

What You Can Do Now

Improving science, mathematics, and technology education will require everyone in our state working together. But we can do it—it's within our power to build a culture where the sciences thrive in North Carolina. Some changes will take time; others can be put in place today. Here's how you can help.

Parents

- Get involved at your school. Speak up for stronger math and science classes and teacher development.
- Encourage your kids to sign up for math and science courses every year they're in school. Find out what's offered.
- Volunteer your time—help set up labs, grade papers, go on field trips, speak on Career Day. You'll learn something too!
- Voice your opinion—tell school boards and legislators that the sciences are important to your child's education and future.
- Think science at home: talk about discoveries in the news, visit science museums, and encourage your kids to explore their world, through chemistry sets, microscopes, books, and challenging games.

Educators

- Advocate for more hands-on instruction in your school.
- Make professional development for

math and science teachers a high priority.

- Integrate science and math with other subject areas. Take students on educational field trips that show science in action.
- Offer a greater variety of math and science courses at higher levels.
- Reach out to local experts and invite them to your classroom.
- Give parents tips on how to promote math and science at home.

Business and Community Leaders

- Get actively involved in math and science programs at local schools.
- Sponsor science fairs and clubs, competitions and scholarships.
- Develop partnerships with schools.
- Pair up scientists and technicians to mentor students.
- Create high school internships in science-related jobs.
- Introduce students to career possibilities through job shadowing.
- Be a tireless advocate of math and science education in the General Assembly, Department of Public Instruction, and your school board.
- Contribute to science museums and other initiatives to make science come alive for kids.

For more ideas on how you can get involved, please visit our Web site at www.ncsmt.org.



Think Science

North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center

Launched in 2002, the North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center is a nonprofit advocacy organization working to improve preK-12 performance in science, mathematics, and technology (SMT) throughout our state. Our mission is to provide all children in North Carolina with the SMT knowledge and skills to have successful careers, be good citizens, and advance the economy of the state.

Goals

The SMT Education Center's overarching goal is to help North Carolina achieve its vision of having the best public schools in the nation by 2010. To do that, the Center will focus on the following goals:

- To articulate a vision for SMT education in North Carolina, to broaden awareness of the need for a scientifically literate workforce, and to solicit support for high-quality programs of instruction.
- To work with government, industry, the education community, and parents to promote continuously improving levels of performance in the sciences by all preK-12 children and to advocate for equitable and adequate resources for all preK-12 children.

- To mobilize expertise and leverage resources to reach all preK-12 children in North Carolina's 117 school systems, to foster comprehensive programs of SMT instruction by providing tools and technical assistance to educators.
- To work with organizations to research, develop, and disseminate information on preK-12 SMT education to policymakers and the media to improve decision-making and to identify gaps that need to be addressed.

Role of the NCSMT Education Center

To accomplish its mission and goals, the SMT Education Center will serve in multiple roles.

- Advocate for research-based instruction and improved teaching and learning.
- Broker for educational initiatives and resources.
- Catalyst for innovation and change.
- Provider of strategic technical assistance programs that advance SMT education.
- Facilitator of existing networks and groups.
- Communicator about SMT education to legislators, the media, and the community at large.



Programs

TEACHER LINK

Working with Duke University's Teachers and Scientists Collaborating program, the NCSMT Education Center is enlisting scientists in the community to serve as mentors for K-8 science teachers as they implement inquiry-based learning in their classrooms.

NORTH CAROLINA INFRASTRUCTURE FOR SCIENCE EDUCATION (NCISE)

A statewide program designed to help local school systems implement a research-based model for hands-on, inquiry-based teaching. A partnership among the NC Department of Public Instruction, the University of North Carolina, the NC Mathematics and Science Education Network, the NC Business Committee for Education, The American Physical Society, and several corporations.

RECOGNITION PROGRAM

We will be recognizing schools that do an outstanding job of teaching and challenging students in science, mathematics, and technology. Currently in development.

RESOURCE INVENTORY

A comprehensive database of programs and resources in North Carolina that support science, mathematics, and technology education. It will be an important resource for parents, teachers, and program directors. Currently in development.

Leadership

President and CEO: Samuel H. Houston Jr., Ed.D.

A 30-member board of directors including NC leaders in education, business, and government oversees the center.

Web Site

www.ncsmt.org

NC Public Schools: Consolidation of Local Education Agencies (LEAs)



NC General Assembly
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee
February 8, 2006

Overview



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February 8, 2006

- Why Now?
 - Efficiency (= Cost Savings)
 - History of LEAs in NC: 1960 - 2006
 - 2005 Senate Approp. Subcomm. Proposal
- Looking Forward
 - Define Goal of General Assembly
 - Further Study of Impact/Feasibility
 - Mechanism for Change (if desired)

