

JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
May 8, 2008 MINUTES

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee met on May 8, 2008 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 421 of the Legislative Office Building. Chairman Douglas Yongue presided over the meeting. The following House members were present: Representatives Bell, Blackwood, Fisher, Glazier, Jeffus, Lucas, McLawhorn, Pate, Rapp, and Tolson. The following Senators attended: Co-Chair, Senator Swindell and fellow Senators Dannelly, Dorsett, Goss, Malone, Queen, Stevens, and Tillman. Please refer to *Attachments 1-3* for agenda, attendance, and visitor registration.

Chairman Yongue welcomed committee members, staff, visitors, and recognized the House and Senate Sergeant-at-Arms.

Approval of Minutes

As the first order of business, Chairman Yongue asked for a motion to approve minutes of the January, February, March, and April meetings. Representative Lucas made a motion for approval, with a second from Representative Blackwood, and the minutes were approved.

Chairman Yongue invited Dr. Shirley Iorio, Committee Staff, to present the final report to the committee. Dr. Iorio noted that changes suggested at the last meeting were incorporated into this report.

Recommendation 1 – Career Technical Education

Beginning with the first recommendation regarding Career Technical Education, the only change was the addition of the word “strongly”. Please refer to the final committee report, *attachment 4*.

Recommendation 2 – Teacher Retention

In an effort to continue to address the state’s teacher shortage, the second recommendation includes a draft bill. While there were no changes to the second recommendation, there was an addition to the draft bill by adding Section 2. The proposed legislation would allow National Board Certified Teachers who serve as full-time mentors to remain on the teacher salary schedule and continue to receive the 12% supplement. Please refer to *attachment 4* for the recommendations and draft bills in their entirety.

Recommendation 3 – Support for Local School Administrative Units

The third recommendation suggests ways to provide support to the local school administrative units (LEAs). There were no changes to the recommendation in subsection a. In subsection (b), the committee changed the recommendation to add clarifying language in the last sentence on page 19. There were no changes made to the accompanying proposed legislation. Given the committee’s recommendation at the previous meeting, there is an addition of subsection (c) to Child Nutrition, accompanied by proposed legislation to appropriate the funds necessary to implement nutrition standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Please see the attached report and draft bills.

Recommendation 4 – Technology

This recommendation was changed to add the words “strongly urges”, saying the committee “strongly urges the General Assembly to increase funding for technology that will keep students engaged with the curriculum and on track for graduation, and for the connectivity initiative”.

Recommendation 5 – Dropout Prevention

This recommendation was altered to include the words “strongly” and “additional” in the second paragraph, by saying “the committee strongly recommends additional funding to award new grants from among those that were submitted and not selected in the first round of grants awarded as a result of the House Initiative on High School Dropout Reform. Additionally, the Committee recommends the reauthorization of the Joint Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation”.

Recommendation 6 – Students with Disabilities

Changes proposed by the committee include additional language at the end of the first paragraph, to read “including the knowledge and skills needed to address mental health conditions that affect some students with disabilities”. The first accompanying bill draft, Page 28, was changed on line 17. The second bill draft, Page 29, has been altered to include a March 15, 2009 reporting date.

Recommendation 7 – Professional Development

There were no changes to the final recommendation or to the accompanying bill draft.

Approval of Committee Report

With a motion to approve the committee report from Representative Tolson, and a second offered by Representative Jeffus, the committee voted unanimously to adopt the report.

Chairman Swindell and Chairman Yongue invited members to sign on to the bills as primary sponsors by notifying committee staff. With no further committee business, Chairman Yongue adjourned the meeting at 1:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Doug Yongue, Chair

Katie Stanley, Committee Assistant

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE
EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**



***REPORT TO THE
2008 REGULAR SESSION
OF THE
2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF NORTH CAROLINA***

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STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA

JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE



May 8, 2008

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 2008 REGULAR SESSION OF THE 2007 GENERAL ASSEMBLY:

Attached for your consideration is the report to the 2008 Regular Session of the 2007 General Assembly. This report was prepared by the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee pursuant to G.S. 120-70.81.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator A.B. Swindell
Cochair

Representative Douglas Yongue
Cochair

**JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
2007-2008**

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Sara Kamprath
Drupti Chauhan
Kara McCraw
Dee Atkinson

Mo Hudson, Committee Assistant
Katie Stanley, Committee Assistant

ARTICLE 12H.
Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

§ 120-70.80. Creation and membership of Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee is established. The Committee consists of 22 members as follows:

- (1) Eleven members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, at least two of whom are members of the minority party; and
- (2) Eleven members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, at least three of whom are members of the minority party.

Terms on the Committee are for two years and begin on the convening of the General Assembly in each odd-numbered year. Members may complete a term of service on the Committee even if they do not seek reelection or are not reelected to the General Assembly, but resignation or removal from service in the General Assembly constitutes resignation or removal from service on the Committee.

A member continues to serve until his successor is appointed. A vacancy shall be filled within 30 days by the officer who made the original appointment.

§ 120-70.81. Purpose and powers of Committee.

(a) The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall examine, on a continuing basis, the several educational institutions in North Carolina, in order to make ongoing recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to improve public education from kindergarten through higher education. In this examination, the Committee shall:

- (1) Study the budgets, programs, and policies of the Department of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, the Department of Community Colleges, the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, and the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina to determine ways in which the General Assembly may encourage the improvement of all education provided to North Carolinians and may aid in the development of more integrated methods of institutional accountability;
- (2) Examine, in particular, the Basic Education Plan and the School Improvement and Accountability Act of 1989, to determine whether changes need to be built into the plans, whether implementation schedules need to be restructured, and how to manage the ongoing development of the policies underlying these legislative plans, including a determination of whether there is a need for the legislature to develop ongoing funding patterns for these plans;
- (3) Study other states' educational initiatives in public schools, community colleges, and public universities, in order to provide an ongoing commentary to the General Assembly on these initiatives and to make

recommendations for implementing similar initiatives in North Carolina;
and

(4) Study any other educational matters that the Committee considers necessary to fulfill its mandate.

(b) The Committee may make interim reports to the General Assembly on matters for which it may report to a regular session of the General Assembly. A report to the General Assembly may contain any legislation needed to implement a recommendation of the Committee.

§ 120-70.82. Organization of Committee.

(a) The President Pro Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives shall each designate a cochair of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Committee shall meet at least once a quarter and may meet at other times upon the joint call of the cochairs.

(b) A quorum of the Committee is 10 members. No action may be taken except by a majority vote at a meeting at which a quorum is present. While in the discharge of its official duties, the Committee has the powers of a joint committee under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4.

(c) Members of the Committee receive subsistence and travel expenses as provided in G.S. 120-3.1. The Committee may contract for consultants or hire employees in accordance with G.S. 120-32.02. The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative Services Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist the Committee in its work. Upon the direction of the Legislative Services Commission, the Supervisors of Clerks of the Senate and of the House of Representatives shall assign clerical staff to the Committee. The expenses for clerical employees shall be borne by the Committee.

§ 120-70.83. Additional powers.

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, while in discharge of official duties, shall have access to any paper or document, and may compel the attendance of any State official or employee before the Committee or secure any evidence under G.S. 120.19. In addition, G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4 shall apply to the proceedings of the Committee as if it were a joint committee of the General Assembly.

§§ 120-70.84 through 120-70.89: Reserved for future codification purposes.

COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee held 11 meetings.

