

ORANGE COUNTY  
BOARD OF EDUCATION

AGENDA ITEM ABSTRACT

Meeting Date: February 25, 2013

AGENDA ITEM No. 13-02-(2)-17

ACTION ITEM: (Y/N) N

SUBJECT: Legislative Discussion

INFO. CONTACT: G. Patrick Rhodes, Donna Coffey PHONE: 919-732-8126

- ATTACHMENTS:
1. NCSBA Legislative Update – February 15, 2013.
  2. NCSBA Legislative Update – February 8, 2013.

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**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this agenda item is to provide the Board of Education an opportunity to discuss the most recent legislative activity in Raleigh.

**BACKGROUND:** The 2013 N.C. Legislative Session has already seen a number of bills which impact public schools. The North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) tracks school-related legislation and advocates for laws which support public education and opposes legislation hurtful to schools. NCSBA legislative updates with bill summaries are attached.

The NCSBA leadership has requested local school boards provide them with 2-3 dates for meetings with legislators in Raleigh. The reply form is attached.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** At this time, the financial impact of the 2013 legislative session is unknown.

**RECOMMENDATION:** The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education discuss the legislative activity in the General Assembly.



Patrick Rhodes &lt;patrick.rhodes@orange.k12.nc.us&gt;

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## NCSBA Legislative Update - February 15, 2013

1 message

NCSBA Legislative Alert &lt;noreply@eboardsolutions.com&gt;

Fri, Feb 15, 2013 at 12:07 PM

Reply-To: sholmes@ncsba.org

To: patrick.rhodes@orange.k12.nc.us

# NCSBA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## FEBRUARY 15, 2013

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### SCHOOL CALENDAR FLEXIBILITY BILL FILED FOR CRAVEN COUNTY SCHOOLS

Reps. Michael Speciale (R-Craven), George Graham (D-Lenoir), and John Bell (R-Wayne) filed local legislation Tuesday to provide school calendar flexibility to the Craven County school system. House Bill 93-School Calendar Flexibility/Craven County, would exempt Craven County Schools from the statutory mandate that schools start no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and end no later than the Friday closest to June 11. The bill was referred to the House Education Committee. NCSBA supports this measure and encourages other school boards to speak with their local legislative delegation about pursuing similar local calendar flexibility legislation.

### LEGISLATIVE/PUBLIC POLICY SPECIAL ISSUES SEMINAR

Registration is still open for NCSBA's March Special Issues Seminar on Legislative and Public Policy Updates. The seminar will be held **Monday, March 4, 2013**, at the NCSBA office building at 7208 Falls of Neuse Road in Raleigh. The seminar is designed to provide school board members, administrators, and board attorneys with information about hot topics in the K-12 legislative and public policy realm, including the new A-F school grading system, school safety issues, the current charter school application process, a legislative update, and results from a research project on what North Carolinians value about public education. Please find the full agenda attached. Board member attendees may earn 5.5 clock hours of the annual training required by North Carolina law. You may also wish to invite key administrators, including your Public Information Officer, to register to hear specifically the results about what North Carolinians value about public education.

Click here to register.

In addition, with the General Assembly in session on Monday evenings attendees are encouraged to take time after the seminar to meet with their legislators in downtown Raleigh.

### DIGITAL LEARNING INITIATIVES

Three bills to enhance the technological and digital infrastructure of North Carolina's public schools were approved by the House Education Committee this week, demonstrating lawmakers' commitment to digital learning as a key element of their 2013 K-12 public education agenda. The bills would implement recommendations put forth by the newly formed Legislative Research Commission on Digital Learning Environments in Public Schools, chaired by Representative Craig Horn (R-Union) and Senator Dan Soucek (R-Watauga), which met four times during the interim to discuss the state of technology and digital learning in North Carolina's public schools and recommend improvement policies.

