



# 2014 Legislative Agenda NC State Board of Education

April 2014

**Vision:** Every public school student will graduate ready for post-secondary education and work, prepared to be a globally engaged and productive citizen.

**Mission:** The State Board of Education has the constitutional duty to lead and uphold the system of public education in North Carolina.

## **Goals**

1. Every student in the NC Public School System graduates from high school prepared for work and further education.
2. Every student has a personalized education.
3. Every student, every day has excellent educators.
4. Every school district has up-to-date financial, business, and technology systems to serve its students, parents and educators.
5. Every student is healthy, safe and responsible.

## **Action Items**

1. **Increase Teacher Pay:** Raise teachers' salaries in order to attract and retain the best and brightest high-quality professionals. Develop a comprehensive strategy for investing in great teaching through an exemplary compensation system.

2. Master's and Doctoral Pay: Reinstate this pay and reform this supplemental pay system with the State Board of Education (SBE) overseeing and authorizing in-field master's and doctoral degrees.
3. A-F School Performance Grades: Implement another year's delay and revise the formula for calculating the grades in order to implement a fair, accurate and reliable new system.
4. Digital Learning/Textbooks: Support school systems in their transitions to digital teaching and learning while recognizing the existing needs for textbooks.
  - a. Reinstate the textbook funding level to \$77.16 per student.
  - b. Supplement funding for classroom technology, including digital content, network infrastructure, technology facilitators and the statewide Instructional Improvement System.
  - c. Provide additional funding for NC Virtual Public Schools for course development and evaluation, educational video streaming and supplies.
5. Early Childhood Education: Maintain and enhance support for pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students.
  - a. Ensure that state dollars produce improved educational outcomes for pre-kindergarten students and maintain the current eligibility requirements at a minimum.
  - b. Phase-in the implementation of the kindergarten entry assessment under *Read to Achieve* and build success through pilots first.

6. School Calendar Flexibility: Amend the law to allow local school districts the option of a balanced calendar of 185 days or 1,025 hours with local flexibility on start and end dates. Allow alignment of the school calendar with that of community colleges and universities to enhance learning opportunities.
7. Read to Achieve: Ensure that students can read by or before the third grade and facilitate effective implementation.
  - a. Adequately fund the Summer Reading Camps and allow for the reduction of the number of required weeks.
  - b. Reduce the number of portfolio passages from three for each of the twelve standards.
  - c. Extend funding for reading intervention and support for kindergarten through second grade.
  - d. Delete the November 1 mid-year promotion provision for retained students.
  - e. Provide consistency between charters and other public schools.
  - f. Clarify details about testing exceptional children and allow them eligibility for Summer Reading Camps.