December 4, 2007

Budget/Authorizing Legislation/Reports

- Dr. Shirley Iorio, Committee Staff

Spotlight on 2007 Education Legislation

- Dr. Shirley Iorio, Committee Staff

NC WISE Update

- Peter Asmar, Associate State Superintendent, Technology and Information Services, DPI
- Dr. Bert L'Homme, Co-Chair, Executive Steering Committee for NC WISE and Superintendent, Franklin County Schools

Eckerd Wilderness Camps

- Dave Hardesty, Vice-President of Operations
Eckerd Youth Alternatives

Future Agenda Items

- Representative Yongue

Middle School Literacy Coaches

- Ann McArthur, Teacher Advisor, Office of the Governor
- Ms. Barbara Brown, 8th Grade Language Arts Teacher, Bertie Middle School, Bertie County Schools
- Ms. Retha Smith, Literacy Coach, Bertie Middle School, Bertie County Schools
- Ty'Recus Arrington, Former 8th Grade Student at Bertie Middle School
- Precious VonWolfolk, Former 8th Grade Student at Bertie Middle School
- Pierce Bryant, Former 8th Grade Student at Bertie Middle School
- David Lowe, Literacy Coach, East Middle School, Montgomery County Schools

Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC)

- Colonel Thomas Finnerty, Senior Naval Science Instructor, Cary High School NJROTC
- Major Ernest Albritton, Senior Aerospace Instructor, Northern Nash High School AFJROTC

December 5, 2007

Career and Technical Education, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

- June Atkinson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent
- Rebecca Payne, Director, Career and Technical Education

Assistance Redesign Project, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

- Robert Logan, Associate State Superintendent for Innovation and School Transformation
- Pat Ashley, Director of Comprehensive Support
- Dan Strickland, Superintendent, Columbus County Schools

ABC Bonus Discrepancies, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

- J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent

Sustaining Traditional and Growing Technical Education and Health Technologies, North Carolina Community College System

- Kennon Briggs, Vice President for Business and Finance, North Carolina Community College System
- Gordon Burns, President, Wilkes Community College
- Scott Ralls, President, Craven Community College

January 8, 2008

Future Ready Core Curriculum

- Dr. Rebecca Garland, Executive Director
State Board of Education
- Dr. Wandra Polk, Director
Division of Middle and Secondary Education, DPI

Career and Technical Education Follow-Up

- Rebecca Payne, Director
Career and Technical Education, DPI
- Cindy Marks, Marketing Teacher
Cape Hatteras School of Coastal Studies
- Caroline Jarvis, Student
East Carolina University
- Bill Downey, President
L.A. Downey and Son

Graduation Project

- Dr. Rebecca Garland, Executive Director
State Board of Education
- Dr. Wandra Polk, Director
Division of Middle and Secondary Education, DPI
- Karen Burden, Graduation Project Coordinator
Holly Springs High School, Wake County Public Schools

North Carolina Common Education Data Analysis and Reporting System (NC CEDARS)

- Adam Levinson, Director
Policy and Strategic Planning, DPI

Role Counselors Play in Providing Dropout Prevention and Intervention Services to Students in Middle and High School – Report

- Teresa Smith, Consultant
Middle and Secondary Student Support Services, DPI

Implementation of State Board Policy Delineating the Job Description and Performance Criteria for School Counselors – Report

- Teresa Smith, Consultant
Middle and Secondary Student Support Services, DPI
- Eric Sparks, President, American School Counselor Association, and Director of Counseling and Student Services, Wake County Public Schools
- Dr. Renee Evans, President, NC School Counselor Association, and Assistant Professor, Appalachian State University
- Deirdra Williams, Government Relations, North Carolina School Counselor Association, and School Counselor, Wakefield High School, Wake County Public Schools

January 9, 2008

Speaker's Dropout Initiative

- Representative Earline Parmon
- Representative Susan Fisher

Teacher Mentoring Program

- Danny Holloman, Section Chief
NC Center for Teacher Recruitment and Retention
- Fred Williams, Executive Director of Recruitment and Retention
Durham County Public Schools
- Angela Cogdill, Professional Development Coordinator
Granville County Schools

Blue Ribbon Testing Commission

- Howard Lee, Chairman,
State Board of Education
- Dr. Sam Houston, Chairman
Blue Ribbon Testing Commission
- Dr. Terry Holiday, Superintendent
Iredell-Statesville Public Schools

Blue Ribbon Charter School Commission

- Howard Lee, Chairman
State Board of Education
- Dr. Michael Fedewa, Chairman
Blue Ribbon Charter School Commission

February 12, 2008

The Collaborative Project: A 21st Century Initiative of the North Carolina General Assembly

- John Dornan, President/Executive Director
Public School Forum of North Carolina
- Dr. Sam Houston, President/CEO
North Carolina Science, Mathematics, and Technology Education Center
- Dr. Jean Murphy, Director
Collaborative Project: A 21st Century Initiative of the NC General Assembly
- Dr. Ray Spain, Superintendent
Warren County Schools

Collaborative Leadership for Global Competitiveness: 21st Century Student Options in North Carolina

- J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Learn and Earn Early College High School

- Mr. Antonio Jordan, Director, Joint High School Partnership Programs
Academic and Student Services, North Carolina Community College System
- Dr. Jim Palermo, Principal, Wake Early College High School
- Pablo Soto, Student, Wake Early College High School

Learn and Earn Online

- Mr. John Brim, Learn and Earn Online K-12 Consultant
Chief Operations Officer, North Carolina Virtual Public School

University of North Carolina Greensboro - iSchool

- Dr. Robert Brown, Dean of Continual Learning
UNC Greensboro
- Dr. Alan Mabe, Vice President, Academic Planning and University-School Programs, UNC General Administration
- Ms. Trina Gabriel, Marketing Associate
UNC Greensboro

North Carolina Virtual Public School

- Dr. Bryan Setser, Executive Director
North Carolina Virtual Public School

Providing Online Courses: Regional/National Perspectives

- Bill Thomas, Director, Educational Technology
Southern Regional Education Board (SREB)

School Connectivity Report

- JB Buxton, Deputy Superintendent
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- Phil Emer, Director of Technology
The William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation
North Carolina State University

Joint Legislative Technology Commissions' Report

- Myra Best, Director
Business Education Technology Alliance
E-Learning Commission

February 13, 2008

Professional Development Funding

- Kris Nordstrom, Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Research Division

Centralization of Professional Development

- Dr. Rebecca Garland, Executive Director
North Carolina State Board of Education
- Dr. Stephen Greene, Director of Professional Development
Department of Public Instruction

Center for School Leadership Development

- Dr. Alan Mabe, Vice President for Academic Planning and University School Programs
University of North Carolina General Administration

North Carolina Professional Development Directory

- Jenni Owen, Director of Policy Initiatives, Center for Child and Family Policy, Duke University and
Consultant for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Professional Development Initiative

Teacher Academy

- Julia Kron, Executive Director
North Carolina Teacher Academy

Professional Development Offerings of the Community College System

- Willa Dickens, Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development
NC Community College System Office
- Sharon McGinnis, Vice-President for Continuing Education
Coastal Carolina Community College

Local Professional Development Needs

- Sherri Strickland, Vice President
North Carolina Association of Educators
- Dr. Julius Walker, Superintendent
Washington County Schools
- Dr. Roger Metcalf, Director
Western Region Education Service Alliance (RESA)
- Dr. Ira Trollinger, Superintendent
McDowell County Schools
- Theresa Perry, Director of Professional Development
Cumberland County Schools

March 12, 2008

Superintendents

- Dr. Larry Cartner, Superintendent, Person County Schools
- Dr. Terry Cline, Superintendent, Lenoir County Schools
- Cliff Dodson, Superintendent, Buncombe County Schools
- Allen Johnson, Superintendent, Asheville City Schools
- Dr. Ethan Lenker, Superintendent, Jones County Schools
- Ricky Lopes, Associate Superintendent of Business Operations, Cumberland County Schools
- Dr. Katie McGee, Superintendent, Brunswick County Schools
- Reeves McGlohon, Superintendent, Gaston County Schools

Public School Governance

- Howard N. Lee, Chairman
North Carolina State Board of Education

Exceptional Children

- Mary Watson, Director
Exceptional Children Division, NC Department of Public Instruction
- *Cathy Boshamer, Executive Director, Programs for Exceptional Children, Gaston County Schools
and President, NC Council of Administrators of Special Education
- Judge Julian Mann, III, Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge,
NC Office of Administrative Hearings
- Kristopher Nordstrom, Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Research Division

A+ Schools

- Gerry Howell, Executive Director
A+ Schools Program
UNC Greensboro

AVID

- Gloria L. Cox, NC State Director
AVID Center Eastern Division
- Dr. Barbara Smith, Vice President
Government Relations and Equity

* Cathy Boshamer was on the agenda, but did not address the Committee.

