



2016 Legislative Agenda

NC State Board of Education

April 2016

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 authority 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, further education and citizenship.
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. **Professional Development/Educator Effectiveness:** Invest in our teaching workforce and leadership. Enhance Educator Effectiveness through proven measures of training:
 - a. Professional Development that improves student outcomes
 - b. Distinguished Leadership in Practice
 - c. Intensive Coaching for “D” and “F” schools
2. **Teacher Leaders/Teacher Pay:** Maintain and improve our state’s commitment to the teaching profession.
 - a. Boost teachers’ salaries to #1 in the Southeast.
 - b. Institute targeted Master’s and Doctoral Pay.
 - c. Ensure a high-quality, sustainable NC teacher recruitment plan.
 - d. Allow measures of local discretion on any differentiated pay pilot.
3. **Increase Principal/Assistant Principal Pay:**
 - a. Pull average salaries out of the bottom rankings in the region.
 - b. Provide more Assistant Principal positions in each district.
4. **Textbooks/Digital Resources:** Reinstate the textbook funding level to \$77.16 per student (from \$29.05 in FY 2015-16).
5. **Digital Learning:** Provide the support and infrastructure necessary to reach the Digital Learning goal of 2017 set by the General Assembly.
 - a. Secure classroom technology needs during implementation of the Instructional Improvement System within Home Base.
 - b. Manage delivery of instructional tools and resources for the Home Base system, accessible by all 115 school districts and charter schools.
6. **NC Virtual Public School:**
 - a. Increase staffing capacity to accommodate increased demand for new course development and innovation.
 - b. Exempt NC Virtual Public School from the Umstead Act for both short- and long-term sustainability.
7. **Instructional Supplies:** Reinstate the per student funding level to \$59.33 (from \$28.38).

8. **Turn Around Low-Performing Schools:** Continue proven support for principals, teachers and superintendents in lowest achieving schools and districts.
 - a. Invest in NC's District and School Transformation model for, at minimum, the lowest 5% of schools and 10% of districts.
 - b. At minimum, remove "D" Schools that Meet Growth from the state law definition of "low-performing schools."
9. **A-F School Performance Grades:** At minimum, continue the 15-point scale for the 2016-17 school year.
10. **School Calendar Flexibility:**
 - a. Allow alignment of the school calendar with that of community colleges and universities to enhance learning opportunities.
 - b. Permit schools given a "D" or "F" under the A-F School Performance Grades law to adopt a modified calendar.
11. **Early Childhood Education:**
 - a. Lift unnecessarily-doubled regulatory scheme off of public Pre-K classrooms.
 - b. Increase slots for more at-risk children to be served in Pre-K.
 - c. Improve continuum for Early Childhood Education delivery.
12. **Child Nutrition/School Nurses:**
 - a. Invest in the child nutrition NC Procurement Alliance (where every \$1.00 invested saves LEAs \$6.00) and support further implementation of the Child Nutrition Program standards.
 - b. Increase number of School Nurses (progress toward nationally-recommended ratio of 1 nurse:750 students; NC's current ratio is 1:1,112).