

Weekly Message – State Superintendent June Atkinson

North Carolina Public Schools <NCPublicSchools@public.govdelivery.com>

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Inbox

To: Lynda Fuller <Lynda.Fuller@dpi.nc.gov>;

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Oct. 5, 2015



With the 2015 legislative session completed, NCDPI staff are continuing to review the impact of legislation and the budget and policy provisions that are included in the budget.

Teacher effectiveness is one area we know is impacted by legislative actions. The State Board of Education will be discussing new legislation impacting teacher effectiveness policies at its November meeting. Two references in the 2015 budget bill relate to waivers that allow schoolwide growth.

Staff members plan to hold a brief webinar to bring you up to speed on potential policy changes. Information on the date and time of the webinar will be forthcoming, so please watch your email for that information.

Tomorrow I have the privilege of recognizing 11 school districts and 60 high schools for earning the highest cohort graduation rates for 2014-15. Fifty-two of those schools achieved a 100 percent graduation rate! This is exciting news and definitely worth celebrating.

State Board of Education Meeting Highlights

At last week's Board meeting, members received reports on third grade performance under [Read to Achieve](#) and [teacher turnover](#) in 2014-15.

Members approved the state's READY Accountability results for 2014-15, the [list](#) of schools and districts identified as low performing, guidelines for academically or intellectually gifted programs, Read to Achieve local alternative assessments, and requests for approval from two charter schools to be funded as dropout prevention and recovery programs.

Board members also recognized Guilford County Schools' The Early/Middle College at Bennett for receiving the 2015 National Schools of Character Award and three Guilford County schools for receiving the 2015 North Carolina Schools of Character State Award: Brooks Global Studies Elementary, James Y. Joyner Elementary and The Early/Middle College at Bennett.

The complete list of Board actions is available [online](#).



NC Educator Survey Update

As a follow up to a May 21 memo from State Superintendent June Atkinson, NCDPI, with a grant from the Southern Regional Education Board, is embarking on a study in selected districts and charters to use teacher, principal and district survey data in a new and better way.

The purpose of the study is to provide high quality, trustworthy data in four key priority areas:

- high academic standards and aligned assessments;
- robust teacher feedback;
- improved teacher development; and
- personalized learning opportunities for students.

The data collected will provide feedback to monitor implementation progress over time and to better understand the impact of these initiatives on critical outcomes.

Selected district and charter curriculum and instruction leaders have received this information as well. Starting today (Oct. 5), and continuing for a three-week window, your district and many of the principals and teachers in your district will receive surveys. In addition to this survey, your district also will be asked to provide us with documents and artifacts including:

- ISBN numbers for textbooks currently used in your district;
- classroom observation instruments (if different from state-provided instruments); and
- curricular materials (pacing guides, curriculum frameworks, etc.).

Additional information will soon be sent to selected districts and charters to let you know how to share this information with NCDPI and to help encourage participation from principals and teachers in your district. Westat, a Maryland-based research company, will manage the data collection efforts

In the meantime, we would like you to think about whom in your district would be able to collect these data and initiate the collection process. If you have any questions regarding this collaborative, please contact [Paul Marshall](#), NCDPI project coordinator for Student Growth.



Upcoming Webinars

The next Proof of Concept Study webinar will be held Oct 15 at 3 p.m., and focus on the teacher and student reports that are available as well as how to use the data from these reports to inform instruction and supports for students.

The target audience is districts and school staff participating in the Proof of Concept Study; however, nonparticipating districts/staff also are welcome to attend.

You may register for this webinar [online](#). After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

For those who cannot attend this webinar, it will be repeated on Oct. 29 at 3 p.m. The registration link for this webinar is available [here](#).

October is “Connected Educator” Month

As educators, it’s often challenging to remain current with professional knowledge while actively serving our schools and districts. Being aware of resources that help keep us informed of current and emerging trends in education is more valuable than ever. How do we reach beyond the walls of our school buildings to seek out professional knowledge and growth opportunities?

