

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY****Title:** Exemption Requests Under the Innovative Education Initiatives Act - Turnaround High Schools**Type of Executive Summary:**
 Action     
  Action on First Reading     
  Discussion     
  Information
**Policy Implications:**

- Constitution \_\_\_\_\_
- General Statute #Senate Bill 1741 (Joint Conference Committee Report on Continuation, Expansion and Capital Budgets)
- SBE Policy # \_\_\_\_\_
- SBE Policy Amendment
- SBE Policy (New)
- APA # \_\_\_\_\_
- APA Amendment
- APA (New)
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Presenter(s):** Dr. Elsie C. Leak (Associate Superintendent, Curriculum and School Reform Services) and Ms. Toni Patterson (Consultant, Learn and Earn, New Schools Project)

**Description:**

An Act to Establish the Innovative Education Initiatives Act, Section 2, Article 16 of Chapter 115C-238, Part 9, Cooperative Innovative High School Programs, authorizes boards of trustees of community colleges and local boards of education, boards of governors of the UNC System and the independent colleges to jointly establish cooperative innovative programs in high schools and community colleges that will expand students' opportunities for educational success through high-quality instructional programming. A cohort of turnaround high schools is being presented in this item to get approval to implement STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program sites and approval for exemptions being requested under the above named Act. During the 2006 legislative session, funds were appropriated to the State Board of Education to support a cohort of STEM high schools. The total includes \$40,000 for each of the ten schools for planning. The budget included the following:

Section 16: Small Specialty High Schools (page F-3)

Provides planning grants at 10 small schools that intend to design instruction around the following curricula: science, technology, engineering and/or math (STEM). Provides \$261,680 to support four months of principal salary for each planning site prior to becoming operational in the 2007-08 school year. Any implementation grants for STEM schools shall come from non-State sources.

The attachment for this item includes the turnaround high schools applying to implement STEM programs, the waivers requested to support the first year of implementation, along with programmatic details.

**Resources:**

\$661,680

**Input Process:**

Personnel of LEA's and community colleges, New Schools Project

**Stakeholders:**

LEAs, community college, UNC and independent college personnel, high schools students, parents, and school staff

**Timeline For Action:**

This item was presented for discussion at the April 2007 State Board of Education meeting and is returned for action at the May 2007 SBE meeting.

**Recommendations:**

It is requested that the SBE approve the exemption requests and school programs at the May 2007 meeting.

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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)

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Motion By: \_\_\_\_\_

Seconded By: \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

Abstain \_\_\_\_\_

Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Postponed \_\_\_\_\_ Revised \_\_\_\_\_

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

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### High School Turnaround Initiative

**Part I. The STEM small school redesign planning sites listed below are presented to the State Board of Education for approval to implement in the 2007-08 school year.**

Currently, ten high schools identified by the State Board as “high priority” are redesigning themselves in partnership with the Boston Museum of Science, the New Technology Foundation and Project Lead the Way. Students enrolled in these schools will receive support for acceleration in math, science and technology with the aim of preparing all students for college, work, and citizenship in a 21<sup>st</sup> century global economy. Students will graduate with mastery of high-level course, having earned at least some college credit. Collaboration among stakeholders, including colleges, universities, and the private sector, will ensure that students benefit from meaningful work-based experiences. Similarly, teachers will benefit from significant professional development in these areas.

STEM schools will have the flexibility to offer courses of study in a variety of methods and sequences. However, all curriculum and instructional strategies will emphasize rigorous, project-based learning that helps students make sense of the world. For example, students and teachers will explore the “social, historical and environmental context of emerging technologies” through curriculum such as the Boston Museum’s *Engineering the Future: Designing the World of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*. They will explore the design process in engineering and the importance of inquiry, investigation, innovation and invention in science and business. All courses of study will align with the North Carolina State Board of Education’s “Future Ready Goals” and 21<sup>st</sup> century knowledge and skills.

