

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Title:** Schools At Risk of Being Labeled A Persistently Dangerous School**Type of Executive Summary:**

Action
 Action on First Reading
 Discussion
 Information

Policy Implications:

Constitution _____
 General Statute # _____
 SBE Policy #SS-A-006
 SBE Policy Amendment
 SBE Policy (New)
 APA # _____
 APA Amendment
 APA (New)
 Other No Child Left Behind

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Associate Superintendent, Innovation and School Transformation) and Ms. Charlotte Hughes (Interim Director, Student Support Services)

Description:

According to State Board of Education policy, a “persistently dangerous school” is a public elementary, middle or secondary school or a charter school in which a total of five or more violent criminal offenses was committed per 1000 students (0.5 or more per 100 students) during each of the two most recent school years and in which the conditions that contributed to the commission of those offenses are likely to continue into another school year. Two schools, Catawba Valley High School, an alternative school in the Hickory City Schools system, and Conway Middle School, a traditional school in the Northampton County school system, were reported to have .5 or more violent criminal offenses per 100 students during each of the two most recent school years. This data reflects incidents during the 2005-06 and the 2006-07 school years, not during the 2007-08 school year.

School Safety and Climate Section consultants made on-site visits to review whether there was evidence that the conditions that contributed to the commission of those offenses are likely to continue into another school year and provide an opportunity for each school to report on plans for eliminating the conditions contributing to the violent acts. In addition, an external review team reviewed documentation and school portfolios.

Resources:

The Department of Public Instruction’s, School Safety and Climate Section, Local Education Agencies, Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Department of Mental Health, and external team members were used as resources in the completion of this process.

Input Process:

Input was received from site visitation team members. During the site review, principals, other school staff, and students met with the site review team members. The site observation documentation was presented to external team members who subsequently reviewed the school’s portfolio. Recommendations were made after a thorough review of all relevant documentation.

Stakeholders:

Stakeholders include students, teachers, staff, parents, the community and law enforcement agencies.

Timeline For Action:

It is requested that the State Board of Education review the recommendations made during the September meeting.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that (1) the State Board of Education find that the conditions that contributed to the commission of the offenses at the two schools are not likely to continue into another school year; therefore, the two schools are not currently “persistently dangerous” and (2) the two schools be placed on probationary status and be provided technical assistance, including school safety training, on site visits and review of schools disciplinary data during the 2008-2009 school year to assure that the conditions that contributed to the commission of the offenses do not reappear.

It is recommended that Catawba Valley High School and Conway Middle School be placed on probationary status for the 2008-09 school year.

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: Sylvia Moore, 919-807-4009