Plant Operations

- Dr. Ben Matthews, Director
School Support Division, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Gateway to College Program

- Lynne M. Bunch, President
College of the Albemarle
- Dr. Delores Parker, Vice President for Academic and Student Services, North Carolina Community College System

March 12, 2008

State of the Education Systems

- Howard N. Lee, Chairman
North Carolina State Board of Education
- Martin Lancaster, President
North Carolina Community College System
- Hope Williams, President
North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities
- Erskine Bowles, President
The University of North Carolina

UNC Tomorrow

- Erskine Bowles, President
The University of North Carolina
- Norma Houston, Executive Director
UNC Tomorrow
- *Tony Caravano, Deputy Executive Director
UNC Tomorrow

Teaching Fellows Report

- Jo Ann Norris, Associate Executive Director
Public School Forum of North Carolina

North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT)

- Dr. Mary McDuffie, Executive Director
NCCAT

(Carried over to the April 8 meeting)

Child Nutrition

- Dr. Lynn Hoggard, Section Chief
Child Nutrition Services, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction
- Representative Susan Fisher
Farm to School Program

(Carried over to the April 8 meeting)

April 8, 2008

Child Nutrition

- Dr. Lynn Hoggard, Section Chief, Child Nutrition Services
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

* Tony Caravano was on the agenda, but did not address the Committee.

Farm to School Program

- Emily Jackson, Program Director
Growing Minds
Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project
Southeast Regional Lead Agency for the National Farm to School Network

North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT)

- Dr. Mary McDuffie, Executive Director
NCCAT

Gang Violence

- George Sweat, Secretary
North Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention
- David Jones, Executive Director
Governor's Crime Commission

Teacher Licensure

- Dr. Kathy Sullivan, Senior Policy Analyst
North Carolina State Board of Education
- Philip Price, Associate Superintendent
Director, Financial and Business Services
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Tarheel Challenge

- Colonel Tom Harris
North Carolina National Guard

NC Reads

- Jackie Colbert, Director, Reading First
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

NC Alliance for Health

- Roxanne Leopper, Policy Director, FirstHealth of the Carolinas
Chair, NC Alliance for Health Obesity Prevention Policy Committee

Teacher AssistantsSalary Schedule

- Sheri Strickland, Vice President
North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE)
- Donna Stepp, Teacher Assistant

Impact of 2007 Appropriation

- Melinda Zarate, Legislative Chair
North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants

Teacher Cadet Program

- Kelvin Spragley, Executive Director
North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children
- Lina Drinkard, Director
North Carolina Teacher Cadet Program

New Chart of Accounts

- Alexis Schauss, Assistant Director, Division of School Business
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding (DSSF)

- Philip Price, Associate Superintendent
Director, Financial and Business Services
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Child and Family Support Teams

- Tony Troop, Program Coordinator, Child and Family Support Teams, Department of Health and Human Services/Department of Public Instruction

Parental Involvement Initiative, NC Parent Teacher Association

- Deborah Horton, President
North Carolina Parent Teacher Association

April 9, 2008

Committee Discussion

- Draft recommendations and legislation

May 8, 2008

Adoption of Report

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

December 4, 2007 Meeting

Chairman Yongue presented the Committee budget for review and approval. The Committee voted unanimously to approve.

Dr. Shirley Iorio, Committee Analyst, presented the authorizing legislation for the Committee and reviewed the 2007 reports due to the Committee. Dr. Iorio also presented the Committee with the Spotlight on Education Legislation, a publication of major education legislation that was passed in the 2007 Session. This publication included K-12, community college, and university legislation.

Peter Asmar, Associate State Superintendent, Technology and Information Services, Department of Public Instruction, presented an update on the progress of NC WISE. Mr. Asmar reported that with Wave 2 being implemented in 2007, the scheduled June 2009 completion of Wave 3 is on target. Mr. Asmar also presented the financial costs of NC WISE. Dr. Bert L'Homme, Superintendent, Franklin County Schools and Co-Chair of the NC WISE Executive Steering Committee, spoke about his experience with the success of NC WISE.

Dave Hardesty, Vice-President of Operations, Eckerd Youth Alternatives, reviewed the history of the program, the students served, referring agencies, and the funding sources.

Ann McArthur, Teacher Advisor, Office of the Governor, gave an update of Governor Easley's request in the 2006 budget that created 100 literacy coaches. She spoke about the cost, the selection process, and the training for these positions. She said that with the positive feedback within the first year, the 2007-2008 State budget funded an additional 100 literacy coach positions.

Colonel Thomas Finnerty, Senior Naval Science Instructor, Cary High School, and Major Albritton, Senior Aerospace Instructor, Northern Nash High School, spoke about their success with the JROTC programs in their schools.

December 5, 2007 Meeting

June Atkinson, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, spoke on Career and Technical Education. She stated that career and technical education not only contributes to economic opportunities for students, but also to the economic development of the State. She reviewed enrollment trends in middle and high schools for 2001-2007 and noted an increase in enrollment growth in the program areas of Allied Health Science and Career Management. She stated that career and technical education is a vehicle to keep students in school and is an integral part of the changing face of high school reform and redesign.

J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent, updated the Committee on the State's efforts to improve the K-16 education system and develop an economy supportive of innovation through Career and Technical Education and high school reform.

Rebecca Payne, Director of Career and Technical Education, Department of Public Instruction, spoke next about the purpose and historical background of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006. She also pointed out the changes in the law and noted that Career and Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) were incorporated into the Act.

Robert Logan, Associate State Superintendent for Innovation and School Transformation, Department of Public Instruction, gave an update on the Assistance Redesign Project. He identified the key objectives of the project and the five guiding principles identified by the consulting team for designing the framework of the project. He stated that because it was still in the early stages of being developed, the framework would continue to evolve and be modified over the next several months and he expressed his hope that

when completed, it would become a model for other states to follow. He explained how personnel would coordinate and provide in-field support services to school districts. He also gave examples of how district transformation coaches would assist with under-performing school districts.

Pat Ashley, Director of Comprehensive Support, Department of Public Instruction, spoke about the Assistance Redesign Project. She noted that the Department is providing assistance to 77 high schools, 36 middle schools, and 20 elementary schools, a total of 133 schools in 27 districts. Dan Strickland, Superintendent, Columbus County Schools, spoke next about his experience with the project in his school district.

J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent, explained the discrepancies that were made in the distribution of the ABC bonuses to teachers. He stated that in Burke, Cleveland, and Wake counties, money was distributed as bonuses, but had not been earned and this money would be recouped. He also stated that in Martin, Pender, Randolph, and Robeson counties, teachers had actually earned bonuses, but were not initially identified as recipients. He noted that the Department was responsible for the programming error and noted the steps that were in place to keep this from occurring in the future.

Kennon Briggs, Vice President for Business and Finance, North Carolina Community College System, spoke next. He stated that based on labor market studies and Employment Security Commission published reports, the prediction was that in the next decade, North Carolina would not have the supply of skilled labor in high-demand and good paying occupations to meet the demands of business and industry to stay productive and viable.

Gordon Burns, President, Wilkes Community College, and Scott Ralls, President, Craven Community College, both spoke about the increased costs of operating technical programs at their community colleges.

January 8, 2008 Meeting

Dr. Rebecca Garland, Executive Director of the State Board of Education, spoke about the Future-Ready Core Curriculum. This framework is a core of 17 courses that the State Board of Education has identified as critical to student preparation for the economic and societal demands of the 21st century. In addition to these 17 courses, the Future-Ready Core requires an endorsement of at least four units in one of the following: Career Technical Education, Arts Education, Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC), Advanced Placement/International Baccalaureate, second language, multidisciplinary or other. In addition to the courses required in the Future-Ready Core, students also choose a number of elective courses. The exact number of electives varies depending on the high school schedule and how many potential courses can be taken in a given year.

