



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION | William W. Cobey Jr., Chairman
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August 23, 2017

The Honorable Roy Cooper, Governor
State of North Carolina
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, N. C. 27699-0301

Dear Governor Cooper:

Thank you for your prompt and thorough review of North Carolina's draft plan for implementing the *Every Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA). Thank you also for acknowledging the efforts of the Department of Public Instruction and State Board of Education staff for the enormous amount of work involved in developing the plan. The work on the plan also included our education colleagues across the state, including university and college teacher education staff as well as business and community members, who provided valuable input.

Your letter describes four areas of concern. The Board shares some of these same concerns and will continue to expand the State Report Card to add other indicators that will include measures that reflect school quality and student success. We also share your interest in equitable educational opportunities for high-achieving students, especially low-income students; leadership development, especially for principals in low-performing schools; and the equitable distribution of effective teachers for all students.

You have our commitment that work continues to enhance the ESSA plan before it is submitted to incorporate additional initiatives. We look forward to continuing to work with you and your Education Advisor, Mr. Geoff Coltrane, to keep you updated as we amend the ESSA plan in the next two weeks to ensure that it reflects the serious intent of the Board to increase student achievement, improve teaching and learning, maximize leadership development, and expand reporting of data that provide more comprehensive measures of accountability. As you may be aware, the plan can be amended to reflect the ongoing priorities of the State of North Carolina.

Please feel free to contact me if you have additional concerns and thoughts that you would like to share. We remain committed to serving all students and educators at the highest level in North Carolina's public schools.

Sincerely,

William W. Cobey, Jr.

cc: Dr. Lou Fabrizio
Ms. Donna Brown

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

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