



Public Schools of North Carolina

State Board of Education
Howard N. Lee, Chairman

Department of Public Instruction
Michael E. Ward, State Superintendent

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org>

September 30, 2003

MEMORANDUM

TO: LEA Superintendents
Chief Officers of Charter Schools

FROM: Michael E. Ward

SUBJECT: Data Collection for 2003-2004

The success of our accountability program depends on having complete and accurate student data. As you know, we must now collect data for the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in addition to the ABCs. Specific data requirements include testing data, other academic indicators (e.g. attendance and graduation) and variables used for disaggregation (e.g. gender, ethnicity, disability, Limited English Proficiency, Free/Reduced lunch eligibility, migrant status, etc.) and other information.

The ABCs relies on previous test scores for growth calculations and prediction formulas, so it is critical that each enrolled student's testing history be as complete and accurate as possible. In the past, some schools have had difficulty obtaining student records from other schools and school systems in a timely fashion. Please make sure that your schools implement a process to acquire or provide accurate student records as required by law [GS 115C-403(b)].

The Department of Public Instruction provides software to assist schools in auditing and updating student records. Data that are missing (e.g., data for students who have transferred into the school or school district) may need to be manually entered; as always, we will work individually with school districts that do not use SIMS or NCWISE to ensure their ability to meet the data requirements of the ABCs and NCLB.

A separate memo will be sent to your principals from the Division of Accountability Services, giving more complete details of the accountability data requirements. You will also receive a copy of that memo. Should you have concerns or questions regarding ABCs data collection for 2003-2004, please contact Gary Williamson in the Division of Accountability Services at (919) 807-3787. Thank you for your continued cooperation.

MW:bsb

c: Bob Bellamy, Associate Superintendent
Lou Fabrizio, Director
Regional Accountability Coordinators
LEA SIMS Coordinators
LEA Testing/Accountability Coordinators
DHSS Administrators
DJJDP Administrators