

The Public School Forum's Friday Report

PDF versions can be found at www.ncforum.org

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2009 NC School Report Cards Now Online

The data has been compiled, the grades are in and the 2009 North Carolina School Report Cards are now online at www.ncreportcards.org. This website features the state's largest collection of information about student performance and attendance, class size, school safety, teacher quality and classroom technology at the state, district and school levels.

"The School Report Cards provide a virtual window into what is happening in schools and school systems across our state," said State Superintendent June Atkinson. "The information on this site should empower parents to start informed discussions with principals, PTA and PTO leaders and other members of the school community about how our students and schools are doing and what we can do to improve education in North Carolina."

Local school officials will be distributing local Snapshots, or condensed versions of the Report Cards, to parents across the state beginning today. The Snapshots also are available online at www.ncreportcards.org. As there are many factors that affect student performance, class sizes, etc., data on the Report Cards should not be viewed as an absolute indication of whether one school is performing better than another.

The North Carolina School Report Cards have been produced annually since 2001 to provide the public with the most comprehensive information about local schools, districts and overall state data. For the first time ever, this year's Report Cards will also feature North Carolina's National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) state-level scores. Users of the Report Cards can search by school or school system name, by using a North Carolina map, or by selecting desired school characteristics.

Parents & Schools to Appear on OPEN/net

Public education stakeholders are working together to improve secondary education and more effectively engage high school students. One of the critical partners in these efforts is the business community. Join the discussion on Parents and Schools on OPEN/net to talk about the high school – business connection. Hosted by Dr. Charles Coble, next Tuesday's (November 3rd) conversation will include participation by the Executive Director of the Public School Forum of NC, John Dornan, and Tony Habit, President of the New Schools Project.

Parents & Schools (cont'd)

You can participate in this program by calling 1-888-228-6736. The program will run from 8-9pm. Additionally, you can share your questions and comments by email; sending them before or during the program to open@doa.nc.gov.

Forum Board Member Elected SECU Board Chair

Congratulations to Jim Barber, Forum Executive Committee Member for his recent election as Chairman of the State Employee's Credit Union's Board of Directors. Chairman Jim Barber has served on the Credit Union Board since 2000. Barber, a resident of Sunset Beach, NC, has extensive State Government experience and a Masters Degree from Harvard Business School. Mr. Barber recently retired after 24 years of service in North Carolina State Government including the University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill School of Education and the Department of Public Instruction. He continues to serve as a senior advisor at the School of Education and on as an Executive Committee Member on the Board of Directors of the Public School Forum.

Upcoming Meetings ...

State Board of Education to Meet Next Week

The State Board of Education will meet next week, Nov. 4-5, in the 7th Floor Board Room, Education Building, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh. The complete agenda and executive materials are posted online at www.ncpublicschools.org/stateboard/meetings/. The State Board's committee meetings and full Board meeting are audio streamed for those who can't attend. To listen to the sessions, please go online to www.ncpublicschools.org/stateboard/meetings/ and scroll to the Live Audio Stream links. For more information, please contact the NCDPI's Communications division at 919/807-3450.

Charter School Ad Hoc Committee to Meet Next Week

The North Carolina State Board of Education's Charter School Ad Hoc Committee will meet on Wednesday, Nov. 4, at 3:55 p.m. (or immediately following the Board's Closed Session, which is scheduled for 3:15-3:45 p.m.), in the 7th Floor Board Room, Education Building, 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh. Agenda items include a draft revision of charter school accountability and revocation policies, a draft revision of the charter school approval process, and a briefing on the current application and selection rubric. This meeting will be audio streamed for those who can't attend. To listen, please go online to www.ncpublicschools.org/stateboard/meetings/ and scroll to the Live Audio Stream links.

NC Committee on Dropout Prevention Schedules Meetings

The North Carolina Committee on Dropout Prevention will meet via Webinar on Monday, Nov. 2, from 2-3 p.m., to review the evaluation of 2007 and 2008 dropout prevention grant programs. Members of the public who would like to attend may register at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/377029616>.

