



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION :: Michael E. Ward, *State Superintendent*

January 5, 2004

MEMORANDUM

TO: Principals

FROM: Robert H. Bellamy
Louis M. Fabrizio, Director
Accountability Services

SUBJECT: 2003–04 ABCs

This memo summarizes the ABCs requirements and procedures that are in effect for the 2003-04 accountability cycle. For the most part, features of the ABCs that were in place during 2002-03 are still in effect. Adequate yearly progress (AYP) from the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) continues as a component of the ABCs. This year, the major changes to the ABCs program are:

1. No U.S. History End of Course (EOC) tests will be administered in 2003-04.
2. EOC tests in Economic, Legal and Political Systems (ELP) will be administered for transfer students, students who previously failed the course, and students in 10th-12th grade who need the course for graduation. However, ELP data will be excluded from the ABCs data analysis for the 2003-04 school year.
3. Writing results are not included in the ABCs in 2003-04.

Several issues are being reconsidered by the SBE following the first year's implementation of AYP as part of the ABCs. Information will be disseminated to LEA superintendents if the SBE decides to make changes.

Several documents are available on the DPI web site that provide useful information and answer questions about various aspects of the ABCs. From the ABCs Accountability Model site at <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org/abcs/>, select *ABCs Program Information* from the left-side menu bar. This displays a page listing the documents associated with the chronological development and modifications of the ABCs. Under the heading *2003-04*, you may select the *Superintendents' Data Collection Memo*, the *Alternative Schools (1st) Memo*, or *Evolution of the ABCs*. These documents reflect changes and information regarding the current accountability year. Additional documents may be posted as the information becomes available.

For historical information, you may select documents under *2002-03*, such as *ABCs Program* (lists the components of ABCs Growth, Performance Composite, and Adequate Yearly Progress); *Process for Handling Scores of Students in EC Cluster Classrooms*; *Accountability Processing Checklists*; [*The EOC Prediction Formulas*](#), or *Setting Annual Growth Standards: The Formula*, among others.

... **ACCOUNTABILITY AND TECHNOLOGY SERVICES**

... ROBERT H. BELLAMY, Associate Superintendent :: EMAIL bellamy@dpi.state.nc.us

... 6316 Mail Service Center :: Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6316 :: 919.807.3202 :: Fax 919.807.3389

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Alternative and special schools continue to be included in the ABCs under policy HSP-C-013, which was modified by the SBE earlier this year. See the *Alternative Schools (1st) Memo* under 2003-04 at the web site described above for further information. (Note: Some charter schools may be granted permission to be evaluated under the Alternative Schools Model per HSP-C-013.) Later this spring, superintendents and LEA testing/accountability coordinators will be asked to identify schools that may require special handling for the 2003-04 ABCs accountability cycle. These include K-2 feeder schools, vocational/career schools, special education schools, and hospital schools.

It is critical for schools to maintain accurate and complete historical data on all students. Accurate testing data must be maintained in SIMS/NCWISE to ensure that data for students who transfer are attributed to the school where courses were taught. These data must also be included in SIMS/NCWISE at the receiving school for use with the EOC prediction formulas. High school students' records should be checked and updated throughout the year to reflect changes in courses of study, as these data are necessary to compute the College University Prep/College Tech Prep component of the ABCs. Accurate records must also be maintained so that graduation rates can be computed for AYP.

If you have questions about the accountability program for 2003-04, please direct them first to your LEA testing/accountability coordinator who in turn can request information and/or assistance from the Regional Accountability Coordinator (RAC). We look forward to your continued cooperation and another successful accountability year.

RHB:LMF:bsb

c: LEA Superintendents
 Principals and Directors of Charter Schools
 DHHS Administrators
 LEA Testing/Accountability Coordinators
 DJJDP Administrators
 LEA SIMS/NCWISE Coordinators
 Compliance Commission for Accountability
 Regional Accountability Coordinators and Computing Consultants
 Marvin Pittman, Director of School Improvement