

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Title:** Ready Schools Task Force Recommendations**Type of Executive Summary:**

Action
 Action on First Reading
 Discussion
 Information

Policy Implications:

- Constitution _____
 General Statute # _____
 SBE Policy # _____
 SBE Policy Amendment
 SBE Policy (New)
 APA # _____
 APA Amendment
 APA (New)
 Other _____

Presenter(s): Mr. John Pruette (Executive Director, Office of School Readiness), Ms. Jackie Colbert (Director, Division of Elementary Education), and Dr. Carolyn Cobb (Consultant, Ready Schools Initiative)

Description:

In June of 2000, The NC Ready for School Goal Team issued a report entitled **School Readiness in North Carolina**. The report outlined a series of recommendations for what was needed in our state to assure that all children were arriving at school "ready" and that schools were, in turn, "ready" for all children. Since the release of that report, there has been increased national attention and research around issues related to Ready Schools. Therefore, the NC Ready Schools Task Force, consisting of K-12 and preschool educators as well as other organizational representatives, was convened by State Superintendent June Atkinson in March 2006 to review the initial recommendations that were made in regard to the Ready Schools component of the original report and to determine what steps must be taken to assist our state in moving forward. The Task Force was a joint initiative of the NCDPI and the North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) and was funded through a grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation. The Task Force issued their final report in January 2007, including a definition of Ready Schools, pathways to Ready Schools, and a recommendation that one of two Ready Schools Assessments be conducted by elementary schools as part of the School Improvement Planning Process.

Resources:

Grant from W. K. Kellogg Foundation

Input Process:

A broad-based input process was provided by a Task Force of 57 members, representing K-12 education administrators and teachers, early childhood professionals, school boards, research and policy organizations, and B-K higher education institutions.

Stakeholders:

Early childhood programs, elementary educators, central office administrators, Smart Start state and local partnerships

Timeline For Action:

This item is presented to the State Board of Education for discussion at its April 2007 meeting and will be returned for action at its May 2007 meeting.

Recommendations:

The SBE is requested to endorse/adopt (1) the definition of Ready Schools and Pathways to Ready Schools; and (2) the use of one of two Ready Schools Assessment Instruments in the School Improvement Planning process for elementary schools; and (3) The Power of K Position Paper.

Audiovisual equipment requested for the presentation:

Data Projector/Video (Videotape/DVD and/or Computer Data, Internet, Presentations-PowerPoint preferred)
Specify: _____

Audio Requirements (computer or other, except for PA system which is provided)
Specify: _____

Document Camera (for transparencies or paper documents – white paper preferred)

Motion By: _____

Seconded By: _____

Vote: Yes _____ No _____

Abstain _____

Approved _____ Disapproved _____

Postponed _____ Revised _____

*Person responsible for SBE agenda materials and SBE policy updates: Rick Klein, 919-807-3761