House Bill 23- Digital Learning Competencies/School Emp'ees, would require, beginning in 2017, that at least 2 of the 7.5 continuing education credits a teacher needs to renew a license be credits in high-quality, integrated digital teaching and learning. Teacher education and school administrator students, along with lateral-entry teaching candidates, would have to demonstrate competencies in the use of digital and other instructional technologies. School administrators seeking licensure renewal would also have to receive continuing education credits in high-quality, integrated digital teaching, while students in school administrator programs would additionally have to demonstrate competencies in supporting teachers and other school personnel to use digital and other instructional technologies. The State Board of Education would have to immediately begin developing digital teaching and learning competencies on the needed skills to provide high-quality, integrated digital teaching and learning.

"We have a situation where the kids know more about (technology) than the teachers," said Rep. Horn, who co-sponsored HB 23 and the other school technology/digital learning bills. He noted that the State must turn that situation "upside-down." Some House Education Committee members expressed concern about the potential cost of providing digital learning credits. Rep. Horn indicated that costs would not be known until the SBE develops specific standards. Funding, he said, is "one of the challenges ahead."

The second bill, House Bill 44- Transition to Digital Learning in Schools, would declare the General Assembly's intent to transition from funding for both traditional and digital textbooks to funding for digital materials by 2017.

House Bill 45- Internet Access for Public Schools, would direct the SBE to set a standard for classroom wireless connectivity that is "sufficient" for a digital learning environment. The SBE would also be required to conduct a survey of the wireless access and bandwidth capacity of all North Carolina public schools based upon the established connectivity standard. A report would have to be submitted to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and to the Joint Legislative Committee on Information Technology by December 1, 2013.

HB 23 and HB 44 were both approved by the House chamber on Thursday and now travel to the Senate for consideration. HB 45 needs to be reviewed by the House Education Appropriations Committee before it can be considered on the House floor.

Another school technology bill filed this week would open a four year window during which counties would be allowed to use school construction lottery monies to meet "digital learning needs." House Bill 97- Lottery Funds Used for Digital Learning, cites school connectivity, digital textbooks, and instructional resources, or digital devices as examples of allowable digital learning measures that would be eligible for lottery funding. Counties that choose to take this option would also be required to use a portion of the funds to ensure "high-quality, ongoing professional development for teachers."

After the four year window, counties that wish to continue using school construction lottery monies for digital

learning would have demonstrate consistent student performance growth and improvement in their public schools.

### CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION BILL MOVES TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

Legislation directing the State Board of Education to implement strategies to increase high school students' access to Career and Technical Education passed the House this week and will be the session's first education bill to be considered by Gov. Pat McCrory. The bill, Senate Bill 14- Increase Access to Career/Technical Ed, was approved by the Senate last week and cleared the House Wednesday with very little opposition. Gov. McCrory, who has voiced strong support for reforming and strengthening CTE programs, is expected to sign the bill.

SB 14 will require the State Board of Education to create the **following three high school diploma endorsements beginning with the high school graduating class of 2014-15:**

- College-ready
- Career-ready
- College-and-career ready

The State Board would have discretion to craft guidelines on how each endorsement is to be awarded. SB 14 would also require the State Board to:

- Identify LEAs with unmet CTE teacher recruitment needs and coordinate placement of NC Teacher Corps members in those schools.
- Work with the community college system to increase the enrollment of students in coursework leading to skills in occupations that have a high number of employment opportunities.
- Increase accessibility to the CTE licensure process through a revision of licensure preparation and evaluation requirements while maintaining quality of instruction.
- Develop strategies, in conjunction with the community college system, to increase the number of students engaging in career and technical education, particularly in the areas of engineering and industrial technologies.

Rep. Hugh Blackwell (R-Burke) emphasized during the floor debate that SB 14 is not intended to track students into any one particular path during high school. Approximately \$400 million in State funding was allotted for CTE personnel and program support in FY 2012-13.

