



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Howard N. Lee, *Chairman*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

March 14, 2008

TO Superintendents

FROM Robert L. Logan

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANNING FOR 2008-11

I am aware that many of you have begun planning for the next school improvement cycle, since 2007-08 marks the end of the three year school improvement planning (SIP) cycle. Your next SIP cycle begins with the 2008 school year and your plans should be completed prior to the beginning of the next school year. One of my goals as Associate Superintendent is to develop a more straightforward and consolidated planning process for districts and schools. To that end, I am asking you to consider the 2008-09 school year a transition planning year while we work towards developing a consolidated, online SIP tool. SERVE, the regional educational laboratory for the southeast, is assisting DPI in developing a comprehensive, 21st century school improvement process. An online reporting template will minimize the burden on schools and districts, and will allow districts to consolidate many of their planning tasks. For the 2008-11 planning cycle, however, you are asked to prepare your SIP using the conventional template provided as an attachment. Please follow the guidelines set forth in previous years regarding your school improvement planning, making sure you adhere to these guidelines:

1. Tailor your overall plan to the State Board of Education priorities. You can read those priorities at http://www.ncpublicschools.org/state_board/boardgoals.pdf.
2. Bring as many of your programs and plans together as is feasible. If you are a Title I school, for example, you can develop one school improvement plan for the school, just making sure that you have incorporated the necessary components required by NCLB. Likewise, please incorporate your safe schools and healthy schools plan into the one school improvement plan.
3. Review existing plans in your district or school to determine which plans need revision. As you know, if your school or district has failed to meet AYP in reading or mathematics, then your plan should address improving subgroup performance in the identified content area.
4. Plan smarter. Establish and adhere to four or five goals that address your top priorities as a school or district; or simply adopt the State Board of Education's goals as your LEA or school improvement goals.
5. Be courageous in setting goals but aim for measurable outcomes.

I am also attaching a checklist matrix on an Excel spreadsheet that you may find helpful as you plan for greater consolidation; it may be useful to you in your consolidation efforts. The matrix includes the goals of the State Board of Education cross-walked with the five dimensions of the newly developed "school self-assessment instrument" used in the Comprehensive Support to Districts and Schools Framework.

We are at least one year away from having the online tools (school self-assessment and consolidated school improvement planning template) available for use by the LEAs. However, you are to continue your 2008-2011 planning using the attached template and checklist and remember that you may make adjustments in the three year SIP during the 2008-09 school year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office at (919) 807-3200.

RL/BB

c: June Atkinson
JB Buxton

INNOVATION AND SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION

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