

STATE SUPERINTENDENT'S RECOMMENDATIONS

To the State Board of Education for Improving the
Graduation Rate and Reducing the Dropout Rate

THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION'S GUIDING MISSION

The guiding mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) is that every public school student will graduate from high school, globally competitive for work and postsecondary education and prepared for life in the 21st Century.

The following three goals of the SBE specifically address the need to improve the outcome for high school students.

NC public schools will produce globally competitive students.

- Every student excels in rigorous and relevant core curriculum that reflects what students need to know and demonstrate in a global 21st Century environment, including a mastery of languages, an appreciation of the arts and competencies in the use of technology.
- Every student will be enrolled in a course of study designed to prepare them to stay ahead of international competition.

NC public schools will be led by 21st Century professionals.

- Every educational professional uses data to inform decisions.

NC public school students will be healthy and responsible.

- Every learning environment will be inviting, respectful, supportive, inclusive and flexible for student success.
- Every school provides an environment in which each child has positive, nurturing relationships with caring adults.



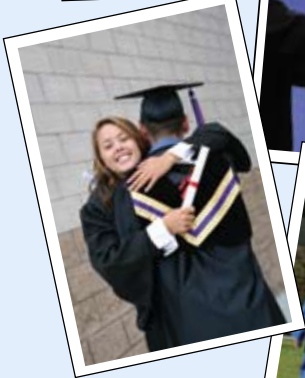
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FEBRUARY 5, 2009

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Require local school boards of education to set graduation benchmarks on an annual basis
2. Examine local and state board policies that have the unintended consequence of pushing students out of school
3. Require high schools with a graduation rate below the state average to use existing channels to report initiatives that will improve the graduation rate
4. Revise policies requiring all students to pass end-of-course tests in order to get credit for a course
5. Amend graduation requirements to reflect data supporting the benefits by having a concentration in career-technical education, arts education, and JROTC
6. Advocate strongly for increasing the number of graduation coaches in both middle and high schools
7. Listen, on a consistent basis, to the feedback from students at-risk of not graduating
8. Communicate to the General Assembly support for raising the compulsory school attendance age from 16 to 18



In compliance with federal law, NC Public Schools administers all state-operated educational programs, employment activities and admissions without discrimination because of race, religion, national or ethnic origin, color, age, military service, disability, or gender, except where exemption is appropriate and allowed by law.

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