

# *The Public School Forum's Friday Report*

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## **Yongue and Foriest to Co-Chair Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee**

The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, according to general statute, “shall examine, on a continuing basis, the several educational institutions in North Carolina, in order to make ongoing recommendations to the General Assembly on ways to improve public education from kindergarten through higher education.”

The Co-Chairs plan to meet in mid-September to begin planning - dates, agenda, etc. The committee meeting schedule will be made available this fall. Appointments to the non-standing committee include:

### **Senate Appointments:**

- Sen. Anthony E. Foriest (Co-Chair)
- Sen. Thomas M. Apodaca
- Sen. Robert C. Atwater
- Sen. Charlie Smith Dannelly
- Sen. Steve Goss
- Sen. Fletcher Lee Hartsell, Jr.
- Sen. Martin L. Nesbitt, Jr.
- Sen. Joe Sam Queen
- Sen. Albin B. Swindell, IV
- Sen. Jerry W. Tillman
- Sen. Katie G. Dorsett (Advisory Member)
- Sen. Richard Yates Stevens (Advisory Member)

### **House Appointments:**

- Rep. Douglas Yates Yongue (Co-Chair)
- Rep. Larry M. Bell
- Rep. Jacob Curtis Blackwood, Jr.
- Rep. Richard Brooks Glazier
- Rep. Margaret Moore Jeffus
- Rep. Linda P. Johnson
- Rep. Marvin W. Lucas
- Rep. Marian Nelson McLawhorn
- Rep. Raymond C Rapp

## Education Oversight Committee (cont'd)

- Rep. Joe P. Tolson
- Rep. Laura I. Wiley
- Rep. Tricia Ann Cotham (Advisory Member)
- Rep. Susan C. Fisher (Advisory Member)
- Rep. Earline W. Parmon (Advisory Member)
- Rep. Edith Doughtie Warren (Advisory Member)

## NC STEM Kicks off in Lenoir County

Lenoir County is one of three North Carolina communities selected for a national program that promotes science and math education. NC STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) is dedicated to ensuring all North Carolina students have the opportunity to engage in a rigorous, sustainable STEM education giving them a foundation for future success and providing their communities a workforce that aligns to richer economic opportunities.

A community collaborative work session held last night in the Waller Building at Lenoir Community College kicked off the county's efforts to support successful 21<sup>st</sup> Century teaching and learning. Through designed collaboration, local partners will make certain their students have the opportunity to participate in creative, sustainable STEM education that provides them with good choices in life and bolsters the economic strength of their community.

Lenoir County, Davie County and the 10 counties surrounding Fayetteville and Fort Bragg, considered part of the state's BRAC military growth region, are the first North Carolina communities where NC STEM will focus their efforts. NC STEM will work with leadership and stakeholders from policy, industry, education, economic development, and other community sectors to create a cohesive education model suitable for each region's needs and informed by the state's needs. For more information, visit their website at: [www.ncstem.org](http://www.ncstem.org).

## LEARN NC Fall 2009 Interactive Conference

LEARN NC is excited to host educators from all over the state at their fall 2009 conference. This year's conference, to be held on Thursday October 1<sup>st</sup> from 1pm to 5pm, takes a hybrid format, making it possible for more educators to participate than ever before. The day is divided into morning and afternoon sections, with virtual participation options available for those who can't make the trip to Chapel Hill.

## LEARN NC Fall 2009 Interactive Conference (cont'd)

Teachers, media specialists, technology coordinators, professional development coordinators, administrators, and other leaders in curriculum and instruction will all benefit from this conference. Whether you are teaching students in the classroom, or working at the school or system level developing curriculum and delivering professional development, the LEARN NC fall conference will provide new ideas and identify opportunities for collaboration to help you make the best use of your scarcest resource... time!

The day will consist of a variety of sessions, including two hands-on interactive sessions in the morning for face-to-face participants, and afternoon sessions that cover topics including best practices in online teaching, teaching “digital natives,” and implementing project-based learning in your classroom. For complete details, see the [conference agenda page](#).

## 31 NC Schools Named Recipients of ARRA Competitive Grants

Thirty-one North Carolina schools, spread across 12 school districts, will be able to purchase hardware and software to enhance their media and technology programs thanks to their recent receipt of the Enhancing Education Through Technology (EETT) and American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) competitive grant awards. As a result of these grants, the following schools/districts will be continuing the implementation of North Carolina's IMPACT model. Schools in these districts are part of a larger network of 39 schools with the IMPACT model in place.

- Asheboro City Schools;
- Asheville City Schools;
- Canton Middle School, Haywood County;
- Kannapolis City Schools;
- Northeast Consortium (Edenton-Chowan Schools; Perquimans County Schools);
- Pamlico County Schools;
- Scotland County Schools;
- Swain County Middle School, Swain County;
- Thomasville City Schools;
- Union Middle School, Sampson County; and
- Walkertown Middle School, Forsyth County.

