

University of North Carolina Laboratory Schools

Plan for the Location of Lab Schools

Introduction

Article 29A of Chapter 116 of the North Carolina General Statutes provides for the University of North Carolina (UNC) to establish eight (8) laboratory schools. All operations of each lab school are to be directly governed and overseen by the board of trustees of a UNC constituent institution, with input from an advisory board appointed by the trustees. The trustees will also appoint all faculty and staff for the lab school, who will become employees of the sponsoring constituent institution. The lab schools are to be established for the purpose of improving public school student performance in eligible local school administrative units and providing exposure and training for teachers and principals. The following plan for the location of the lab schools is submitted on behalf of the Board of Governors, as required by Section 11.6(e) of Session Law 2016-94 and Section 116-239.7(a) of the North Carolina General Statutes.

Potential Sponsor Institutions of Lab Schools Identified

The University of North Carolina's institutions include fifteen (15) universities with educator preparation programs. After initial consultations, the following eight constituent institutions have been identified as potential candidates to establish and operate lab schools:

- (1) Appalachian State University
- (2) East Carolina University
- (3) North Carolina Central University
- (4) University of North Carolina at Charlotte
- (5) University of North Carolina at Greensboro
- (6) University of North Carolina at Pembroke
- (7) University of North Carolina at Wilmington
- (8) Western Carolina University

Lab School Stakeholders' Planning Conference

Representatives from constituent institutions and local school administrative units participated in a day-long meeting on October 17, 2016 to identify and discuss the significant operational, programmatic, and policy issues to be addressed when establishing lab schools, and to provide input concerning this plan. Representatives from UNC institutions other than those identified above were invited to participate in the planning meeting. Other participants in the October 17 meeting included representatives from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; the State Board of Education; UNC-General Administration; and a North Carolina non-profit organization. Based on meeting outcomes, the President and her staff at UNC-General Administration will support efforts by the constituent institutions to identify and partner with the eight local school administrative units where lab schools will be established, and coordinate and facilitate resolution of the operational matters that must be addressed in the process of establishing the schools.

Potential Locations for Lab Schools

An initial review of local school administrative units identified 36 local school administrative units that are eligible locations for lab schools, many of which are within reasonable proximity to a UNC institution. Subject to further ongoing consultations, it is anticipated that lab schools will be established in eligible local school administrative units in reasonably close proximity to the eight (8) constituent institutions listed above, such that there will be at least one lab school located in each of the State Board of Education's eight (8) geographic regions.

UNC aims to solidify the precise local school administrative units in which the four (4) lab schools expected to begin operation in the 2017-18 academic year will be located and update this plan accordingly by early 2017. UNC expects that the boards of trustees of those four (4) sponsoring constituent institutions will adopt resolutions establishing those four (4) schools no later than April 30, 2017.

Amendment

This plan is subject to revision as indicated herein, and any such revisions will be promptly submitted to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.