



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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November 10, 2005

TO: LEA Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

FROM: Janice O. Davis  
Deputy State Superintendent

Lmf  
Louis M. Fabrizio  
Director, Accountability Services

**SUBJECT: Effect of New High School Exit Standards on 2005-06 Middle School Students**

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has received numerous questions from school personnel regarding the effect of the new High School Exit Standards on current middle school students for the 2005-06 school year. As you know, the new High School Exit Standards go into effect with 9<sup>th</sup> graders in the 2006-07 school year. The State Board of Education (SBE) policy does not address what happens to middle schoolers prior to the 2006-07 school year who may be taking end of course (EOC) assessments prior to entering high school. We have consulted with the State Board attorney, reviewed all of the information discussed with the SBE, and have concluded the following. Any current middle school students in the 2005-06 school year who are taking, or have taken, any of the courses for which there are EOC assessments under the new High School Exit Standards will be held harmless for the standards for those courses.

However, starting with the 2006-07 school year, all middle school students enrolled in courses for which end-of-course assessments are available for the High School Exit Standards will have to score at or above achievement level III (with one standard error of measurement) and given multiple testing opportunities to meet the standard.

As with other SBE policies, local school districts may enact higher standards for their students. A copy of this memo will be posted to the DPI Website and e-mails will be sent to all principals using the State Superintendent's e-mail listserv notifying them of this situation. If you have any questions about this, please contact your Regional Accountability Coordinator.

JOD:LMF:lm

c: LEA Test Coordinators  
Directors of Curriculum and Instruction  
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