



# PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

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## **IIS Stakeholder Advisory Meeting October 11, 2012; 3:00pm to 5:00pm NCDPI 504**

### **Notes**

Topics covered in this meeting were:

Advisory Group Role  
Overview of the IIS Project  
Financials  
Getting Ready for the IIS

Rebecca Garland, Chief Academic Officer, and Philip Price, Chief Financial Officer, welcomed the group and introduced the agenda items for the meeting. Angela Quick, Deputy Chief Academic Officer, and Sarah McManus, Director of Learning Systems, presented information on the topics.

Questions, discussion points, suggestions and action items raised during the meeting were as follows.

### **Questions for Group to Consider:**

- Are there policies on devices that need to be flexible?
- Can DPI do anything that would help the device issue?

### **Discussion Points:**

- The communication piece will be critical. Seeing tagged content has changed perspective from the field. This type of positive perspective change should be a huge part of PR work going forward. Communications must be tenfold, especially in the next 18 months. The IIS Communications Team should focus on how it all folds together and the “why” of the IIS. There is great opportunity to script the message. Rebecca Garland asked the group whether the IIS READY would be the right platform to show some of the content work. The consensus was affirmative and the group suggested that the more the IIS team can provide the better.
- The group discussed the scope and selection of pilots. DPI has partnered with SLC for resources that can be shared across state lines. LEAs want to lead with instruction. The first phase of the roll-out will include instruction. The assessment piece will follow; then Professional Development will. Online assessments that are currently being delivered with NC Test are scheduled to be delivered through the IIS in 2013-14.
- There was discussion regarding the proposed timeline for the IIS and whether the IIS Team anticipated similar rollout issues associated with NC WISE. It was noted that a lot has been

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accomplished in technology since the rollout of NC WISE and that those advances create a different technological environment, one which will foster a more positive rollout for the IIS. The quality of content and tagging work being completed in advance of the rollout and other similar back-end work upfront will be helpful.

- Devices. Most schools don't have enough devices. The IIS Team will give principals an IIS ready list as soon as that is possible. As soon as there is a signed contract for the IIS vendor(s), the team can release minimum specs. The device issue has been presented to a General Assembly subcommittee and the eLearning Commission is looking at this issue. The device issue is not just about initial cost; it is about maintenance as well. Also, funding is not just for technology; it is also for the resources that will populate the IIS. DPI is working on building the rationale that textbook dollars are device dollars and trying to get that money back. This is a national conversation, not just a state conversation.
- The availability of the IIS does not change the timeline or policies for when state assessments will be delivered online. Availability of the IIS only changes the location where the NC tests will be delivered. State summative assessments that are currently available online and are delivered through NC Test will be administered through the IIS.
- Principals are excited but have to deal with contracts and need to know more about what they will get and when in order to work out contracts.

## **Suggestions:**

- Bring funding stream issues to next General Assembly meeting on November 8.
- Strategically populate the IIS so that users can easily find useful items.
- Present a three-minute video clip showing a real kid and a real life scenario. The video could show how the IIS will save the teacher time and what it can do.
- Don't overpromise.

## **Action items:**

### **For IIS Team**

- Show content information to the group at the next meeting
- Arrange for group to hear from representatives from teacher focus groups--what they anticipate as issues from their peers.
- IIS Team will send information out after the Legislative Research Commission's Committee on Digital Learning Environments in Public Schools meets in November.
- The IIS Team will provide an IIS ready list as soon as that is possible.
- The IIS Team will provide information about pilots for Powerschool to the group.

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## For Stakeholder Advisory Group

- Stakeholders have been asked to email the IIS team with any pertinent information from the field.
- Stakeholders have been asked to let the IIS Team know if any district is interested in piloting in certain areas.
- Stakeholders have been asked to share thoughts before the next Legislative Research Commission's Committee on Digital Learning Environments in Public Schools meeting at Mooresville High School on November 8, 2012.

## **Agenda items for Next Meeting:**

- Content
- Vendor information
- User group—teacher to talk about experiences
- Communication strategy
- Criteria for pilots

The next meeting will likely be offsite. Once the date and place are determined, an email will be sent out to the group.

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