Due to a lengthy discussion and a lot of questions regarding Career and Technical Education (CTE) at the December committee meeting, Rebecca Payne was brought back to review and answer questions. Next, Cindy Marks, Marketing Teacher, Cape Hatteras School of Coastal Studies, and Carolina Jarvis, a student at East Carolina University who had taken CTE classes at Cape Hatteras School, talked about the value of CTE classes.

Bill Downey, President of L.A. Downey Construction Company, also spoke on this topic. He stated that it was critical to the local and statewide business community to have a robust CTE program. He also stated that CTE programs are now exciting and help students make career choices.

Rebecca Garland next spoke about the NC Graduation Project. Dr. Wandra Polk, Director of the Division of Middle and Secondary Education, Department of Public Instruction, reviewed how the Graduation Project had been implemented and referenced the North Carolina Graduation Project Implementation Guide. Karen Burden, Graduation Project Coordinator at Holly Springs High School, shared that the Graduation Project had enriched the students she taught and helped students develop high analytical skills that better prepared them for the future.

Adam Levinson, Director of Policy and Strategic Planning, Department of Public Instruction, gave an overview of the NC CEDARS program. With several questions from committee members about data points, Mr. Levinson stated that CEDARS was the general infrastructure and data warehouse holding the data from many different systems. He said that as they proceed with the project, he would be better able to answer more specific questions about individual data points.

Teresa Smith, Consultant, Middle and Secondary Student Support Services, Department of Public Instruction, reviewed two reports "Role of School Counselors in Dropout Prevention" and the "Implementation of the State Board Policy Delineating the Job Description and Performance Criteria for School Counselors".

Eric Sparks, President, American School Counselor Association, and Director of Counseling and Student Services, Wake County Public Schools, spoke next about school counselors and dropout prevention in North Carolina.

Dr. Renee Evans, President of NC School Counselor Association, and Assistant Professor at Appalachian State University, spoke about school counselor preparation and the efforts her organization puts into reducing the dropout rate. She described the extensive training that school counselors undertake in order to be prepared to meet the needs of the different populations of students. Deidra Williams, also with the NC School Counselor Association and a counselor at Wakefield High School, spoke next about how she and other counselors help students succeed in school and not drop out.

January 9, 2008 Meeting

Representative Fisher, Co-chair of the Speaker's Initiative on High School Dropout Reform, gave an update on the work of the High School Dropout Reform Committee. She noted that the committee held 13 public forums across the State getting input from students, parents, teachers, administrators, and others. Some of the input included better teacher pay, more career and technical education, raising the dropout age, early intervention, and outside-the-box strategic thinking. She also mentioned the creation of the Committee on Dropout Prevention to disperse \$7 million in grants across the State to aid in increasing student achievement and reducing the dropout rate.

Representative Parmon, Co-chair of the Speaker's Initiative on High School Dropout Reform, also addressed the committee on this issue and spoke about the great turnout and valuable public input during the public forums. She noted that in all of the public forums, there was a common interest in funding career and technical education and raising the dropout age.

Due to questions raised by committee members regarding the grant process and its timeline, Marvin Pittman, Community Liaison for Student Achievement, State Board of Education, gave an overview of the process.

Danny Holloman, Section Chief, NC Center for Teacher Recruitment and Retention, spoke about the effectiveness of teacher mentoring. In response to 2007 legislation that directed the State Board of Education to evaluate existing teacher mentoring programs, Mr. Holloman reported on the findings and recommendations of the State Board.

Angela Cogdill, Professional Development Coordinator, Granville County Schools, also spoke about the effectiveness of traditional and nontraditional teacher mentoring programs. Next, Ms. Cogdill introduced Karen Adcock, teacher and mentor, and Shawn Barnes, second year teacher, to speak about the critical support provided in mentoring. Fred Williams, Executive Director of Recruitment and Retention, Durham County Public Schools, spoke about the mentor program in Durham County Public Schools.

After introduction of the State Board of Education members that were present, Howard Lee, Chairman of the State Board of Education, said that he would keep the legislature informed of any potential policy

recommendations formulated by the State Board of Education, following their review of the Blue Ribbon Testing Commission Report and the Blue Ribbon Charter School Commission Report.

Dr. Sam Houston, Chair of the Blue Ribbon Testing Commission and CEO of the North Carolina Science, Math and Technology Center, presented the Blue Ribbon Testing Commission Report to the committee. This report categorizes the 27 recommendations into four key areas: Curriculum, Assessments, Support and Resources, and Accountability Models. He highlighted 5 of the 27 recommendations as critical in the effort to strengthen testing.

Chairman Howard Lee gave an overview of the Blue Ribbon Charter School Commission. Dr. Michael Fedewa, Chairman, Blue Ribbon Charter School Commission, gave an overview and spoke about the charge of the Commission. He also discussed the Commission's 11 recommendations which include: 1) raising the cap by six schools per year, 2) allowing sibling preferences for students drawn in the lottery, 3) allowing charter schools to receive lottery proceeds, and 4) maintaining the current status of facility funding.

February 12, 2008 Meeting

John Dornan, President/Executive Director of the Public School Forum of North Carolina, spoke about The Collaborative Project, a multi-year, five-county project focusing on mathematics and science and jointly administered by the Public School Forum and the NC Science, Mathematics & Technology Center. He talked about the goals and the framework of the pilot project. He also identified the counties (Caswell, Greene, Mitchell, Warren, and Washington) selected to participate in the project.

Dr. Jean Murphy, Director of The Collaborative Project, spoke next about the training programs being offered for participants of this Project. She presented the training program content and schedule and reported on the collaborative efforts with the Teacher Academy, NCCAT, and NCAE to provide the professional training.

Dr. Sam Houston, President/CEO, NC Science, Mathematics and Technology Education Center, spoke on The Collaborative Project's training programs that would focus on Science and Mathematics. Dr. Ray Spain, Superintendent of Warren County Schools, spoke next about the impact that The Collaborative Project has had in his school district.

J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, next spoke about the Collaborative Leadership for Global Competitiveness. He stated that with Learn and Earn, Learn and Earn Online, and NC Virtual Public Schools, North Carolina is in a prominent place in the nation for creating expanded opportunities for its students.

Antonio Jordan, Director of the Joint High School Partnership Programs, North Carolina Community College System, gave some background about the Learn and Earn Early College High School. He provided enrollment data and end-of-course test results which showed promising results from the program. Dr. Jim Palermo, Principal, and Pablo Soto, student, both of the Wake Early College High School, spoke about their experiences.

John Brim, Learn and Earn Online K-12 Consultant and Chief Operations Officer, NC Virtual Public School, showed a taped video message from two students who shared their experiences with taking courses online. Mr. Brim also introduced Dexter Shelton, a senior attending Maiden High School, to talk about his experiences. Mr. Brim spoke about the various Learn and Earn Online courses available and demonstrated how the courses were designed to interact with the student.

Dr. Robert Brown, Dean of Continual Learning, UNC Greensboro, demonstrated some of the online courses offered. Next, he introduced Trina Gabriel, Marketing Associate, UNC Greensboro, to talk about how the online learning program was marketed to students, parents, and educators.

Dr. Bryan Setser, Executive Director, NC Virtual Public School, used a video presentation to explain the concept of Wiki, a key tool developed to communicate with LEAs. He noted that Wiki is a website that is collaborative and editable and students enrolled in virtual schools can use the website to coordinate assignments.

Bill Thomas, Director, Education Technology, Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), spoke about online learning from a regional/national perspective.

J.B. Buxton, Deputy State Superintendent, Department of Public Instruction, presented the School Connectivity Report. He introduced Mr. Phil Emer, Director of Technology, The William and Ida Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, NC State University, to provide an update on the progress of the School Connectivity Initiative. Mr. Emer reviewed the five strategies outlined in the Initiative's operating plan and reviewed the accomplishments to date.

Myra Best, Director of the Business Education Technology Alliance (BETA), E-Learning Commission, gave a status report of the Joint Legislative Technology Commission. She discussed six of the 12 recommendations of the Commission. She spoke about the need to fully fund the School Connectivity Initiative so that all schools will be connected.