### UNEMPLOYMENT BILL GOES TO GOVERNOR'S DESK

The Senate this week approved the House-passed unemployment insurance system reform bill. HB 4- UI Fund Solvency and Program Changes, will now go to Gov. Pat McCrory's desk. The Governor has signaled that he will sign the bill.

While most of the focus on the bill has been on the shortening of the amount and duration of unemployment benefits for out-of-work residents, LEAs need to be aware that the bill **will change the unemployment contribution reimbursement option for local governmental entities.**

As part of the new unemployment system, LEAs, along with other local governmental entities, which reimburse the State in lieu of direct unemployment contributions **must have a 1% account balance by August 1, 2014;** each year thereafter, LEAs will have to submit advance payments with their quarterly wage

reports sufficient to maintain their 1% account balance. Those LEAs that are below their required 1% account balance will be billed for the deficient amount by the Division of Employment Security when they do annual account calculations each August.

### **SCHOOL BOARD LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS**

If you have not yet done so, please remember to provide NCSBA with 2-3 dates during the next few months on which your board would like to come to Raleigh for meetings with your local legislators and other key legislators from other parts of the state. Please send the attached form with the dates to Sean Holmes, NCSBA Governmental Relations Assistant, via postal mail at 7208 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh, NC 27615, email at sholmes@ncsba.org, or fax at 919.841.4020.

Once you have provided use with the dates we will send an email to your district outlining the next steps.

### **UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR**

#### **Monday, February 18**

6:30 – Senate convenes

#### **Tuesday, February 19**

8:30 AM – The House and Senate Education Appropriations Committees will meet in a joint session.

10:00 AM – The House Education Committee will meet.

3:30 PM – Senate Judiciary Subcommittee II will meet. The following bills will be heard:

- SB 16- Revoke License for Passing Stopped School Bus

#### **Wednesday, February 20**

8:30 AM – The House and Senate Education Appropriations Committees will meet in a joint session.

10:00 AM – The Senate Education Committee will meet. The Committee will hear from DPI regarding implementation of the Founding Principles Act.

#### **Thursday, February 21**

8:30 AM – The House and Senate Education Appropriations Committees will meet in a joint session.

### **SPECIAL NOTE**

Effective yesterday, Governmental Relations Specialist Matt Harrell has resigned his position with NCSBA. Many of you got to know Matt through correspondences and visits to Raleigh. We thank Matt for his work on behalf of local school boards over the past two years.

### **BILLS**

Click here to find a list of the public education bills filed this week that NCSBA is tracking.

Click here to find bills that had action this week.

**Leanne E. Winner**

**Director of Governmental Relations**

**N.C. School Boards Association**

**(919)747-6686 direct dial**

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**2 attachments**



**March 4 SIS Agenda.doc**

44K



**School Board Legislative Meeting Form.doc**

83K



Patrick Rhodes &lt;patrick.rhodes@orange.k12.nc.us&gt;

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## NCSBA Legislative Update - February 8, 2013

1 message

NCSBA Legislative Alert &lt;noreply@eboardsolutions.com&gt;

Fri, Feb 8, 2013 at 4:07 PM

Reply-To: sholmes@ncsba.org

To: patrick.rhodes@orange.k12.nc.us

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# NCSBA LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

## FEBRUARY 8, 2013

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### SENATE APPROVES MEASURE ALLOWING GOVERNOR TO SELECT STATE BOARD CHAIRMAN

A provision to allow the Governor to select the Chairman of the State Board of Education was approved as part of legislation that passed the Senate Rules Committee Tuesday and the full Senate chamber on Thursday. Section 2.11 of Senate Bill 10- Government Reorganization and Efficiency Act, would direct the Governor to appoint the State Board of Education Chairman from among the body's membership; the person so chosen would remain the chairman *at the Governor's pleasure*. SB 10 would also abolish the State Lottery Oversight Commission, the Arts Education Commission, and the Charter School Advisory Commission, among other things. The legislation now goes to the House for consideration.