Visit the Connected Educators’ [website](#) to find the answers to this question. Educators are encouraged to grow your professional learning network by engaging in virtual discussions with others, sharing resources, tweeting, participating in national “Connected Educator Month” events and more.

Be sure to take a look at the Connected Educator Starter [Kit](#). Tweet often, using the hashtag #CE15, as you share your thoughts and activities. Stay tuned as the Digital Teaching and Learning Division shares weekly updates to assist you in the process of growing your “connectedness.”

Multi-Tiered System of Support: Casting a Vision

Creating a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) requires weaving together installed academic and behavior problem-solving frameworks. This work requires having a clear goal – a vision – for this change.



The NCDPI MTSS team is providing opportunities for districts, charter schools and state-operated

programs to analyze current installation of these parallel structures and cast a vision for the adoption of this woven framework. District and school leadership teams will provide critical guidance during the exploration and installation stages of MTSS to ensure a vision is developed and clearly communicated to all staff.

Reach out to your MTSS consultant for more information on opportunities to initiate this work. Contact information can be found on the NCMTSS [wikispace](#).

2014-15 Annual Report on Teachers Leaving the Profession Revised

Please note that pages 20-23 in Table 9 of the *2014-15 Annual Report on Teachers Leaving the Profession* have been revised. The revised report is available on the Educator Effectiveness [website](#).



Go for the Green Ribbon!

The U.S. Department of Education (USED) Green Ribbon Schools' award program for 2015-16 is now open for nominations.

The award recognizes schools and districts from across the United States that excel in reducing environmental impact and costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education that incorporates STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

Three North Carolina schools have received this outstanding national award. LEAs or their principals should apply directly to NCDPI. Up to four North Carolina schools can be nominated by the department and sent to the USED for national consideration.

Additional information and applications are available [online](#) under "Green Ribbon Schools." For more information, please contact [Ron Collier](#).

NCVPS Reviews Assistive Technologies



The North Carolina Virtual Public School staff have researched and reviewed a substantial list of assistive technologies. These technologies can help students with disabilities who are enrolled in NCVPS online courses. These resources also are great for special needs students in the traditional classroom as well as the general student population.

You can view the list of assistive technologies [online](#). Please share this information with the stakeholders in your district.

NC Charter Schools Advisory Board to Meet

The North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board will meet Monday, Oct. 12, from 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m., in the 7th Floor Board Room, Education Building, Raleigh.

Agenda items include discussions on charter revocation for lack of academic performance, charter policy process, charter school application, ready to open, charter school renewal, and charter school performance framework. Committee members also will discuss and approve their 2015-16 strategic calendar.

The meeting will be audio streamed for those who cannot attend. To listen, click on the Live Audio Stream [link](#).

Don't Freak Out, ShakeOut!

Earthquakes in North Carolina are not usually severe, but they do happen. In fact, our state has had 14 minor earthquakes already this year. It only takes a few minutes to practice three simple steps – drop, cover and hold on – that can keep your students and faculty safe.

North Carolina, along with six other Southeastern states, will participate in the Great Southeast Shakeout on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 10:15 a.m. We hope you'll join us in the fourth annual earthquake drill and take time to practice earthquake safety.

To learn more or register, visit the Great ShakeOut [website](#) and show that you are committed to practicing earthquake safety in your district and schools.

One-Stop NCDPI Resource for All Educators Updated

[Wikicentral](#) provides a direct point of access for NCDPI wikis that contain resources and materials for North Carolina educators.

The wikis, which are managed by various divisions within NCDPI, include resources related to professional development, curriculum, policy, tools and more.

Please spread the word to your colleagues about this valuable site. For more information, please contact Educator Effectiveness Director [Lynne Johnson](#).



Latest Messages Online

Oct. 1, 2015 [Principals' Biweekly Message](#)

Oct. 1, 2015 [Home Base Biweekly Update](#)

Oct. 2, 2015 [Finance Officers' Newsletter](#)



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