	School District	Existing High Schools	SBE Region	New Schools	Model to be Implemented
1	Anson County	Anson High School	6	Anson County High School of Science and Technology	New Technology Foundation Replication
2	Bertie County	Bertie County High School	1	Bertie County STEM High School	Standards Based PBL/Boston Museum of Science
3	Duplin County	James B. Kenan High School	2	James B. Kenan School of Engineering	Standards Based PBL/Project Lead the Way
4.	Durham County	Southern High School	3	Southern High School of Engineering	Standards Based PBL/Project Lead the Way
5	Durham County	Hillside High School	3	Hillside New Technology High School	New Technology Foundation Replication
6.	Forsyth County	Carver High School	5	Jacket Technology	Standards Based PBL/Boston Museum of Science
7.	Northampton County	Northampton-West High School	3	Northampton-West High School	Standards Based PBL/Boston Museum of Science
8.	Warren County	Warren County High School	3	Warren County Technology High School	New Technology Foundation Replication
9.	Wayne County	Goldsboro High School	2	Goldsboro High School of Science and Engineering	Standards Based PBL/Boston Museum of Science
10.	Weldon City	Weldon High School	3	Weldon High School	Standards Base PBL/ Boston Museum of Science

### Part II. State Board of Education Exemption Requests

Exemption(s)	Requesting LEAs	Rationale for the Recommendation	Recommendation
1. Allow the NC principal certification requirements to be waived.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	Has been granted in the past to Davidson Middle College High School.	<i>Grant exemption.</i>
2. Fund the principal at the STEM High School using a different formula than the per teacher basis and at a principal level III.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duplin</li> <li>▪ Durham (Southern)</li> <li>▪ Durham (Hillside)</li> <li>▪ Forsyth</li> <li>▪ Warren</li> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	State funds are not available for this purpose.	<i>Grant exemption to LEAs that are willing to use local funds to do so.</i>
3. Allow the LEA to hire a principal funded by the state for funding Year I when the student population is less than 100.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anson</li> <li>▪ Bertie</li> <li>▪ Durham (Southern)</li> <li>▪ Durham (Hillside)</li> <li>▪ Wayne</li> </ul>	Provided for in statute for first year of operation for Learn and Earn Early College High School.	<i>Exemption not required.</i>
4. Provide additional state-paid teaching positions during the first two to four years of implementation to ensure that an adequate instructional program is developed at the new school and maintained at the existing traditional schools in the district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bertie</li> <li>▪ Durham (Southern)</li> <li>▪ Durham (Hillside)</li> </ul>	This requires an allocation of additional funding by the General Assembly.	<i>Do not grant exemption.</i>
5. Hold LEA harmless for reversion of money due to a possible 2% reduction in ADM due to enrollment in new school.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Durham (Southern)</li> <li>▪ Durham (Hillside)</li> </ul>	This requires an allocation of additional funding by the General Assembly.	<i>Do not grant exemption.</i>
6. Provide relief from a reduction in transportation efficiency ratings caused by the bussing of students to the community college campus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bertie</li> <li>▪ Duplin</li> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> <li>▪ Warren</li> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	<b>Documented</b> excess transportation costs will be reimbursed.	<i>No action is required by the SBE.</i>
7. Allow textbook waivers to enable the STEM program to purchase college textbooks.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bertie</li> </ul>	Flexible use of textbook funds already exists.	<i>Exemption not needed.</i>
8. Provide additional textbook allotment for students enrolled in the STEM program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bertie</li> </ul>	Would require additional allocation/resources.	<i>Do not grant exemption.</i>
9. Permit students enrolled in the STEM school to receive credit for Algebra I when taken in grade eight.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anson</li> <li>▪ Bertie</li> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	Algebra I taken in the 8 <sup>th</sup> grade does not count toward graduation.	<i>Grant exemption (contingent upon State Board action to make this a policy).</i>
10. Waive the requirement for EOC scores for students simultaneously enrolled in more than one school to be counted where the course is taught.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> </ul>	Local control.	<i>Grant exemption.</i>
11. Allow the STEM students to enroll in community college courses regardless of their age.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anson</li> </ul>	This decision is to be made by the State Board of Community Colleges.	<i>Grant exemption (if acceptable to the State Board of Community Colleges).</i>

