



# 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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TO: LEA Superintendents  
Charter School Directors

FROM: Janice O. Davis   
Deputy Superintendent

Louis M. Fabrizio, Director   
Division of Accountability Services

SUBJECT: The Competency Requirement and students who are ninth graders for the first time in 2006-07 and beyond

Students who enter the ninth grade for the first time in 2006-07 and beyond who are following the Career Technical Preparation, College Technical Preparation, or College University Courses of Study must meet new high school exit standards in addition to meeting all other existing state and local graduation requirements (i.e., fulfilling course credit requirements, demonstrating computer skills proficiency, and meeting the competency standards). The new high school exit standards require students to perform at Achievement Level III (with one standard error of measurement) or above on five end-of-course (EOC) assessments (i.e., Algebra I, English I, Biology, Civics and Economics, and U.S. History) and successful completion of a graduation project.

The State Board of Education (SBE) will be working with the General Assembly to clarify the language in N.C. General Statute §115C-174.11 (b) Competency Testing Program so that it incorporates the requirements of the new high school exit standards. The EOC requirements of the new high school exit standards are more rigorous and represent a higher standard of performance than the current competency standards in reading and mathematics. The competency standards in reading and mathematics can be met by performing at Achievement Level III (with one standard error of measurement) or above on the English I and Algebra I EOC assessments respectively. Therefore, students entering the ninth grade for the first time in 2006-07 and beyond, who meet the EOC English I and Algebra I requirements of the new high school exit standards as outlined in SBE policy HSP-N-000 will by default meet the competency requirements without any additional testing (i.e., these students are not required to take the NC Competency Tests of Reading and Mathematics).

JOD:LMF:sm

c: June Atkinson  
Rebecca Garland  
Elsie Leak  
Chris Cobitz  
Mildred Bazemore  
Sarah McManus

## DIVISION OF ACCOUNTABILITY SERVICES

6314 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6314 | (919) 807-3770 | Fax (919) 807-3772

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