

**A Publication for Members of the
N.C. Association of School Administrators**

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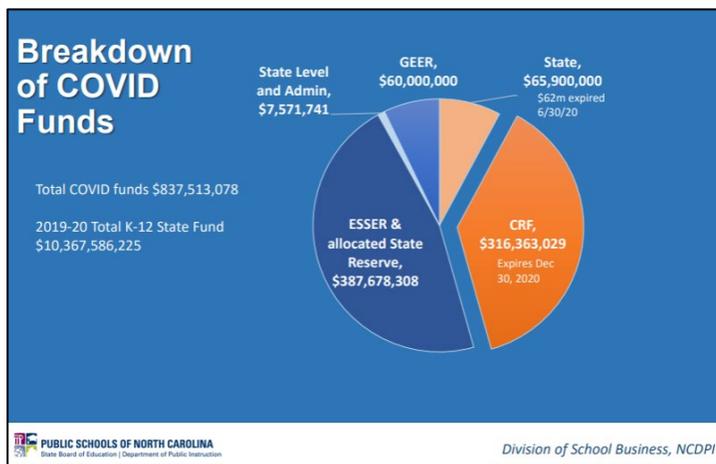
The State Board of Education (SBE) held its annual planning and work session, as well as its monthly meeting remotely on October 6-8. The pages that follow summarize highlights from the meeting and the Board's actions for this month. For complete SBE information, visit their website:

<http://stateboard.ncpublicschools.gov/>

COVID-19 STATE AND FEDERAL FUNDS OVERVIEW

During its meeting on Thursday, NCDPI Chief Business Officer Alexis Schauss provided an update on all state and federal COVID-19 relief funding provided for North Carolina K-12 schools as of September 28, including restrictions on remaining funds and upcoming expiration deadlines. In summary, \$837.5 million

in state and federal support has been distributed so far to 330 public school units, 26 nonprofits, and the NCDPI, utilizing 40 different budget line items. This brings the 2019-20 total K-12 State Fund to \$10,367,586,225.



Board members noted the federal Coronavirus Relief Funding, which provides \$316 million for relief items such as school nutrition, mental health, connectivity, and cybersecurity, is set to expire December 30, 2020.

The funding overview presentation can be accessed by clicking the image above, and other supporting documents can be found below:

- [COVID-19 Allotment Policy Manual](#)
- [Summary of COVID Funding & Deadlines](#)
- [Summary of Allocations by PSU](#)

ACTION ITEMS

EDUCATION INNOVATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS COMMITTEE

Action On First Reading

EICS 1 — NC ACCESS Timeline, Request for Application, and Rubric Revisions

The NC ACCESS Program is entering the third year of its five year federal Charter School Program (CSP) grant and will begin the third subgrant application and approval cycle. The NC ACCESS Program requested approval of the updated subgrant application, rubric, and timeline, which includes the following changes:

- Minor grammatical and terminology updates;
- Replaced 2 application questions to better align to the goals of the program:
 1. Replaced the question about how the education plan compares to or differs from the LEA with a question about interventions, support services, and additional educational opportunities.
 2. Replaced the question about the school calendar with a question about the assessment program and how data is used to increase student outcomes.

Recommendations: The Charter Schools Advisory Board recommended the State Board of Education approve the updated NC ACCESS Program Subgrant Application, Rubric, and Timeline.

APPROVED

STUDENT LEARNING & ACHIEVEMENT COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

SLA 1 — Timeline Revisions: Schedule of Standards Development, Assessments, and Materials Adoption (SCOS-012)

DPI staff requested action on first reading for this item so that the timeline for standards development, assessments, and materials adoption alignment can be approved for a one-year delay. The State Board of Education approved on Friday, March 27, 2020 postponing the 2020 North Carolina textbook evaluation and adoption process indefinitely due to concerns with COVID-19. A one-year delay will allow for greater teacher contributions in the upcoming standards revision process, specifically impacting Science and Healthful Living. While the one-year delay was approved across all content areas, the Social Studies Department requested installation of new standards development and aligned assessments to begin in Winter 2021 and continue through June 2022.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the delayed standards development, assessments, and materials adoption schedule.