The North Carolina Committee on Dropout Prevention will also meet Nov. 16-18 at Wake Technical Community College, Western Wake Campus located in Millpond Village, 3434 Kildaire Farm Road, Cary. Agenda items include awarding 2009 grants and review of a procedures manual. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. on Nov. 16 and 9 a.m. on Nov. 17-18.

National News...

Gates Now Offering Aid to All States on RTTT Proposals

In July, the Gates Foundation offered 15 states up to \$250,000 each to help them prepare grant proposals that could help their states win hundreds of millions of dollars in federal Race to the Top (RTTT) funds. While the 15 states, including North Carolina, were delighted, several national groups, including the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) relayed objections.

In response, the foundation last month broadened its offer to include all states that are competing for the money and can prove they share the foundation's views about education reform by signing an eight-point checklist. The foundation's offer to assist allows states that become its "partners" to hire high-powered consulting firms like the Boston Consulting Group (working with North Carolina) to help them with their proposals.

Gates Now Offering Aid (cont'd)

The \$4 billion Race to the Top competition, which Congress authorized in February as part of the stimulus law, is to reward approximately 15 states with \$200 million to \$500 million each for their school improvement efforts in recent years, and encourage them to undertake new initiatives that Obama administration supports, like opening new charter schools and improving teacher evaluation systems.

The 15 states originally picked by the foundation were Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee and Texas. Foundation education officers picked the 15 states “through our own due diligence process,” taking into account “where our education strategy is now and where the best opportunities are,” said Chris Williams, a Gates Foundation spokesman.

CA Study Finds Dropouts Cost \$1.1 Billion Annually

Last week’s NC Graduation Summit appeared timely as the recent release of new research from the California Dropout Research Project at UC Santa Barbara has found high school dropouts, who are more likely to commit crimes than their peers with diplomas, cost the state roughly \$1.1 billion annually in juvenile crime costs while still minors. The study found that cutting the dropout rate in half would prevent 30,000 juvenile crimes and save \$550 million each year.

“The connection between dropping out of school and juvenile crime is very clear,” said Fresno Police Chief Jerry Dyer. “Dropout prevention is crime prevention,” said Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca. “Schools need better tools for identifying potential dropouts so they can target interventions at the kids who need them most.”

According to the California Department of Education, nearly 19% of students don’t graduate from high school. In Los Angeles County, the figure is more than one in five, and at some L.A. schools, fewer than half of students graduate within four years.

Forum News...

“Developing Leaders, One Child at a Time”

The 2008-09 class of thirty four EPFP Fellows was honored on Tuesday night by 150 alumni, sponsors, and friends at a gala reception and dinner at the Cardinal Club. As in the past, the graduation served as a reunion for alumni. Guests were treated to a truly dynamic speaker, Muriel Summers, principal of A.B. Combs Elementary School in Raleigh. Ms. Summers and her students are featured in Stephen Covey’s best-selling book, *“The Leader in Me.”*

Muriel Summers started her teaching career 31 years ago, teaching first grade in Anson County, North Carolina. Most recently her circle of influence has been felt in Canada, Australia, Japan, China, Denmark, and India. Using Stephen Covey’s *7 Habits of Highly Effective People*, as the foundation of their leadership model along with the Baldrige Criteria for Excellence, Muriel and her staff have created the first leadership elementary school in the nation. Boasting students from over 64 countries, A. B. Combs is one of the most diverse elementary schools in North Carolina.

Ms. Summers shared with guests stories of how her students are stepping forward as tomorrow’s leaders each day. “My message is about leadership. It is about celebrating children’s gifts and talents. Teachers are at the heart of their education and always will be. We must always check what we are doing to recognize the hidden talents in children from all corners of the world and realize they all want the same things.”

Did You Know...

NC Center for Afterschool Programs – Web Stats

Over the past year the North Carolina Center for Afterschool Program’s website has been visited by more than 70,000 individuals for a total of 658,000 hits. The program’s visibility in other counties is noteworthy. See below:

<u>Country</u>	<u>Visits</u>	<u>Hits</u>
United States	53,382	491,196
China	3,459	9,278
France	853	1,343
Romania	72	824
Sweden	316	559
Germany	186	897
Canada	244	2,887
Russian Federation	159	647
United Kingdom	156	715

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