible to each grantee); application scoring; awarding grants (under EWIF); sending Grade Expansion Grant recipients to the State Board of Education for approval. The purpose of the CTE 6th and 7th 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 receive the Education and Workforce Innovation Commission report for submission by April 15, 2021.

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.