

# Weekly Message – State Superintendent June Atkinson

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Inbox

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

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**Nov 2, 2015**



Last week National Public Radio aired a [story](#) about the turnaround efforts undertaken during the height of the No Child Left Behind era. It was an excellent reflection of the importance of school leadership.

This story featured the efforts of Dr. Nancy Barbour – the turnaround principal at George Watts Elementary School and now the director of District and School Transformation at NCDPI – to improve student academic performance at George Watts Elementary. The story highlighted the work that many of your principals and school faculties have been doing since the start of school transformation efforts, and the potential successes and difficulties inherent in this work.

Please recognize the school psychologists in your school district during annual School Psychology Awareness Week, Nov. 9-13.

This year's theme is Connect the Dots and THRIVE!

In addition, November is American Indian Heritage Month. I hope you will explore opportunities to highlight the many contributions of American Indians to North Carolina's heritage.

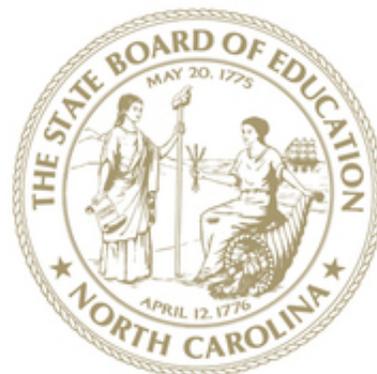



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## State Board of Education Meets This Week

The State Board of Education will meet this Wednesday and Thursday, Nov. 4-5, in the 7th Floor Board Room, Educational Building, Raleigh.

Board action items include the Annual Report on Teachers Leaving the Profession, revisions to the Healthful-Living Essential Standards, alternative schools accountability model, LEA-wide weather-related calendar waiver requests, Career and Technical Education credential allotment, and a number of reports to the North Carolina General Assembly. On Wednesday, Board members will receive a report from the State Advisory Council on Indian Education on the schooling experience of North Carolina's American Indian Students and have further discussion of changes to their Strategic Plan.



The complete agenda, including supporting executive summaries, are available [online](#) by clicking on the Meetings tab. The meeting is audio streamed for those who cannot attend. To listen, please visit the above link and click on the live audio stream link to the right.

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## Multi-Tiered System of Support Update

The three-tiered instructional/intervention model has become the iconic symbol of MTSS, even though it is just one of six critical elements of MTSS implementation. Over the next few messages, MTSS staff will unpack these three layers of instruction.

The entire instructional/intervention model is based on the concept that a multi-tiered system of support layers instructional supports. It requires building a seamless layering of the model, rather than a disconnected supplanting model of instruction. This layering approach applies to students who need additional support to fill in skill gaps, as well as those students who have mastered content areas.

Within each layer of instructional support educators must ask:

- Is this instruction strong enough for the students we serve?
- Is this layer of instructional support effective?

Rather than focusing on the individual student in each layer of instructional support, MTSS focuses on the following areas within the acronym ICE:

- **I**nstruction: How effective are our instructional practices?
- **C**urriculum: How effective are our curriculum choices?
- **E**nvironment: How effective is our educational environment?

For more information on the layers of support within an MTSS framework, watch this [video](#) and follow us on Twitter @ncmtss.

#### MTSS School Administrator Bulletin

Integrated Academic and Behavior Systems staff are excited to provide the link for the second quarterly MTSS [School Administrator Bulletin](#). This bulletin provides insight into building a Multi-Tiered System of Support from the perspective of the school leader.

The November issue addresses the role of the principal on the school leadership team as well as the impact of the effective use of implementation science and practice.

For more foundational knowledge of MTSS and informational graphics representing this school improvement framework, review and share the [July Bulletin](#). We welcome [feedback](#) on the bulletin as well as suggested topics for future issues.

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## Statewide System of Support

The Statewide System of Support is comprised of four teams, North, South, East and West. These cross-divisional area teams collaborate to offer customized support for school improvement by engaging in the following:

- analyzing data to develop and implement targeted professional learning;
- identifying and developing resources for educator growth and improvement;
- guiding LEAs and charters with effective resource allocation decisions; and
- assessing and modifying the quality and alignment of the services provided by the team.

To learn more about services provided by your area team, please visit their [Facebook](#) page or follow them on Twitter @ncmtss. Also check out their [wikispace](#) and [website](#).

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## Is Your District “Speaking Up?”



As a participant in Speak Up, your district will receive free, online access to the aggregated results with national comparisons that will provide you with valuable data on educational uses of technology, which can be used for your strategic planning, professional development, and budgeting plans during the school year.

Additionally, the aggregated Speak Up results are shared with K-12 educators, government officials, university faculty, business leaders and staff from youth and educator-serving organizations.

Act now by going to the [Speak Up - North Carolina](#) website for more information. Follow Speak Up on Twitter @SpeakUpEd.



## Seats Still Available for Principal READY Sessions

The fall Principal READY meetings launched in the Southwest region today. There is still time for you to register for any of the other upcoming Principal READY sessions. Don't miss an opportunity to learn about 2014-15 Educator Evaluation System data, new legislation, Analysis of Student Work, and student surveys as well as additional interactive sessions to assist principals in increasing student achievement.

Please check the [NCEES wikispace](#) to see where slots are still available.

## Superintendent Vacancy Announced: Bertie County Schools



The Bertie County Board of Education is seeking a superintendent to lead the school system in its continuing pursuit of excellence. Candidates must have or be qualified to hold a North Carolina superintendent license. Central office and building-level experience are preferred. A doctorate degree or progress toward a doctorate degree is preferred but not required. The individual chosen will be required to live in the Bertie County School District. The application deadline is **Jan. 25**.

An electronic version of the application is available by going to the N.C. School Board Association's website at [www.ncsba.org](http://www.ncsba.org) and clicking on the appropriate link. Inquiries and requests for applications also can be directed to Allison Schafer, Legal Counsel/Director of Policy, North Carolina School Boards Association, PO Box 97877, Raleigh NC 27624-7877, telephone 919/841-4040, fax 919/841-4020, e-mail [aschafer@ncsba.org](mailto:aschafer@ncsba.org). All inquiries will be kept confidential.

## 2016 NC Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching Awards Cycle Open

The 2016 awards cycle for elementary teachers (grades K-6) for the North Carolina Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching is now open.

The Presidential Awards for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching (PAEMST) is the highest honor bestowed by the United States government specifically for K-12 mathematics and science teaching.

Anyone – principals, teachers, parents, students, or members of the general public – may nominate a teacher by completing the nomination form available on the PAEMST [website](#). To submit a nomination, you'll need the teacher's name, email address, and school contact information. If you know more than one teacher deserving of this award, you may submit more than one nomination. Teachers also may apply.

One mathematics teacher and one science teacher will be selected. Each will receive a \$10,000 award and a trip to Washington, D.C. to attend the National Awards Recognition Program.

Nominations will be accepted through April 1. The application deadline is May 1. Secondary school teachers (grades 7-12) will be eligible to apply during a future cycle.



## NC Dual Language/Immersion Administrator Seminar

NCDPI Global Education staff are offering a NC Dual Language/Immersion Administrator Seminar on March 9-10 in Charlotte. The keynote address and breakout sessions will be held on March 9 with school visits on March 10.

[Registration information](#) will be available in December.

## Latest Messages Online

Oct. 29, 2015 [Home Base Biweekly Message](#)

Oct. 30, 2015 [NCDPI Web Highlights](#)

Oct. 30, 2015 [Finance Officers' Newsletter](#)



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