



State Board Review

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

September 1, 2016

The State Board of Education (SBE) met August 31-September 1 in Raleigh. The pages that follow summarize the Board's actions for this month. For complete SBE information, visit their Web site: <http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/>

STATE BOARD APPROVES TEACHER LICENSURE POLICY AMENDMENT, INCLUDING DEFINING "PROFICIENT"

This month the State Board approved [changes to its general teacher licensure policy](#). These proposed changes were discussed during last month's State Board meeting. Most of these revisions were to conform with legislation passed in Section 8.32 of [this year's budget](#) approved by the General Assembly. The budget amends the standards for continuing licensure to direct applicants for continuing licensure provide evidence of a rating of at least proficient on the most recent annual evaluation to maintain current licensure statutes. Teachers who are not deemed proficient may be eligible for an initial degree license if the teacher has been placed on a mandatory improvement plan and the teacher satisfies all other licensure requirements.

For the purposes of this policy, the State Board approved a definition of 'proficient.' The definition reads as follows: "proficient" shall be defined as achieving a rating of proficient, or higher, on three of the five standards of the NC Educator Evaluation System (NCEES) provided that the standard related to pedagogy (Standard IV in NCEES) is rated at the level of proficient, or higher. Teachers on an abbreviated evaluation plan must achieve a rating of proficient, or higher, on the standard related to pedagogy in order to be deemed "proficient".

The approved policy also sets out the terms of the mandatory improvement plans a teacher deemed not proficient may be placed. The policy states the mandatory improvement plan must be 90 instructional days for teachers in schools identified as low-performing and 60 instructional days for teachers in schools not identified as low-performing. A teacher seeking continuing licensure that is deemed not proficient and has not been placed on a mandatory improvement plan is deemed to have an "expired" teaching license. A teacher whose license has expired pursuant to the revised policy is eligible to apply for an Initial license upon receipt of official notification from the State Board of Education and after a 30-day waiting period.

The policy also sets out that LEAs that move to dismiss a teacher under the provisions of this policy must follow all due process procedures as outlined in G.S. § 155C-331 and G.S. § 155C-331.1. The reversion of a teacher's license from Continuing to Initial shall not be construed as a demotion or result in a reduction of the teacher's salary. At the end of the term of the Initial license (three years), a teacher may be eligible for a Continuing license.

The State Board also approved two additional items related to teacher licensure as well. The first item the Board approved is a new policy [establishing student teaching clinical practice requirements](#).

The State Board also approved two amended policies related to the request for exemptions from licensing requirements. The [first policy](#) allows individuals who have not met licensing requirements due to extenuating circumstances to request an exception from the requirement or an extension of time. A [second approved policy](#) allows colleges and universities to submit requests for exception to Praxis I testing requirements on behalf of students seeking admission to teacher education programs.

STATE RELEASES 2015-2016 A-F SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES, GRADUATION COHORT RATE

The [School Performance Grades for 2015-2016 school year](#) were released Thursday morning during the State Board's monthly meeting. This year's data shows more schools earning an A, B, or C on the accountability model as the number of schools receiving a D or F fell to 23.2%, nearly a 20% decline. The data shows, however, that school grades continue to correlate closely with the poverty level of schools.

Also [released during the Thursday](#) meeting was achievement data, growth data, data on end-of-grade tests, end-of-course tests, the ACT, ACT workkeys, math course rigor, and graduation projects. Results for the state, districts, and schools is available [here](#).

The [2015-2016 Cohort Graduation Rate](#) was also released and approved on Thursday morning during the State Board's monthly meeting. The four-year cohort graduation rate was up slightly from last year's 85.6 to 85.8%, the 11th year in a row the graduation rate has increased. The graduation rate for the 2005-2006 school year was 68.3%. The five-year cohort graduation rate was also up this year to 87.5% from last year's 86.3%. four-year and five-year cohort graduation rates can be found [here](#).

To read more about the release of the 2015-2016 School Performance Grades and the 2015-2016 graduation rates, please see news articles by Raleigh's [News & Observer](#) and [WRAL-TV](#).

STATE BOARD DISCUSSES IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE FOR ACHIEVEMENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

This month the Board began discussing the [implementation timeline](#) of one of the more controversial pieces of legislation passed by the General Assembly during the 2016 legislative session, [House Bill 1080](#), which establishes the Achievement School District. That legislation directs that supervision of the Achievement School District must begin with the 2017-2018 school year. However, the discussion among the Board was when to begin operation of, and the selection of school into, the Achievement School District. The law directs that the Board may select up to five qualifying schools to transfer to the Achievement School District beginning with the 2017-18 school year but directs the school must select at least two qualifying schools to transfer to the ASD no later than the 2018-19 school year and shall have selected five qualifying schools for transfer to the ASD no later than the 2019-20 school year.

Chairman of the Board, Bill Cobey, called the timeline proposed by the legislation unrealistic and stressed his desire "to be part of something successful". Citing the amount of work needed to be done, Cobey noted the Board needed to get the Achievement School District Superintendent in place as soon as possible.

Lt. Governor Dan Forest, who heads up the committee charged with recommending the hiring of a Achievement School District Superintendent, advocated that the Board allow the hired superintendent determine what timeline is most feasible and to make the timeline decisions. Although no job

posting has as of yet been posted, Lt. Governor Forest indicated he hopes to have a recommendation for the Board by the end of September for the Board to vote on during their October meeting.

It was unclear from the State Board's discussion whether or not the Board would be voting on a timeline during next month's State Board meeting.

ACTION ITEMS

BUSINESS OPERATATIONS COMMITTEE

Action

BSOP 1 Restart School Funding Model

*Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the proposed funding model. **APPROVED***

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

Action On First Reading

BSOP 2 Title V State Abstinence Education Grant

*Recommendations: The State Board of Education is asked to grant approval of providing funding up to 28 of the 115 LEAs. **APPROVED***

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

BSOP 3 State Personnel Development Grant

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the funding.

APPROVED

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

BSOP 6 Collection and Calculation Method of Charter School Per Pupil Share

Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education adopt the recommended policy.

APPROVED

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

Student Learning and Achievement Committee

Action On First Reading

SLA 1 Compliance Commission Recommendations for Field Testing and Special Studies Appeals for the 2016-17 School Year

*Recommendations: It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Compliance Commission's recommendations regarding the appeals. **APPROVED***

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

SLA 4 2016 Social Studies and Healthful Living Textbook Adoption

*Recommendations: The State Board is asked to approve the list of social studies and healthful living textbooks recommended by the Textbook Commission. **APPROVED***

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

EDUCATION INNOVATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Action

EICS 1 Revised Academic Improvement Plan For Rocky Mount Preparatory Academy

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommends that the State Board of Education accept the [Academic Improvement Plan for Rocky Mount Preparatory Academy](#).

APPROVED

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON DIGITAL LEARNING

Action *On First Reading*

SCDL 1 Approval of Digital Learning Plan Update

Recommendations: It is recommended the State Board of Education approve [Digital Learning Plan Update](#).

APPROVED

<https://eboard.eboardsolutions.com/Meetings/ViewMeetingOrder.aspx?S=10399&MID=2678>

To view the agenda for the State Board of Education's meeting on August 31, including links to all handouts and power point presentations presented to the Board, and which may include discussion and informational items not discussed above, please click [here](#).

To view the agenda for the State Board of Education's meeting on September 1, including links to all handouts and power point presentations presented to the Board, and which may include discussion and informational items not discussed above, please click [here](#).

To view the monthly State Board of Education newsletter for the month of August, 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 Adam Pridemore, Government Affairs Specialist, at apridemore@ncasa.net.