February 13, 2008 Meeting

Kristopher Nordstrom, Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Research Division, spoke about professional development funding. He noted that spending for staff development had increased by approximately 12 percent per year over the past five years. He also explained the staff development allotment formula.

Dr. Rebecca Garland, Executive Director, State Board of Education, spoke next about the centralization of professional development. She talked about the framework and the key elements necessary in developing an effective professional development program and shared feedback from the Teachers Working Conditions Survey. She also identified some of the barriers encountered with regard to effective professional development.

Dr. Stephen Greene, Director of Professional Development, Department of Public Instruction, gave an update on the newly created Office of Professional Development. He stated that this office, created by the General Assembly, is now fully staffed and focused on providing service to the LEAs. He stated that the Office had been working with two pilot districts in the area of school transformation. He discussed several initiatives planned in regards to professional development.

Dr. Alan Mabe, Vice President for Academic Planning and University School Programs, UNC General Administration, gave an update on the Center for School Leadership Development. He reviewed some of the core programs and services of the Center. Next, Dr. Marilyn Sheerer, former Dean of Education and Provost at East Carolina University, spoke about the importance of professional development and the need to focus more on the retention of teachers rather than the recruitment.

Jenni Owen, Director of Policy Initiatives, Duke University and Consultant for the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation Professional Development Initiative, presented a timeline and outlined goals for the Z. Smith Reynolds Professional Development Initiative.

Julia Kron, Executive Director, NC Teacher Academy, reviewed the mission of the Academy and gave an overview of the NC Teacher Academy professional development standards. She also mentioned the numerous collaborative efforts of the NC Teacher Academy.

Willa Dickens, Vice President for Economic and Workforce Development, NC Community College System Office, discussed what is being done for professional development at the community college level. Sharon McGinnis, Vice President for Continuing Education, Coastal Carolina Community College, gave a

local perspective and talked about the partnerships formed over the past fifteen years between Onslow County Schools and Coastal Carolina Community College.

Regarding local professional development needs, Sherry Strickland, Vice President, NC Association of Educators, spoke about the positive and negative feedback she has received as she traveled throughout the State. Dr. Julius Walker, Superintendent, Washington County Schools, spoke next about the challenges Washington County faced in recruiting teachers and the importance of strong professional development.

Dr. Roger Metcalf, Director of Western Region Education Service Alliance, gave the background and history on the formation of the regional education services alliances. He spoke about the role of the staff in providing professional development and the importance of creating life-long learners and learning communities. He also spoke about the collaborative efforts in providing training and needs assessments.

Dr. Ira Trollinger, Superintendent, McDowell County Schools, and Theresa Perry, Director of Professional Development, Cumberland County Schools, spoke about the concerns regarding professional development in their districts.

March 11, 2008 Meeting

Superintendents from Person, Lenoir, Buncombe, Asheville, Jones, Cumberland, Brunswick, and Gaston school systems addressed the committee on local concerns, the quality of services received by the Department of Public Instruction, and provided suggestions on how DPI might improve services to LEAs.

Howard Lee, Chairman, State Board of Education, spoke about the powers and duties of the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction. He also spoke about the duties of the Deputy State Superintendent. He stated that the current governance structure is working.

Lynne Bunch, President, College of the Albemarle, spoke about the College's Gateway to College Program that has partnered with six area school systems to work collaboratively towards identifying and supporting the most at-risk students. She noted that the first cohort, which started in 2005, will graduate with high school diplomas in May 2008.

Dr. Delores Parker, Vice President for Academic and Student Services, NC Community College System, spoke next about the position of the Community College System regarding the Gateway to College Program. She stated that the State Board of Community College's position is that the Gateway to College Program's efforts are duplicative and not educationally sound.

Mary Watson, Director, Exceptional Children Division, Department of Public Instruction, spoke about the State Board of Education's policy changes regarding exceptional children. She detailed the study conducted by DPI on the efficiency of current models being used and reviewed the recommendations from that study. Judge Julian Mann, III, Director and Chief Administrative Law Judge, NC Office of Administrative Hearings, gave a brief history of the due process rights of students with disabilities.

Kristopher Nordstrom, Fiscal Analyst, Fiscal Research Division, spoke next about the ABC bonuses at special schools and the funding options.

Gerry Howell, Executive Director, A+ Schools Program, UNC Greensboro, gave a brief history of the program and reported that there are 41 A+ schools in North Carolina.

Gloria Cox, NC State Director, AVID Center Eastern Division, recognized Representative Cotham for her involvement as an AVID elective teacher in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg school system. She also stated that over 10,000 students enrolled in the AVID elective class in the past year. Dr. Barbara Smith, Vice President, Government Relations and Equity, spoke next about the purpose of the program.

Dr. Ben Matthews, Director, School Support Division, Department of Public Instruction, spoke about the funding needs of the Plant Operations Section at the Department. This Section has been receipt supported since 1995 and he asked the Committee to secure recurring State funding in the amount of \$1.5 million.

March 12, 2008 Meeting

Howard Lee, Chairman, State Board of Education, gave a status report on efforts made to produce globally competitive students. He talked about the goals of the State Board of Education, student academic performance, raising the dropout age, and recruiting and retaining teachers.

Martin Lancaster, President, NC Community College System, spoke about the state of the Community College System. Some of the topics he discussed included: the use of technology in reaching more students through online courses, recent legislative salary increases, and industrial training.

Hope Williams, President, NC Independent Colleges and Universities, gave a brief history of the private colleges and universities. She also spoke about enrollment, the Legislative Tuition Grant, and tuition costs.

Erskine Bowles, President, The University of North Carolina, spoke about legislative funding for research, more online education, facilities, and high quality faculty.

Erskine Bowles next spoke about the work of the UNC Tomorrow Commission. Norma Houston, Executive Director, UNC Tomorrow, reviewed the recommendations of the Commission. She said that the campuses have all been charged with reviewing and responding to the Commission's findings and recommendations.

Jo Ann Norris, Associate Executive Director, Public School Forum of North Carolina, gave an overview of the Teaching Fellows Program. She also commented on the success of Project Teach, a marketing and recruitment campaign to attract more minority students to the Teaching Fellows Program.

April 8, 2008 Meeting

Dr. Lynn Hoggard, Section Chief, Child Nutrition Services, Department of Public Instruction, spoke about the child nutrition needs of the state. She said that since federal budget cuts in the early 1980s, schools across the nation struggled to operate school cafeterias. She stated that increases in food costs, fuel and delivery costs, labor and employee benefit costs, and equipment costs contribute to the rise in operating costs.

Emily Jackson, Program Director, Growing Minds, Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP), gave a brief background of the national Farm to School Program in which North Carolina was the first state to implement.

Dr. Mary McDuffie, Executive Director, NC Center for Advancement of Teaching, gave a brief history of the Center. She stated that the original mission of the Center was to serve teachers with more than three years of experience, but with the rapid loss of beginning teachers, the Center refocused their work to include beginning teachers. She also talked about the Center's success in retaining more teachers.

George Sweat, Secretary, NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, spoke about the process of distributing \$2 million in grant funding to 15 counties for youth gang violence prevention. He stressed the importance of investing in early intervention and prevention. He mentioned that community and parental awareness and involvement are common challenges.

David Jones, Executive Director, Governor's Crime Commission, spoke about the "Comprehensive Assessment of Gangs in North Carolina" Report. The Commission was directed to assess gang activity in communities and prisons, to consult with several agencies to assess gang prevention programs and their

effectiveness, and to highlight best practices. The Report provides recommendations on ways to utilize resources to more effectively prevent gang violence.

Colonel Tom Harris, North Carolina National Guard, spoke about the Tarheel Challenge Academy. He talked about how the program is funded, the cost to graduate a student, and how the students are referred to the program.

Dr. Kathy Sullivan, Senior Policy Analyst, State Board of Education, gave an update of the teacher licensure policy. She stated that the Board established a licensure policy appeals panel that meets up to two times a month.