12. Allow STEM students to meet graduation requirements using college-level courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Durham (Southern)</li> <li>▪ Durham (Hillside)</li> <li>▪ Warren</li> </ul>	This promotes acceleration.	<i>Grant an exemption.</i>
13. Allow full-time students who are enrolled in one high school course to enroll in more than one community college course for which they are eligible.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anson</li> <li>▪ Bertie</li> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> </ul>	This is acceleration and is one of the purposes of the Cooperative Innovative High School Program.	<i>Grant exemption.</i>
14. Allow the STEM program students to test out of required high school courses by taking and passing the End-of-Course test.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bertie</li> </ul>	Testing out of EOC courses should occur based on a certain standard – student must earn a B or better.	<i><u>Grant an exemption for testing out of required high school courses by taking and passing EOC courses at a B level for STEM students. Grant exemption for testing out of required high school courses by scoring at the 70<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher on EOC tests (for STEM students only).</u></i>
15. Allow the community college to develop a course needed by students in the program (and open to other non-high school students) even though such a course was available from at least one high school in a district.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anson</li> <li>▪ Bertie</li> </ul>	This has to be agreeable to the LEA and community college.	<i>Grant exemption (if acceptable to the State Board of Community Colleges).</i>
16. Allow the partners to develop curriculum that permits students to meet graduation requirements using college-level courses taught by college faculty.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anson</li> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	The review panel (including personnel from DPI and the three higher education entities) must review and approve such courses. A catalog will be established and disseminated for use by other high schools.	<i>Grant exemption (provided course is reviewed and approved by the panel and the State Board for Community Colleges).</i>
17. Allow the partners to restructure courses to increase opportunities for experiential and project-based learning as well as differentiated independent learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duplin</li> <li>▪ Forsyth</li> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> <li>▪ Warren</li> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	The review panel (including personnel from DPI and the three higher education entities) must review and approve such courses. A catalog will be established and disseminated for use by other high schools.	<i>Grant exemption (provided course is reviewed and approved by the panel and the State Board for Community Colleges).</i>
18. Permit the Early College High Schools to “blend” high school and community college courses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bertie</li> <li>▪ Duplin</li> </ul>	The review panel (including personnel from DPI and the three higher education entities) must review and approve such courses. A catalog will be established and disseminated for use by other high schools.	<i>Grant exemption (provided course is reviewed and approved by the panel and the State Board for Community Colleges).</i>
19. Allow faculty meeting the community college and SACS certification requirements to teach courses accepted for high school graduation requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Anson</li> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> <li>▪ Warren</li> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	NCLB requirements apply to high school faculty only.	<i>Exemption not required.</i>
20. Exempt programs from the strict seat or clock (instructional) hour requirements.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Bertie</li> <li>▪ Durham (Southern)</li> <li>▪ Durham (Hillside)</li> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> <li>▪ Warren</li> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	Policy already exists supporting this request.	<i>Exemption not required.</i>
21. Allow modification of courses within the Career and Technical pathways.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> </ul>	The articulation agreement with the Community College System allows community college credit for identified courses. If granted, this exemption would allow the courses also to count as high school CTE credit.	<i>No exemption is required (use the existing modification procedures).</i>

22. Allow substitutions in Pathway Courses when necessary for graduation or as a necessary accommodation to complete requirements for graduation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> </ul>	Career-Technical Education already has a process established for this purpose.	<i>No exemption is required (use the existing modification procedures).</i>
23. Establish a school calendar that aligns with the community college involved in the partnership.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	There is an established procedure for this purpose.	<i>No action is required by the SBE.</i>
24. Allow the sites to develop a testing calendar for the administration of state tests that may differ from the usual state timeline.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Duplin</li> <li>▪ Forsyth</li> <li>▪ Northampton-West</li> <li>▪ Warren</li> <li>▪ Wayne</li> <li>▪ Weldon City</li> </ul>	Accountability Services has established a process by which reforming high schools can request this exemption. In order to maintain test security and uniform test administrations, EOC testing waivers are granted on a yearly basis. Cooperative Innovative High Schools must apply for the EOC testing waiver at the beginning of each academic year. The principal of the Cooperative Innovative High School should contact the LEA Test Coordinator to obtain an EOC Testing Waiver Request Form which will subsequently be submitted to the NCDPI for consideration. If the EOC testing waiver is granted, the Cooperative Innovative High School must adhere to all testing security and test administration procedures established by the NCDPI and LEA Test Coordinator.	<i>No action required by SBE. Upon approval of calendar waivers, LEAs need to submit a request for testing to Accountability Services through the district-level testing coordinator.</i>
25. Allow the partners to restructure courses to increase opportunities for experimental and project-based learning as well as differentiated independent learning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Warren</li> </ul>	A review panel (personnel from DPI and the three higher education entities) should be established to review and approve such courses. A catalog could be established and disseminated for use by other high schools.	<i>Grant waiver contingent upon courses being developed and approved by the panel.</i>