FY 2005-06 Quick Facts



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Total LEAs in NC: 115

Counties containing >1 LEA: 11

| | |
|------------------|---|
| Buncombe | (Buncombe Co., Asheville City) |
| Cabarrus | (Cabarras Co. Kannapolis City) |
| *Catawba | (Catawba Co., Hickory City, Newton-Conover City) |
| Columbus | (Columbus Co., Whiteville) |
| *Davidson | (Davidson Co., Lexington City, Thomasville City) |
| Halifax | (Halifax Co., Roanoke Rapids City, Weldon City) |
| Iredell | (Iredell-Statesville, Mooresville City) |
| Orange | (Orange Co., Chapel Hill-Carrboro City) |
| Randolph | (Randolph Co., Asheboro City) |
| Sampson | (Sampson Co., Clinton City) |
| *Surry | (Surry Co., Elkin City, Mount Airy City) |

*** Counties containing 3 LEAs**

Efficiency



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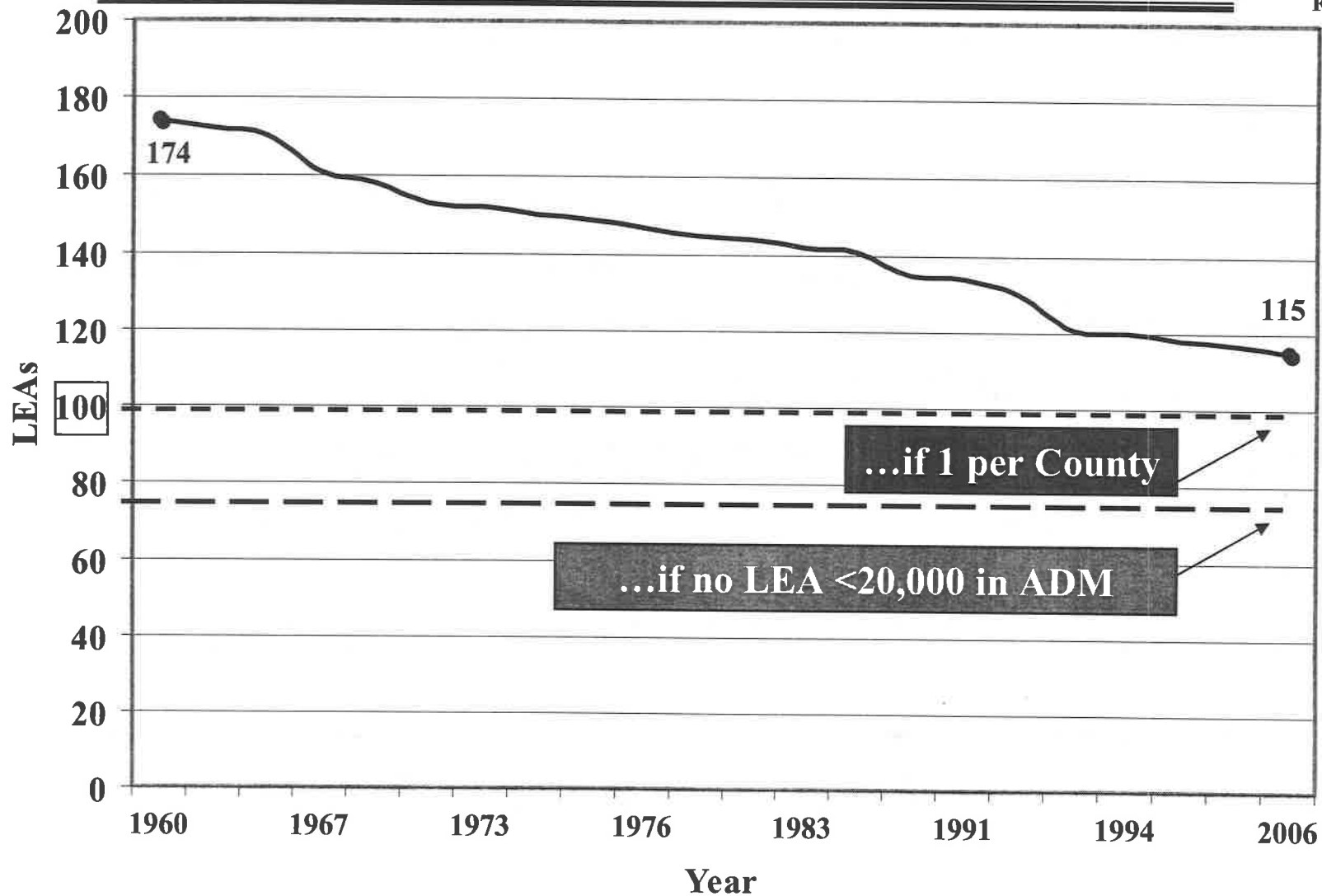
- ***Duplication* of LEA Central Office function**
- **“Base” components in State allotment formulas *over-fund* counties with multiple LEAs**
 - Vocational Education (base of 5 teachers)
 - Limited English Proficiency (base of one Tchr Asst.)
- **Implications for State (~\$10.8 million) and Local (??) *savings***

History:

Total Number of LEAs in NC



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2005 Proposal



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FUND ONE LOCAL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT PER COUNTY

SECTION #.(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Education *shall allot State funds on the basis of only one local school administrative unit per county.* To implement this change, the State Board shall *change formulas that allot funds on a per local school administrative unit basis to formulas that allot funds on a per county basis.*