Philip Price, Associate Superintendent and Director of Financial and Business Services, Department of Public Instruction, spoke next about the efficiency of the Licensure Section. He stated that in response to feedback from local education agencies, the Department has identified four goals to increase efficiency: customer service, communication, technology, and policy simplification.

Jackie Colbert, Director, Reading First, Department of Public Instruction, spoke about the federal grant to administer the Reading First program. She said that NC Reads is an online extension of that program.

Roxanne Leopper, Policy Director, FirstHealth of the Carolinas, and Chair, NC Alliance for Health Obesity Prevention Policy Committee, spoke about childhood obesity and the goal of the coalition to raise awareness across the state and encourage intervention. She also spoke about the Alliance's three priorities to fully fund child nutrition standards, define "quality" physical education in statute, and to collect statewide data.

Sheri Strickland, Vice President, North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), spoke to the Committee in support of a teacher assistant salary schedule. The policy proposal would set up a salary schedule of 10 steps based on years of experience.

Donna Stepp, Member, NCAE Board of Directors, and Teacher Assistant, spoke about her duties and responsibilities. She also encouraged the Committee to support a teacher salary schedule that rewards for years of experience.

Melinda Zarate, Legislative Chair, North Carolina Association of Teacher Assistants, spoke next and thanked the legislature for the pay increase to salary grade 56 in the 2007 Appropriations Act. She also spoke about the results of a teacher assistant survey that was conducted by the Association. She asked the Committee to support an equitable living wage.

Kelvin Spragley, Executive Director, North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children, gave a brief history of the Teacher Cadet Program. He introduced Lina Drinkard, Director, North Carolina Teacher Cadet Program to talk about the mission of the program. Debra Johns, Teacher Cadet Teacher, Southwestern Randolph High School, and Cory McNeill, student, Southwestern High School, also spoke about their experiences in the program.

Alexis Schauss, Assistant Director, Division of School Business, Department of Public Instruction, spoke next about the changes made to the chart of accounts for public schools. She noted that the old chart, in existence for 25 years, was originally designed to track funding instead of programs. She said that the new changes will offer the LEAs, DPI, the legislature, and the federal government access to more specific data for accountability purposes.

Philip price, Associate Superintendent and Director, Financial and Business Services, Department of Public Instruction, spoke about the report on Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding (DSSF) and Low-Wealth Funding. He reported that currently, all 115 LEAs receive DSSF funds. He also said that school districts are spending the money to hire more teachers, cover staff development costs and curriculum revisions.

Tony Troop, Program Coordinator, Child and Family Support Teams, Department of Health and Human Services/Department of Public Instruction, spoke about identifying at-risk students and coordinating state services. She talked about some of the reasons for referral of at-risk students.

Deborah Horton, President, North Carolina Parent Teacher Association (NC PTA), reported on the use of the non-recurring funds in the 2007 Appropriations Act for the purpose of promoting effective parental involvement. Efforts were focused in 12 schools in Alamance, Anson, Cumberland, Forsyth, Hoke, and Mecklenburg counties. She said that the NC PTA would like to expand statewide by hiring coordinators in each educational region.

April 9, 2008 Meeting

The committee discussed possible recommendations and reviewed draft legislation.

May 8, 2008 Meeting

COMMITTEE FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee makes the following findings and recommendations to the 2008 Regular Session of the 2007 General Assembly:

1. Career Technical Education

The Committee strongly encourages the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction to continue their efforts to improve the public school system through Career Technical Education and high school reform. This combination of academic and career technical skills is essential to keeping students in school and preparing them for further education and training that will lead to employment in high-paying, high-skill and high-demand 21st Century jobs. The Committee believes that Career Technical Education not only contributes to economic opportunities for students, but also contributes to the economic development of the State.

The Committee believes that the Future Ready Core curriculum that will be effective with the class entering the ninth grade for the first time in the 2009-2010 school year offers students the opportunity to participate in Career Technical Education courses through the six required elective units.

2. Teacher Retention

The Committee encourages the General Assembly to continue to support initiatives that address the State's teacher shortage. There is a growing shortage of competent teachers in North Carolina. This shortage is due to increasing student enrollment, class-size reduction initiatives, and teacher retirements. The teacher shortage is the most acute in rapidly growing school systems, in rural and low-wealth counties, and in schools with high numbers of at-risk students.

The Committee believes that it is important to provide quality mentoring for teachers entering the profession so that they will continue to teach in North Carolina's classrooms. These mentors should be excellent, experienced, and highly qualified teachers. The Committee believes that National Board Certified teachers have the skills and abilities necessary to be effective mentors.

The Committee recommends that local boards of education be permitted to assign a limited number of National Board Certified teachers to serve as full-time mentors. See attached DRAFT LEGISLATION: 2007-SFz-11[v.8].

3. Support for Local School Administrative Units

(a) The Committee encourages the State Board of Education and Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to continue to support local school administrative units (LEAs) by providing high quality educational services and fostering high student performance and achievement. The Committee believes in the importance of soliciting feedback from educational practitioners within the LEAs. The Committee has heard from superintendents and others in the field and finds that there are concerns about communication between DPI and LEAs, as well as concerns about delivery of services by DPI. The Committee also finds that there are concerns over the internal structure, staffing, and governance of DPI.

The Committee recommends that the General Assembly create a Legislative Special Commission on Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education to study the efficiency and effectiveness of DPI and its programs, and that funds be provided for the operation of the Commission. See attached DRAFT LEGISLATION: 2007-LEz-296[v.5].

(b) The Plant Operation Section of the School Support Services Division of DPI has been on receipt support since 1995 when DPI was downsized. The reliance on receipts has hampered the ability of DPI to hire and retain competent engineers to do the required work. Additionally, the demand on the services has increased, including water, pest, and hazardous chemical management, mold/mildew remediation, interior/exterior air quality, and green building and energy conservation/management.

The Committee recommends that the General Assembly provide funds to the Plant Operation Section of the School Support Services Division of DPI to ensure that local school administrative units have the support they need to achieve efficient, safe and environmentally sound practices. Full funding of the Plant Operations Section of DPI will eliminate any subscription fee charged to local school administrative units thereby enabling the Plant Operation Section to provide services at no cost to the LEAs. See attached DRAFT LEGISLATION: 2007-LEz-305[v.8].

(c) The Committee finds that Child Nutrition Programs have operated as small businesses on school campuses and have had to produce revenue to cover their costs. Operating costs have increased and program revenues have decreased over the past several years.

The Committee also finds that the Child Nutrition Programs can be part of the solution to the epidemic of overweight children in North Carolina. However, it is more expensive to provide healthful foods such as fresh fruits and vegetables, whole grain products and skim milk, and there are increased labor and equipment costs associated with providing healthy food choices.

The Committee recommends that the General Assembly provide funds to ensure that Child Nutrition Programs operating in the public schools have the funds necessary to implement nutrition standards adopted by the State Board of Education for elementary schools and to improve the overall operation of the child nutrition programs. DRAFT LEGISLATION: 2007-LEz-303[v.6].

4. Technology

The General Assembly has provided funding to ensure that the effective use of technology is built into the North Carolina system of public schools for the purpose of preparing a globally competitive workforce and citizenry for the 21st Century. As the State continues to invest in technology, it is critical to invest in teacher training so that educators will use technology in their classrooms for the benefits it offers to both students and teachers. Connecting all public schools to a statewide network where resources, services and learning options are available will help eliminate barriers to access.

The Committee strongly urges the General Assembly to increase funding for technology that will keep students engaged with the curriculum and on track for graduation, and for the connectivity initiative.

5. Dropout Prevention

The Committee believes that all students should graduate from high school prepared for work or to pursue further education. The Committee recognizes that North Carolina must lower its high school dropout rate and increase its graduation rate. The Committee believes that strengthening the curriculum so it is more challenging and relevant to students and providing courses that prepare students for career and work options after high school are strategies that have the potential to keep students in school until they graduate.

The Committee recommends that the General Assembly continue to support initiatives aimed at reducing the high school dropout rate and increasing the graduation rate. The Committee strongly recommends additional funding to award new grants from among those that were submitted and not selected in the first round of grants awarded as a result of the House Initiative on High School Dropout Reform. Additionally, the Committee recommends the reauthorization of the Joint Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation.

