

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**Title:** Update on Framework for Change's "Writing Assessment"**Type of Executive Summary:**

- Action Action on First Reading Discussion Information

Policy Implications:

- Constitution _____
 General Statute # _____
 SBE Policy # _____
 SBE Policy Amendment
 SBE Policy (New)
 APA # _____
 APA Amendment
 APA (New)
 Other _____

Presenter(s): Dr. Rebecca Garland (Chief Academic Officer, Innovation and School Transformation/Executive Director, State Board of Education), Ms. Angela H. Quick (Deputy Chief Academic Officer, Curriculum, Instruction, Technology and Accountability Services) and Dr. Wandra C. Polk (Director, K-12 Curriculum, Instruction and Technology)

Description:

The new North Carolina Writing Assessment System will be piloted during the upcoming 2008-09 school year. In Grade 7, the pilot will involve the use of a centrally hosted, statewide electronic system (currently in the initial stages of development) that will be used for students to compose and store their writing tasks/assignments. Teachers will access these tasks/assignments to provide feedback and score those writing tasks/assignments, and for the collection of that score data by NCDPI. Through the use of this electronic system, NCDPI will have the abilities to monitor compliance and to audit, ensuring that the assessment system produces results that are valid and reliable. In Grade 4, due to developmental appropriateness, students will use a paper and pencil-based system. Teachers will provide feedback and also score the writing tasks/assignments. Those scores will then be entered into an electronic data collection system. NCDPI, by analyzing these data, will also be able to monitor for compliance and audit to ensure the results provided are valid and reliable.

The professional development necessary for the successful implementation of the new North Carolina Writing Assessment System will be delivered to educators and stakeholders, primarily electronically, through the use of a moodle (online course management system). This professional development will consist of two courses; one specifically designed around the instruction of writing and the involvement of content teachers in the writing process, and the other focusing specifically on the assessment of writing (the use of the electronic system(s), rubrics, scoring applications, and sample student responses). Upon the successful completion of each course, educators/participants will have the ability to print electronically a "certificate of completion" representing a specific number of CEUs. This certificate can then be submitted by the educator/participant to the LEA for professional development credit. The materials that accompany this item will be sent to State Board members electronically prior to the State Board meeting from the State Board office.

Resources:

Estimates are being prepared at this time and will be contingent on whether the program is implemented through technology or otherwise.

Input Process:

Input was received from members of the Writing Committee of the ACRE (Accountability and Content Revisions Effort) Project, as a result of the *Framework for Change: The Next Generation of Assessments and Accountability*, approved by the State Board of Education at it June 2008 meeting, as well as senior leadership of NDDPI.

Stakeholders:

Teachers, administrators, students

Timeline For Action:

This item is presented for action on first reading at the August 2008 meeting.

Recommendations:

State Board members are requested to review and approve the attached information.

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: Rick Klein, 919-807-3759