



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction

Literacy Initiatives and Social Promotion

October 31, 2011



NC Literacy Levels

- Not statistically different from national average on NAEP in both 4th and 8th grade reading
- Slightly below national average on SAT (63% participation)
- Above the national average on ACT (18% participation)



2010 SAT Scores for High School Seniors

- 54,268 took SAT
- 48,963 (90%) scored 750 or above
- 31,459 (58%) scored 500 on Critical Reading



K-3 Initiatives



Reading 3D

- Formative/Diagnostic Assessment Tool
- Includes Phonics and Reading Comprehension
- Individual Student Approach
- Progress Monitoring and Intervention
- Provided to 480 lowest performing schools with below 70% proficiency in reading
- Paid through RttT - \$2.4 Million for License
- Support and Training provided through Title II



Other Reading Initiatives

- Reading Foundations – Exceptional Children
- Response to Intervention
- New Teacher Standards Focus on Literacy
- New Comprehensive Literacy Plan
- LEA Initiatives



Race to the Top Reading Related Initiatives

- Common Core – Text Complexity
- Teacher Effectiveness - Value Add
- District and School Transformation Coaches
- Instructional Improvement System



Promotion Gateways

- Established in 1999
- Reading and Mathematics Grades 3, 5, and 8
- High School - English I, Algebra I, US History, Civics & Economics, Biology
- Eliminated 2010-11



Typical Gateway Figures

- 38,153 out of 117,163 third grade students were not proficient in reading in 2011
- 2,277 third graders were retained in 2011
- Approximately 94% of students non-proficient in reading were promoted anyway

Rationale for Elimination of Gateways

- Principal Authority to Promote
- Due Process Requirements
- Resulted in Multiple Testing
- Artificially Low Proficiency Cut Scores
- Relationship between Dropouts and Grade Retention

Current Actions by SBE/DPI

- Review of NC IHE Teacher Preparation for Reading - Survey
- Research on the Massachusetts Reading Test & Preparation of Teachers
- In-service Modules on Elements of Reading (tied to Teacher Effectiveness)

Recommendations - Instruction

- Balanced Literacy – Phonics and Comprehension
- Balanced Curriculum – Experiential Learning across Contents
- Formative/Diagnostic Assessment
- Text Complexity - Rigor

Recommendations - Policy

- Possible Addition of Knowledge of Reading Instruction Test for Licensure
- Addition of Peer Evaluators
- Extended School Year/Modified School Calendar to Combat Reading Loss
- Common Formative Assessments
- New, More Rigorous K-2 Assessment

Literacy & Social Promotion

Questions?