The Committee also recommends continued funding for The Collaborative Project: A 21st Century Initiative of the North Carolina General Assembly, the recommendations of the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation, and the high school reform efforts in place across the State.

6. Students with Disabilities

The Committee recognizes the importance of delivering high quality instructional and support services to students with disabilities and that there are a number of components which are critical to achieving this

goal, including teacher education programs. The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina will submit a report to the Committee on May 15, 2008 that will include evidence of the effectiveness of the current teacher education programs in preparing teachers to educate students with disabilities and identification of changes that are needed in the teacher education programs to better prepare teachers to teach students with disabilities. The Committee recommends that this report be heard in detail when the Committee reconvenes in the fall of 2008. At that time, the Committee should evaluate whether further action must be taken to ensure that teacher education programs are preparing teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to successfully teach students with disabilities, including the knowledge and skills needed to address mental health conditions that affect some students with disabilities.

The Committee supports the current statutory language in G.S. 115C-107.7 that prohibits local education agencies from assigning a student with disabilities to homebound instruction without a determination by that student's IEP team that the homebound instruction is the least restrictive alternative environment for the student. The Committee recommends that the statute be amended so that the continued appropriateness of the homebound instruction is evaluated monthly by a designee or designees of the student's IEP team. See attached DRAFT LEGISLATION: 2007-RQz-16[v.6].

The Committee also believes that students with disabilities must be encouraged to participate to the fullest extent possible in the various innovative high school programs available throughout the State. The Committee recommends that the Department of Public Instruction study the current participation rates of students with disabilities in Learn and Earn Early College High Schools, Redesigned High Schools, the North Carolina Virtual Public School, and North Carolina public high schools that are on block schedules and report back to the Committee on its findings and recommendations. See attached DRAFT LEGISLATION: 2007-RQz-18[v.6].

7. Professional Development

The Committee understands the importance of having high quality professional development easily available to teachers throughout the State. Although a number of organizations provide professional development in North Carolina, the Committee believes that technical assistance and professional development delivered by the Department of Public Instruction through regional education service centers could play a significant role in improving student performance, particularly in rural parts of the State. The Committee recommends that an outside consultant be hired to examine the roles that regional education service centers that are created within the Department of Public Instruction could play in the delivery of professional development. See attached DRAFT LEGISLATION: 2007-RQz-19[v.4].

Legislative Proposal I

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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BILL DRAFT 2007-SFz-11 [v.8] (03/31)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
4/9/2008 12:23:10 PM

Short Title: Brd. Cert. Tchrs. Serve as Full-Time Mentors.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PERMIT NATIONAL BOARD CERTIFIED TEACHERS TO SERVE
3 AS FULL-TIME MENTORS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT
4 LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-296.2 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 115C-296.2. National Board for Professional Teaching Standards Certification.

8 ...

9 (b) Definitions. – As used in this subsection:

10 ...

11 (2) A "teacher" is a person who:

12 a. Either:

13 1. Is certified to teach in North Carolina; or

14 2. Holds a certificate or license issued by the State Board of
15 Education that meets the professional license
16 requirement for NBPTS certification;

17 b. Is a State-paid employee of a North Carolina public school;

18 c. Is paid on the teacher salary schedule; and

19 d. ~~Spends at least seventy percent (70%) of his or her work~~
20 ~~time.~~ Either:

21 1. ~~Spends at least seventy percent (70%) of his or her~~
22 work time in classroom instruction, if the employee is
23 employed as a teacher. Most of the teacher's remaining
24 time shall be spent in one or more of the following:
25 mentoring teachers, doing demonstration lessons for

Legislative Proposal I

- 1 teachers, writing curricula, developing and leading staff
2 development programs for teachers; or
3 2. In Spends at least seventy percent (70%) of his or her
4 work time in work within the employee's area of
5 certification or licensure, if the employee is employed in
6 an area of NBPTS certification other than direct
7 classroom instruction-instruction; or
8 3. Is serving as a full-time mentor under subsection (e1) of
9 this section.

10 ...

11 (e1) Assignment of Teachers With NBPTS Certification to Serve as Full-Time
12 Mentors. – A local board of education may assign teachers with NBPTS certification to
13 serve as full-time mentors as follows:

14 (1) The maximum number of teachers with NBPTS certification that a
15 local board of education may assign to serve as full-time mentors is the greater of (i)
16 five or (ii) five percent (5%) of the number of teachers with NBPTS certification it has
17 employed during the school year immediately preceding the assignment of teachers as
18 full-time mentors.

19 (2) A teacher must teach in a classroom for at least two years after
20 receiving NBPTS certification to be eligible for assignment as a full-time mentor.

21 (3) A teacher may serve as a full-time mentor for up to three consecutive
22 years.

23 (4) After service as a full-time mentor, a teacher must teach in a classroom
24 for at least three years to be eligible for reassignment as a full-time mentor.

25 (5) A teacher serving as a full-time mentor shall be school-based, work at
26 one or more schools, and mentor at least fifteen newly hired teachers in their first
27 through third year of teaching."

28 **SECTION 2.** Teachers with NBPTS certification serving as full-time
29 mentors under G.S. 115C-296.2(b)(2)(e1) shall remain on the NBPTS teacher salary
30 schedule.

31 **SECTION 3.** The State Board of Education shall monitor and assess the
32 effectiveness and impact of allowing teachers with NBPTS certification to serve as full-
33 time mentors and shall report its findings to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
34 Committee prior to April 15, 2010.

35 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.
36

Legislative Proposal II

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2007-LEz-296 [v.5] (2/18)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
4/4/2008 11:14:40 AM

Short Title: Study/DPI & St. Bd. of Education.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT CREATING THE LEGISLATIVE SPECIAL COMMISSION ON THE
3 EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
4 INSTRUCTION AND THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND
5 APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THAT PURPOSE AS RECOMMENDED BY
6 THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 SECTION 1. There is hereby created the Legislative Special Commission on
9 Efficiency and Effectiveness of the Department of Public Instruction and the State
10 Board of Education. The purpose of the Commission is to review the mission, structure,
11 programs, budgets, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Department of
12 Public Instruction and the State Board of Education.

13 SECTION 2. The Commission shall consist of five members of the House of
14 Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and five
15 members of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The
16 Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one representative as cochair,
17 and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one senator as cochair.
18 Vacancies on the Commission shall be filled by the same appointing authority as made
19 the initial appointment.

20 The appointments shall be made and the Commission shall begin its work
21 prior to September 1, 2008.

22 SECTION 3. In performing the legislative review of the Department of
23 Public Instruction and the State Board of Education, the Commission shall:

- 24 (1) Consider the mission of the Department to support local educational
25 agencies in their efforts to provide high quality educational services

Legislative Proposal II

1 and foster high student performance and achievement, as set out in the
2 statutes and in the rules, policies, and practices of the Department.

- 3 (2) Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the Department of Public
4 Instruction in furthering the missions and goals of the Department,
5 including any proposed revisions. This evaluation shall include (i) the
6 role of the Department of Public Instruction, its administrative
7 structure, organization, accountability, and its statutory powers and
8 duties; (ii) the role of the State Board of Education as the head of the
9 Department of Public Instruction, its composition, organization,
10 independence, representation of local education agencies and the
11 citizens of the State on the State Board of Education, and constitutional
12 and statutory powers and duties; and (iii) the role of the State
13 Superintendent as secretary and chief administrative officer of the
14 State Board, the State Superintendent's selection, and the State
15 Superintendent's constitutional and statutory powers and duties
16 including the election or appointment of the State Superintendent.
- 17 (3) Evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of the statewide student
18 testing program, the data collection and data management program, the
19 curriculum and instruction program, the financial services program, the
20 school support services program, and any other program within the
21 Department that has an impact on student performance and positive
22 educational outcomes.
- 23 (4) Assess the activities performed in each program, the major benefits
24 provided by the program, the current funding and staffing levels for the
25 program, the rationale for the funding and staffing levels, and the
26 administrative and other overhead costs of the program.
- 27 (5) Determine the appropriate level of funding and staff necessary to
28 accomplish the goals and missions of the Department.