****Note: no prescribed consolidation...but implication is clear.***



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Mechanisms for Consolidation

- **Voluntary**
 - **Mutual** (*as provided in GS 115C-67,-68,-68.1*)
 - **Unilateral** (*as provided in GS 115C-68.2*)
- ***Incentives?***
- ***Appropriations/Allotment Policy?***
- ***Prescriptive Legislation? (10 mergers)***



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Moving Forward

The Committee may wish to consider taking the following actions:

- 1. Define the General Assembly's *philosophy* regarding number of LEAs in NC and *establish a goal*.**
- 2. Undertake a *study* of the *opportunities and challenges* associated with each potential county consolidation.**
- 3. Determine the *mechanisms* best suited to bring about consolidation (if so desired) in each case.**
- 4. Report findings and *recommendations for action* to the General Assembly for consideration in the 2006 Session.**

Key Points



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- **Why Now?**
 - **Efficiency/Cost Savings always important**
 - **Historical trend supports**
 - **Expectation for GA action**
- **What Next?**
 - **Define Philosophy/Goal**
 - **Proceed carefully, but deliberately**
 - **Study & recommend action (inaction?)**

CHARTERED SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGERS

Updated: February 1, 2006

| | ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS | DATE | METHOD |
|-----|------------------------------------|----------|-----------------------|
| 1. | Mecklenburg / Charlotte | 07-01-60 | Vote |
| 2. | Forsyth / Winston-Salem | 07-01-63 | Vote |
| 3. | Granville / Oxford | 07-01-63 | Vote |
| 4. | Scotland / Laurinburg | 07-01-64 | Vote |
| 5. | Haywood / Canton | 07-01-64 | Vote |
| 6. | Anson / Morven / Wadesboro | 07-01-67 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 7. | Chowan / Edenton | 07-01-67 | Vote |
| 8. | Moore / Pinehurst / Southern Pines | 07-01-67 | Legislative Enactment |
| 9. | Pasquotank / Elizabeth City | 07-01-67 | Vote |
| 10. | Richmond / Hamlet / Rockingham | 07-01-67 | Legislative Enactment |
| 11. | Wayne / Fremont | 08-03-67 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 12. | Gaston / Cherryville / Gastonia | 07-01-68 | Vote |
| 13. | Vance / Henderson | 07-01-68 | Vote |
| 14. | Burke / Glen Alpine / Morganton | 07-01-69 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 15. | Cherokee / Andrews / Murphy | 07-01-69 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 16. | McDowell / Marion | 07-01-69 | Vote |
| 17. | Lee / Sanford | 07-01-73 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 18. | Caldwell / Lenoir | 07-01-74 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 19. | Lincoln / Lincolnton | 07-01-74 | Legislative Enactment |
| 20. | Wilkes / North Wilkesboro | 07-01-75 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 21. | Wake / Raleigh | 07-01-76 | Legislative Enactment |
| 22. | Wilson / Elm City / Wilson | 07-01-76 | Legislative Enactment |
| 23. | Robeson / Maxton | 07-01-79 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 24. | Craven / New Bern | 07-01-81 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 25. | Cabarrus / Concord | 07-01-83 | Local Boards' Plan |

CHARTERED SCHOOL DISTRICT MERGERS

Updated: February 1, 2006

| | | | |
|-----|--|----------|-----------------------|
| 26. | Cumberland / Fayetteville | 07-01-83 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 27. | Pitt / Greenville | 07-01-86 | Legislative Enactment |
| 28. | Polk / Tryon | 01-01-89 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 29. | Robeson / Fairmont / Lumberton / Red Springs / Saint Pauls | 07-01-89 | Vote |
| 30. | Rowan / Salisbury | 07-01-89 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 31. | Iredell / Statesville | 07-01-91 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 32. | Wayne / Goldsboro | 01-01-92 | Commissioner's Plan |
| 33. | Lenoir / Kinston | 07-01-92 | Commissioner's Plan |
| 34. | Nash / Rocky Mount | 07-01-92 | Legislative Enactment |
| 35. | Durham / Durham City | 07-01-92 | Commissioner's Plan |
| 36. | Edgecombe / Tarboro | 07-01-93 | Legislative Enactment |
| 37. | Guilford / Greensboro / High Point | 07-01-93 | Vote |
| 38. | Union / Monroe | 07-01-93 | State Board Plan |
| 39. | Henderson / Hendersonville | 07-01-93 | Commissioner's Plan |
| 40. | Rockingham / Eden / Reidsville / Western Rockingham | 07-01-93 | Local Boards' Plan |
| 41. | Beaufort / Washington City | 08-01-93 | Legislative Enactment |
| 42. | Franklin / Franklinton | 07-01-94 | Legislative Enactment |
| 43. | Alamance / Burlington City | 07-01-96 | Commissioner's Plan |
| 44. | Stanly / Albemarle City | 11-07-96 | Commissioner's Plan |
| 45. | Cleveland / Shelby City / King's Mountain | 01-12-04 | * Commissioner's Plan |

* Approved by State Board of Education 06-01-00, ensuing litigation prevented enactment until US Justice Department approved plan on 01-12-04