## ARRA Competitive Grants (cont'd)

IMPACT continuation grants are funded through the competitive portion of North Carolina's Title II, Part D EETT allocation from the federal No Child Left Behind program. The grants are aligned with the North Carolina Educational Technology Plan and *IMPACT: Guidelines for North Carolina Media and Technology Programs*. In order to qualify for these grants, these districts participated in a year-long implementation of the IMPACT Model, supported by professional development offered through the NC Department of Public Instruction. Continuation was awarded to schools that provided evidence through a written program evaluation and on-site evidence that the program was being implemented and evaluation data were used in planning future activities.

The one-time allocation of ARRA stimulus funds will enable enhancements to currently funded IMPACT Model Schools Grants. Enhancements include a pilot of 1:1 technology programs, training and implementation of North Carolina's Formative Evaluation System, and the use of diagnostic software for differentiating instruction. For more information on the IMPACT model, please visit <http://www.ncwiseowl.org/impact> or contact the NCDPI's Communications division at 919.807.3450.

## *Preventing Violence & Crime in America's Schools*

School violence today is one of the most pressing challenges that directly impact the entire community. *Preventing Violence and Crime in America's School*, co-authored by Danya C. Perry and William L. Lassiter, provides educators, parents, law enforcement, and other youth-serving professionals with a unique perspective on the topic of school violence. The chapters examine the specifics relating to understanding the problem of school violence; opportunities to prevent and intervene; and the importance of planning for a crisis.

Danya C. Perry has served as an education consultant for over 10 years, and currently works for Communities in Schools of North Carolina as a field services specialist. Co-author William L. Lassiter began working for the Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Center for the Prevention of School Violence in 1997 as a researcher, becoming the manager of the center by 2003. Lassiter received the 2007 Hamilton Fish Institutes National Award of Service for his outstanding work in the area of school violence prevention.

“As you turn this book’s pages, you can feel the passion and genuine interest in helping schools and communities minimize school violence. The authors dispel myths, share personal experiences, and give meaningful advice for ensuring that we heed the wake up call to end school violence,” says Dr. June Atkinson, State Superintendent of Instruction.

This book will take a closer look at analyzing the problem and demonstrating the need to employ effective practitioner-based solutions. For more information or to order a copy of the book, visit [www.putdownstolockdowns.com](http://www.putdownstolockdowns.com).

## *National News...*

### **MS Seeking State Superintendent of Education**

The nine-member Mississippi Board of Education (MBE) has engaged the services of the Mississippi School Boards Association (MSBA) in conducting a national search for State Superintendent of Education. Applications and nominations are being accepted through October 2, 2009.

The ideal candidate will be able to:

- Quickly become familiar with the ongoing programs central to the significant progress being made in Mississippi's K-12 education
- Make increased student achievement the major priority of his/her efforts.
- Enthusiastically support full funding of Mississippi education.

Past Mississippi Superintendents include North Carolina's own Richard Thompson and Henry Johnson. For more information and to obtain an application, potential candidates may contact the MSBA at 601.924.2001 or go to [www.msbaonline.org](http://www.msbaonline.org).

## *Fun Facts...*

### **The New School Year, By the Numbers**

With the 2009-10 school year underway throughout the country, the U.S. Census Bureau has put together a statistical snapshot of the nation's school population based on projections from several databases.

**56 million** – Number of K-12 students expected to enroll this fall.

**11%** - Private schools' share of the elementary to high school enrollment.

**42%** - Minority makeup of the elementary to high school population, as of 2007.

**10.9 million** – # of children ages 5 to 17 who speak a language other than English at home.

**31 million** – Average # of children each month in the national school lunch program in 2008.

**98,793** - Number of public schools in the 2006-07 school year.

**3,970** – Number of charter schools in the 2006-07 school year.

**\$50,758** – National average teacher's salary, 2006-07.

**\$9,666** – Average per-pupil spending on public elementary and secondary education nationally in 2007.

## The New School Year, By the Numbers (cont'd)

North Carolina's version as reported in the September 8<sup>th</sup> edition of NC Policy Watch's Fitzsimon File by Chris Fitzsimon.

**121**- Number of Honor Schools of Excellence, the highest designation in the Department of Public Instruction's end-of-grade testing program, in 2008-2009.

**0**- Number of Honor Schools of Excellence with at least 80 percent of students eligible for free or reduced lunch.

**75**- Number of low-performing schools, the lowest designation in the testing program.

**0**- Number of low-performing schools with less than twenty percent free or reduced lunch students.

**1006**- Average SAT score for North Carolina students in 2009.

**930**- Average score for students from families with incomes of less than \$40,000 a year.

**1082**- Average score for students in families with incomes of at least \$120,000.

**1141**- Average score for students in families with incomes of more than \$200,000.

**211**- Difference in SAT scores between students in families who earn more than \$200,000 and those who earn less than \$40,000.

**1308**- Mean SAT score of students admitted to UNC-Chapel Hill.

**Editor's Note:** The numbers posted in last week's Friday Report story on school lottery funds were not the final numbers for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Please go to the following website to see the final allocations for the year. Due to the delay in the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter release of funds the final allocations change the distribution for the year.

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/fbs/allotments/lottery/lotterydistrib08-09.xls>.

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