APPROVED

Action

SLA 2 — Alternative Schools' Accountability Model Options for 2020-21

The State Board of Education (SBE) policy ACCT-038 provides alternative schools with three ways to participate in state accountability:

1. Alternative schools report a School Performance Grade;
2. Alternative schools report data on student achievement and growth and receive a status of progressing, maintaining, or declining; OR
3. Alternative schools may submit their own alternative accountability models to the State Board of Education for approval.

As required in policy, alternative schools submitted documentation for the requested options for the 2020–21 school year by August 1. The Accountability Services staff reviewed the requests and presented a summary of the options for Discussion at the September meeting, and for Action at the October meeting. Local boards of education have finalized requests for Alternative Accountability Model participation. The final list of schools was presented for action.

Recommendations: It was recommended the SBE approve the alternative accountability options as presented.

APPROVED

SLA 3 — Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) Report: Career and College Ready Graduate Program (CCRG)

This report provides a progress update on NCDPI's implementation of the Career and College Ready Graduate Program (CCRG) in response to legislation, in conjunction with the NC Community College System (NCCCS) Office. The CCRG Program aims to ensure that eligible high school seniors, based on criteria set by the NC Community College System (NCCCS) Office, enter the NCCCS remediation-free. At this time, NCDPI has procured the NROC/EdReady program, which is the online vendor that NCCCS Office has chosen to provide this CCRG opportunity for all NC high schools. There will be professional development provided by the NCCCS and NROC/EdReady this fall for high schools, and then LEAs/high schools will implement this program in January 2021. DPI staff noted funding for this program remains a huge challenge; to continue in the following year, NCGA funding will be needed to continue working with the online platform vendor. For this year, lapsed salaries were used for the annual membership.

Recommendations: It was recommended the State Board of Education receive for submission to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) the Career and College Ready Graduate Program (CCRG) report.

APPROVED

SLA 4 — Report to the General Assembly: School Performance, Annual Report Cards for Schools, and School Building Reports - Accountability Measures for 1st - 3rd Grade Students (State Level Summary)

As a result of the COVID-19 outbreak, Session Law 2020-3 (Senate Bill 704) clarified or modified certain school accountability and reporting requirements. Section 2.7(e) requires districts to report the following data to the Board of Education in lieu of Accountability measures outlined in § 115C-83.10:

SECTION 2.7.(e) Reporting Requirements. – For the 2020-2021 school year, the following applies:

- (1) Accountability reporting described in G.S. 115C-83.10 shall not be required based on data from the 2019-2020 school year, except that by September 1, 2020, local boards of education shall report to the State Board the following:
 - a. The number and percentage of first grade students on track and not on track to meet year-end expectations based on assessments completed on or before March 13, 2020.
 - b. The number and percentage of second grade students on track and not on track to meet year-end expectations based on assessments completed on or before March 13, 2020.
 - c. The number and percentage of third grade students on track and not on track to meet year-end expectations based on assessments completed on or before March 13, 2020.
 - d. The number and percentage of third grade students retained pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for reading deficiencies.
- (2) Reporting requirements described in G.S. 115C-218.85(b)(4) shall not be required based on data from the 2019-2020 school year, except that by September 1, 2020, charter schools and other public school units subject to charter school statutory requirements shall report to the State Board the following:
 - a. The number and percentage of third grade students on track and not on track to meet year-end expectations based on assessments completed on or before March 13, 2020.
 - b. The number and percentage of third grade students retained pursuant to subsection (a) of this section for reading deficiencies.
- (3) The State Board shall compile the information described in this subsection and shall submit a State-level summary of each component by local school administrative unit and charter school to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee **by October 15, 2020.**

Recommendations: State Board of Education members were asked to receive the [Accountability Measures for 1st – 3rd Grade Students \(State Level Summary\) report for submission to the General Assembly by October 15 deadline.](#)

APPROVED

EDUCATOR STANDARDS AND PRACTICE COMMITTEE

Action

ES & P 4 — North Carolina Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC) Report for 2019-2020 to Fulfill Requirements of Senate Bill 599 (Session Law 2017-189)

As stated in G.S. 115C-268.5(d), an annual report from the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC) is due to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC) and the NCSBE by December 1, 2020. The annual report covers the term September 1, 2019-September 1, 2020 and provides an overview of the Commission membership, monthly meeting work and recommendations, as well as work for the three subcommittees. On August 13, 2020, PEPSC unanimously approved the [PEPSC Report](#) to be sent to the SBE for approval and then to the JLEOC.

