WHEREAS, the North Carolina State Board of Education has provided in its guiding principles that education should continue to be the top priority of the 2011-2012 General Assembly and the last area to be cut in budget deliberations; and

WHEREAS, we reject the premise of the Senate Budget that the public education system is broken and believe instead that this budget will break an improving system; and

WHEREAS, we reject the Senate claim that teacher assistant and classroom teacher positions are protected and find instead that the Senate Budget forces the local school districts to make the tough choices through the deep flex cuts that will inevitably result in the loss of teachers and teacher assistants; and

WHEREAS, we reject the claim that the Senate Budget will improve early grades when it transfers a nationally recognized prekindergarten program out of the education department and cuts its budget by twenty percent while also removing a pilot program of innovative diagnostics to help young students;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

THAT, the Senate Budget is not in the interest of the people of this great State and urge legislators to support those elements of our public school system most important for student success.

June 2, 2011

Dr. William C. Harrison, Chairman
North Carolina State Board of Education