



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Howard N. Lee, *Chairman*

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

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January 5, 2009

TO All Superintendents

From Rebecca Garland

During the fall semester the State Board of Education took action on two items that directly impact students and may need your immediate attention. These actions were:

- **Relief from the Geometry End-of-Course (EOC) Exam** – Students taking the Integrated Mathematics (IM) series will no longer be required to take the Geometry EOC exam during IM III. Historically students taking the IM series were required to take the Algebra I EOC at the end of IM II and the Geometry and Algebra II EOCs at the end of IM III. The Geometry exam caused the greatest angst for students and teachers because the Geometry standards are spread across all three courses and consequently are not aligned with IM III. The Blue Ribbon Commission on Testing and Accountability recommended that tests be developed for the IM series, and this effort is underway. Until the new IM EOCs are operational, students enrolled in the IM series will be relieved from taking the Geometry EOC. Local school systems may elect to administer the Geometry EOC; however, the scores will not be included in accountability calculations. This action became effective upon passage in December. Information was sent immediately to testing coordinators.
- **Exit Documents** – The State Board of Education (SBE) amended its policy on exit documents for students leaving high school without a diploma. Historically Board policy referenced a Graduation Certificate and a Certificate of Achievement. After lengthy deliberation the SBE voted to eliminate the Certificate of Achievement and maintain the Graduation Certificate as well as the right to participate in graduation exercises for selected students with disabilities. Students with disabilities who are impacted by this action are those for whom the Occupational Course of Study (OCS) is too rigorous and are enrolled in content courses specifically designed to meet their needs; OCS students who may have met the course requirements for graduation but may need longer to complete the 360 hours of competitive employment; or students who have met the course requirements but may not have successfully completed all testing requirements. Please note that this action **does not limit** a local Board's authority to grant the Graduation Certificate to **any** student for whom a principal feels such action is appropriate.

At its January meeting, the SBE will discuss North Carolina's expanded participation in the multi-state administration of a shared Algebra II examination. The Department will recommend to the SBE that a representative sample of schools be chosen for participation in the ADP

Algebra II test this spring and that these schools be waived from taking the NC Algebra II EOC. Pros and cons of this decision will be deliberated.

Thank you for your attention to these State Board actions. If you have any questions, please contact me at 919-807-3200 or [rgarland@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:rgarland@dpi.state.nc.us).

C: Dr. June Atkinson  
JB Buxton  
LEA Instructional Leaders

## ACADEMIC SERVICES AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT

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