29 **SECTION 4.** The Commission, while in the discharge of its official duties,
30 may exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through
31 G.S. 120-19.4. The Commission may meet at any time upon the joint call of the
32 cochairs. The Commission may meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative
33 Office Building.

34 The Legislative Services Commission, through the Legislative Services
35 Officer, shall assign professional staff to assist the Commission in its work. The House
36 of Representatives' and the Senate's Supervisors of Clerks shall assign clerical staff to
37 the Commission, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by
38 the Commission. The Commission may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant
39 services as provided by G.S. 120-32.02. If the Commission hires a consultant, the
40 consultant shall not be a State employee or a person currently under contract with the
41 State to provide services.

42 All State departments and agencies and local governments and their
43 subdivisions shall furnish the Commission with any information in their possession or

Legislative Proposal II

1 available to them.

2 **SECTION 5.** The Commission shall report the results of its study and its
3 recommendations to the 2009 General Assembly upon its convening and to the Joint
4 Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Commission shall terminate upon
5 filing its final report or upon the convening of the 2009 General Assembly, whichever is
6 earlier.

7 **SECTION 6.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the General
8 Assembly the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal
9 year for the expenses of the Legislative Special Commission on Efficiency and
10 Effectiveness of the Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education.

11 **SECTION 7.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.

12

Legislative Proposal III

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2007-LEz-305 [v.8] (2/19)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
4/4/2008 11:17:50 AM

Short Title: Funds for Efficient, Green School Facilities.

(Public)

Sponsors: .

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ENSURE THE EFFICIENT, GREEN
3 OPERATION OF SCHOOL FACILITIES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT
4 LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
7 Department of Public Instruction the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars
8 (\$1,500,000) in recurring funds for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to ensure the efficient
9 operation of the public schools. The Plant Operation Section of the School Support
10 Division shall use these funds for:

- 11 (1) Staff development for appropriate personnel to ensure effective energy
12 and environmental management;
- 13 (2) Clean water treatment, waste water treatment, and water management;
- 14 (3) Strategies to address indoor/outdoor air quality;
- 15 (4) The management of hazardous materials; and
- 16 (5) Engineering support in all of these areas to ensure that local school
17 administrative units have the support they need to achieve efficient,
18 safe and environmentally sound practices.

19 The Plant Operation Section shall report annually on May 15 to the Joint Legislative
20 Education Oversight Committee on services provided and projects completed in the
21 local school administrative units.

22 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.
23

Legislative Proposal IV

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2007-LEz-303 [v.6] (2/19)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
5/7/2008 10:32:15 AM

Short Title: School Nutrition Program Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ENSURE THAT CHILD NUTRITION
3 PROGRAMS OPERATING IN THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS HAVE ADEQUATE
4 FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT NUTRITION STANDARDS ADOPTED BY THE
5 STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 SECTION 1. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
8 Department of Public Instruction the sum of twenty million dollars (\$20,000,000) for the
9 2008-2009 fiscal year to enable child nutrition programs in the public schools to
10 implement nutrition standards adopted by the State Board of Education for elementary
11 schools. These funds shall be allotted to each local school administrative unit based on
12 the number of reimbursable meals served to students in elementary schools. These
13 funds shall be disbursed on a monthly basis through the Child Nutrition Technology
14 System, based on a monthly claim for reimbursement. Local school administrative units
15 shall use these funds to implement the nutrition standards as adopted by the State Board
16 of Education in elementary schools and to improve the overall operation of its child
17 nutrition program. These funds may be used only to purchase food, equipment, and
18 supplies and to pay the salaries and benefits of child nutrition personnel directly
19 involved in the preparation and service of food to students.

20 SECTION 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.
21

Legislative Proposal V

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2007-RQz-16 [v.6] (03/14)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
4/17/2008 4:21:05 PM

Short Title: IEP Team and Homebound Instruction Changes.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO AMEND THE LAW TO ALLOW A DESIGNEE OR DESIGNEES OF A STUDENT'S IEP TEAM TO EVALUATE THE CONTINUED APPROPRIATENESS OF HOMEBOUND INSTRUCTION FOR DISCIPLINE PURPOSES FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION G.S. 115C-107.7(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) If a change of placement occurs under the discipline regulations of IDEA, a local educational agency shall not assign a student to homebound instruction without a determination by the student's IEP team that the homebound instruction is the least restrictive alternative environment for that student. If it is determined that the homebound instruction is the least restrictive alternative environment for the student, the student's IEP team shall meet to determine the nature of the homebound educational services to be provided to the student. In addition, the continued appropriateness of the homebound instruction shall be evaluated monthly by ~~the head of the student's IEP team~~ the designee or designees of the student's IEP team."

SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.

Legislative Proposal VI

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2007-RQz-18 [v.6] (04/02)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)
4/23/2008 10:25:43 AM

Short Title: Study Particip. of Except. Children.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

2 AN ACT TO STUDY THE PARTICIPATION AND DROPOUT RATES OF
3 STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES IN LEARN AND EARN EARLY COLLEGE
4 HIGH SCHOOLS, REDESIGNED HIGH SCHOOLS, THE NORTH CAROLINA
5 VIRTUAL PUBLIC SCHOOL, AND NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC HIGH
6 SCHOOLS THAT HAVE BLOCK SCHEDULING, AS RECOMMENDED BY
7 THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. The Department of Public Instruction shall analyze the
10 participation of students with disabilities in Learn and Earn Early College High Schools,
11 Redesigned High Schools, the North Carolina Virtual Public School, and North Carolina
12 public high schools that are on block schedules. In conducting its analysis, the
13 Department shall consider enrollment, graduation, and dropout rates for students with
14 disabilities in these different programs. The Department shall report its findings and any
15 recommendations to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by March 15,
16 2009.

17 SECTION 2. This act is effective when it becomes law.
18

Legislative Proposal VII

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2007

U

D

BILL DRAFT 2007-RQz-19 [v.4] (04/02)

(THIS IS A DRAFT AND IS NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION)

4/4/2008 11:04:10 AM

Short Title: Study Regional Education Service Centers.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO HIRE A CONSULTANT TO STUDY THE ROLE THAT REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS THAT ARE CREATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION COULD PLAY IN THE DELIVERY OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT THROUGHOUT THE STATE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall contract with a credible independent source, individual, or organization to study the roles that regional education service centers created within the Department of Public Instruction could play in the delivery of professional development throughout the State. The contractor shall not be an employee or independent contractor of any organization that delivers professional development to teachers in North Carolina.

SECTION 2. The study by the contractor shall:

- (1) Examine regional education service center models in other states;
- (2) Provide qualitative and quantitative data on the effectiveness of the models in other states;
- (3) Include input from consultants at the Department of Public Instruction and teachers and administrators from at least 15 local school administrative units that are of different sizes and from different geographic regions of the State; and
- (4) Take no more than four months from initiation to completion.

SECTION 3. The contractor's report shall:

- (1) Adequately reflect the study's methodology, sources of information,

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1 purpose and scope, analyses, evaluative assessments,
2 recommendations, and conclusions;

3 (2) State any known deficiencies or limitations of the study;

4 (3) Be presented in both a printed form and an electronic version; and

5 (4) Provide recommendations on the roles that regional education service
6 centers created within the Department of Public Instruction could play
7 in the delivery of professional development throughout the State.

8 **SECTION 4.** The contractor shall submit a written progress report every four
9 weeks to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The contractor shall
10 complete the report within four months. At the completion of the study, the contractor
11 shall submit a draft of the report document to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
12 Committee for review. Within 30 days of completing the study, the contractor shall
13 submit a final report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The Joint
14 Legislative Education Oversight Committee may, in its discretion, schedule a formal
15 presentation of the report when it is submitted.

16 **SECTION 5.** There is appropriated one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000)
17 from the General Fund to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee to carry
18 out this study.

19 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.
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