Recommendations: It was recommended that the State Board of Education approve the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission Report for 2019-2020 as presented.

APPROVED

BUSINESS OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Action on First Reading

BSOP 2 — COVID-19: Session Law 2020-97 (HB (1105) Requirement (ALOT-003)

Session Law 2020-97 (HB1105) appropriates funds from the Coronavirus Relief Fund. Section 3.3 (100) directs the Department of Public Instruction “to make available to public school units one or more Gaggle safety management products to enhance student safety while providing remote instruction in response to COVID-19.” DPI staff presented the following recommendations for the allotment policy related to this \$1,000,000 appropriation to be used for new or expanded licenses of Gaggle Safety Management tools:

- Safety Management of Office 365/G Suite Email/Drive Combo;
- Drive Only; and/or
- Office 365/G Suite Hangouts/Meet.

Recommendations: It was recommended the State Board of Education approve the allotment policy and the plan for distributing the funds to comply with Session Law 2020-97 (HB 1105).

APPROVED

BSOP 3 — Approval of Digital Learning Initiative Grants for Public School Units

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), on behalf of the North Carolina State Board of Education (NCSBE), issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for Digital Learning Initiative Grants in March 2020. Based upon available funding, the following RFPs were approved for the identified school years:

- DLI Planning Grants in 2020-2021; and
- DLI Implementation Grants in 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 (2-year grant program)

The North Carolina Digital Learning Plan recommended the provision of grants to support the development and dissemination of local innovative digital learning models. The goal is to have effective digital learning practices spread across all North Carolina K-12 public schools. All public-school units were eligible to apply for the competitive grant programs. Funds awarded for the 2020-2021 school year must be expended by recipients prior to June 30, 2021.

Recommendations: It was recommended the State Board of Education approve the applications identified by the grant evaluation team to distribute funding to school districts and charter schools.

APPROVED

BSOP 4 — JLEOC Report: State Board of Education Waivers of State Laws or Rules Granted to Local Education Agencies

Pursuant to 115C-105.26(h), the North Carolina State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee a list of the specific waivers granted to each local education

agency. The [attached report](#) lists the waivers granted for class size requirements and school calendars start dates for 2019-2020.

Recommendations: It was recommended the State Board of Education approve the report regarding waivers of state law or rules granted to local education agencies.

APPROVED

BSOP 5 — Report to the Joint Legislative Education Committee (JLEOC): Fifth Grade Career Awareness Program

Each local board of education is encouraged to implement a career awareness program for students in grade five to educate students on the CTE programs offered in the LEA. A local board of education that adopts a career awareness program for fifth grade students is required to report on program activities and student outcomes from the prior school year to the SBE by Oct. 1 of each year. By Nov. 15 of each year, the SBE must submit a consolidated report to JLEOC on program outcomes and any legislative recommendations based on local board of education reports.

Recommendations: It was recommended that the State Board of Education receive the Fifth Grade Career Awareness Program for submission to the JLEOC.

APPROVED

To view the agendas for the State Board of Education’s meetings, including links to all handouts and PowerPoint presentations presented to the Board, which may include discussion and informational items not discussed above, please click [here](#).

To view the monthly State Board of Education newsletter archive, including this month’s newsletter, please click [here](#).

Members of the NCASA staff represent NCASA at all meetings of the State Board of Education. If you have questions about the issues discussed in this State Board Review, please contact Katherine Joyce, Executive Director, at kjoyce@ncasa.net or Elizabeth Yelverton, Legal Affairs & Policy Manager, at eyelverton@ncasa.net.