



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

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# **Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee**

*Session Law 2003-284*

*Section 7.16(c)*

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**Date Due: October 15, 2003**

**Report # 3 in October 2003 – December 2004**

**DPI Chronological Schedule**

Preface  
ABCs Pilot Program Report  
October, 2003

The ABCs Pilot Program was discontinued at the close of the 2001-02 school year. With the signing into law of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 in January 2002 and the requirement of the General Assembly to include a "closing the achievement gap" component in the ABCs beginning with the 2002-03 school year, in June 2002 the State Board of Education adopted Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as a component of the ABCs to satisfy both the federal and state requirements. Whereas the pilot was necessarily limited to reading and mathematics in grades 3-8 (high schools were not involved due to the additional complexity of the high school ABCs and because of the transition to a prediction model for high school accountability in 2000-01 and the prediction model could not be disaggregated); and, whereas, the final report showed that the pilot had only modest impact; and whereas, continuation of the pilot would have created yet another component for future accountability implementations beyond the ABCs and AYP requirements; therefore the SBE discontinued the use of the pilot model. A report was provided in October 2002 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) summarizing the results for the final year (2001-02) of the pilot program.

To comply with the requirement in SL 2003-284 Section 7.16(c) to report to JLEOC by October 15, 2003, the executive summary of the October, 2002 (final) report to JLEOC on the ABCs Pilot Program follows.

**Results of the 2001-02 ABCs Pilot Program to Test and Evaluate a  
Revised School Accountability Model for the ABCs Plan  
October, 2002**

**Executive Summary**

Section 8.36 of the special provisions in the 1999 Budget required the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish a pilot program in up to five Local Education Agencies (LEAs) "for the purpose of determining whether revisions in the present accountability model are likely to result in more students demonstrating mastery of grade level subject matter and skills." To this end, the SBE was instructed to "disaggregate student performance within designated ... groups" as a key feature of the pilot program. Section 8.36 further specified that the Board should report by October 15, 2001, and annually thereafter, "its findings and recommendations regarding the continued implementation, expansion, and modification of the pilot program."

The 2001 report to the General Assembly was rescheduled for December due to the delay in the ABCs reporting as a result of the equating study in mathematics. In that report, the State Board recommended to discontinue the ABCs Pilot at the conclusion of the 2001-02 school year due to SB 1005 Section 23.30.(a), which required the SBE to incorporate a "closing the achievement gap" component in the ABCs beginning with the 2002-03 school year.

The State Board of Education was required to establish awards for pilot schools that meet the goals of the pilot program. Section 8.36 stipulated that the SBE "shall not terminate a pilot program in a participating unit during the school year." Thus the SBE was obligated to continue the pilot through the 2001-02 school year and, consequently, to make the awards for the 2001-02 school year.

This report is presented to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee in order to fulfill the SBE's responsibility to report on the conclusion of the ABCs Pilot Program. At its September 2002 meeting, the SBE did identify, approve and award those schools that merited awards on the basis of their performance during the 2001-02 ABCs Pilot Program, the last year of its implementation.

The five participating LEAs were: Bladen County Schools (090); Craven County Schools (250); Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools (340); Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (600); and Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools (700). Based on analyses of the 2001-02 ABCs data for schools in these Local Education Agencies, 79 schools (36.9% of participating schools) merited awards for meeting the goals of the pilot program during its final year (31.6% met the goals in the first year).