



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Howard N. Lee, *Chairman*

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

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October 15, 2007

To: High School Principals
Directors of Instruction
Career and Technical Education Directors

From: Wandra C. Polk

HONORS COURSE REVIEW PROTOCOL (FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY)

Background In May 2004 the State Board of Education adopted standards for curriculum, instruction and assessment for honors courses taught in public schools throughout the State. These standards were developed to promote alignment and consistency in honors courses.

During 2006-07, a protocol for reviewing high schools' implementation of honors standards was developed, sent to high school principals for review and posted on the Agency's website. Significant feedback was gathered during this year of review and has contributed to the final version of the protocol enclosed in this memo.

Protocol's Purpose The protocol provides an instrument to collect evidence regarding the consistent implementation of the instruction, curriculum and assessment standards adopted by the State Board of Education. It also provides a process for assisting high schools in improving those courses that are not aligned and for soliciting examples of "best practices" that can be shared throughout the state.

Methodology of Review Sixty-four high schools have been selected based on a stratified random sample. Each high school in the state will receive a copy of the protocol For Information Purposes Only. Only the sixty-four high schools that have been selected by random sample will be requested to send in supporting material.

Volunteers Needed High School teachers will be recruited to assist with the review of materials received from the sixty-four selected high schools. These volunteers will be provided training, reimbursement for substitutes, transportation, and lodging reimbursement. If you'd like to nominate a teacher in the following content areas, please use the attached nomination form: English, mathematics, science, social studies, arts education, second language, or career and technical education.

DIVISION OF MIDDLE AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

Wandra C. Polk, Ph.D., Director | wpolk@dpi.state.nc.us

6341 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6341 | (919) 807-3817 | Fax (919) 807-3826

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Timeline

October 2007	All high schools in the state receive honors course review informational memo explaining the protocol. Sixty-four high schools randomly selected to participate in Honors Course Protocol Review. These high schools are notified.
January 31, 2008	Sixty-four selected high schools submit evidence on curriculum, instruction and assessment standards for the <i>one designated program area</i> . Selected schools may contact content area representatives for guidance.
Feb.-March-April	DPI facilitates review process.
May-June	Summaries compiled and feedback shared with the 64 high schools.
August 2008	Report on alignment shared with the Globally Competitive Students Committee of the State Board of Education

Questions

Math	Everly Broadway	ebroadway@dpi.state.nc.us
English Language Arts	Valorie Hargett	vhargett@dpi.state.nc.us
Social Studies	Tracey Greggs	tgreggs@dpi.state.nc.us
Science	Edd Dunlap	edunlap@dpi.state.nc.us
Arts Education	Christie Lynch	clynch@dpi.state.nc.us
Second Language	Helga Fasciano	hfasciano@dpi.state.nc.us
CTE	Dianne Barnes	dbarnes@dpi.state.nc.us

Cc: Robert Logan
Middle/Secondary Section Chiefs
Superintendent (Memo Only)

Attachments (2) Protocol
Nomination Form

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HONORS REVIEW COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) would like to give all secondary level principals the opportunity to nominate teachers who are willing to participate in reviewing the honors level courses that will be submitted to NCDPI for review. **Fax nominations to Christie Lynch at 919-807-3823. Nominations are due no later than November 9, 2007.** [For further information, please contact Christie Lynch (clynch@dpi.state.nc.us; 919-807-3856) or Vinetta Bell (vbell@dpi.state.nc.us; 919-807-3952).]

Please use a separate form for each teacher you nominate. Thank you for your assistance.

NAME OF TEACHER NOMINATED:

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
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NOMINATED TEACHER'S CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name of School	LEA
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Street Address	City	State	Zip Code
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Telephone number of school (including area code)

Teacher's email address

COURSE(S) TAUGHT BY NOMINATED TEACHER:

[Please clearly indicate honors level courses.]

NAME OF PRINCIPAL MAKING THIS NOMINATION:

First Name	Middle Initial	Last Name
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Principal's Signature	Date
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PLEASE FAX COMPLETED FORM TO **CHRISTIE LYNCH BY NOVEMBER 9, 2007:**

FAX: 919-807-3823

clynch@dpi.state.nc.us 919-807-3856

WP:VH:vb/10-8-07