



Public Schools of North Carolina

State Superintendent's Career-Ready Commission

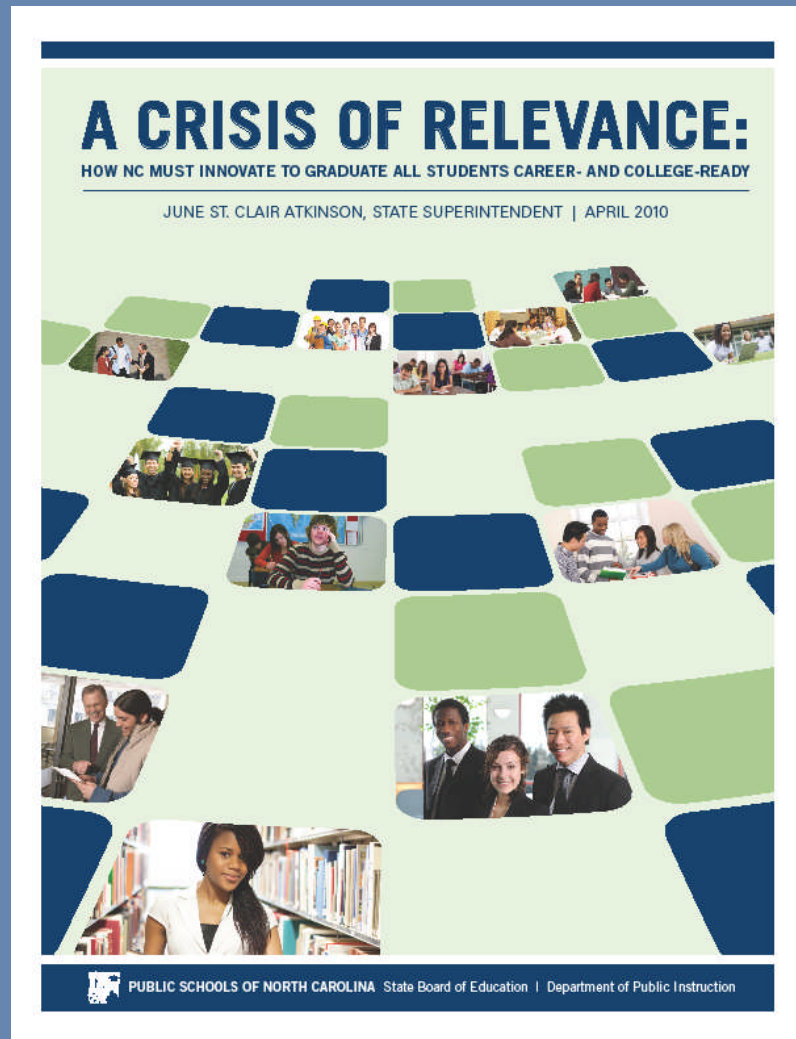
Dr. June Atkinson

April 13, 2010

Commission's Charge

- Alignment
- Systems
- Entrepreneurship
- 16 career clusters
- Business engagement





www.ncpublicschools.org/statesuperintendent/office/commissions/

Findings

- Pockets of success
- Lack of alignment
- 39th in entrepreneurship



Where We Are –

The “Crisis of Relevance”



High School Graduation Rate 2008-09

- 71.7 percent



All

- 86.5 percent



CTE Concentrators



54.8% - 90.2%



Further Education - 2007

- **76.7 percent**



Career-Ready Commission Recommendations

Cultivate a culture of innovation in education

**Connect students to careers and the business community
by instituting teaching and learning innovations**

**Create a system for collaboration among education,
workforce, and economic development entities**



POLICY GOAL 1

Make Career and Technical Education an integral high school experience:

- ✓ Prepares for postsecondary education and/or training and career success



Recommendations

- Implement NC CTE Strategic Plan to market CTE to students
- Change SBE policy to require students to take 4-credit concentration



POLICY GOAL 2

Drive innovation and creativity in the state's high schools:

- ✓ Develop students' interest, behavior and skills in entrepreneurialism



Recommendations

- Embed entrepreneurial thinking and skills development into instructional practices
- Increase entrepreneurship and other business development course offerings
- Promote the 58 small business centers



POLICY GOAL 3

Transform the culture of education in NC to produce:

- ✓ Academically skilled students
- ✓ Career-ready students



Recommendations

- Adopt SREB's "10 Key Principles for New State School Accountability"
- Require all schools with graduation rate under 75% to redesign
- Support statewide effort to improve STEM



Recommendations (con't)

- Increase amount of time students spend learning by changing how, when, and where
- Validate career-ready status using such as the National Career Readiness Certificate



POLICY GOAL 4

Expand assistance to high school students:

- ✓ Make wise academic and career choices
- ✓ Achieve their goals for the future



Recommendations

- Assign every high school student a career coach or graduation mentor to make a career plan connected to course work
- Inform every high school teacher and counselor about career planning resources and the 16 National Career Clusters



Recommendations (con't)

- Develop a plan for how NC Chamber, NCBCE, and others can influence teacher training and professional development



POLICY GOAL 5

Connect business leaders with educators:

- ✓ Help students understand the relevance of their education to their future goals
- ✓ Prepare them with the knowledge, talent and skills valued and needed in today's workplace



Recommendations

- Create business/industry advisory councils at school and district levels
- Create and grow business/education advocacy groups aligned with 7 economic regions to address education issues



Recommendations (con't)

- Use Lt. Governor's JOB Commission to engage key business leaders in addressing educational issues
- Support DPI longitudinal data system



POLICY GOAL 6

Build on existing governance structures:

- ✓ Bring state, regional and local leaders in education, workforce and economic development together



Recommendations

- Align SBE and DPI initiatives with the state's 7 economic development regions to encourage regular communication
- Expand Education Cabinet to include Secretary of Commerce and the Lt. Governor



Recommendations (con't)

- Adopt the 16 National Career Cluster and other skill sets as an organizing tool for the NC Department of Commerce to use when updating economic development vision plans



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