### GENERAL ASSEMBLY DELAYS ACTION ON GOVERNOR'S STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION APPOINTMENTS

As we reported to you last week, Gov. McCrory submitted three names to the General Assembly as his nominees to fill holdover seats on the State Board of Education. Bill Cobey, Rebecca Taylor, and Gregory Alcorn were nominated ahead of the State Board of Education's February meeting in the hopes that they would be confirmed in time to participate in the meeting. The General Assembly last week signaled their intention to confirm the nominations in a Monday or Tuesday joint session but this week decided to delay the appointment confirmations. As a result, this month's SBE meeting was likely the last for current Chairman Bill Harrison, whose seat on the State Board will be taken over by Bill Cobey once he is confirmed.

Gov. McCrory will soon be making three additional SBE appointments as the terms of Chris Greene, Melissa Bartlett, and Shirley Harris approach their expiration dates.

### BILL TO INCREASE ACCESS TO CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PASSES SENATE

The Senate this week unanimously approved legislation that would implement a number of strategies

designed to increase high school students' access to Career and Technical Education. Most of the requirements in Senate Bill 14- Increase Access to Career/Technical Ed., involve the State Board of Education, which would be directed to take the following actions:

- Award **three endorsements** to high school diplomas beginning with the high school graduating class of 2014-15: a college endorsement, a career endorsement, and a college-and-career ready endorsement.
- Annually report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the impact of these diploma endorsements on high school graduation, college acceptance and remediation, and post-high school employment rates beginning September 1, 2016.
- Identify LEAs with unmet recruitment needs for career and technical education teachers and coordinate placement of NC Teacher Corps members in those schools.
- Increase accessibility to the licensure process for career and technical education teachers while maintaining quality of instruction.
- Develop strategies, in conjunction with the community college system, to increase the number of students engaging in career and technical education.
- Work with the community college system to increase the enrollment of students in coursework leading to skills in occupations that have a high number of employment opportunities.

Senator Harry Brown (R-Onslow), one of the bill's sponsors, said during the Senate Education Committee's review of the bill Wednesday that career and technical education is an essential part of high school education and of the community college system. "It gives students a way to have a good paying job out of high school if that's what they choose to do," he said. "I would argue that most of those kids end up in college later on. It's just at a different timetable than the kid who goes straight to college."

The Senate Education Committee stripped some language out of the original bill that would have allowed high school freshmen and sophomores to take CTE coursework, expanding CTE curriculum access beyond the current limit of high school juniors and seniors. Sen. Brown indicated that he still wants to examine the current law that limits CTE curriculum access to high school juniors and seniors. "I'm going to be taking a look at that language because I think it is something that we need to work through and figure out how to change," Brown said. Brown said that showing students the linkage between coursework and good technical jobs in their junior year may be too late. "I'm afraid we're going to lose some of these kids early," he said.

During the floor debate, Senator Jerry Tillman (R-Randolph), another bill sponsor, predicted that the legislation would encourage more students to stay in school and graduate as well as facilitate increased cooperation between high schools and community colleges. One issue raised by Senator Martin Nesbitt (D-Buncombe) during the floor debate was whether parents should be required to sign off on the technical education track. Sen. Tillman responded that parents already approve their children's course selections. The bill is also sponsored by Senator Dan Soucek (R-Watauga).

### **SENATE BILL 27: PUBLIC SCHOOL PROTECTION/FIREARM AMENDMENTS.**

The bill establishes a program to allow districts to employ "School Safety Marshalls". These volunteers would be trained in a weapons and safety program that is sanctioned by North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission. The local school board would have the option of having



“School Safety Marshalls” in their district and would be able to adopt rules and policies pertaining to these volunteers. The North Carolina School Boards Association will be opposing this measure. We will keep you updated as the process continues.

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### SCHOOL BOARD LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

If you have not yet done so, please remember to provide NCSBA with 2-3 dates during the next few months on which your board would like to come to Raleigh for meetings with legislators. Please send the attached form with the dates to Sean Holmes, NCSBA Governmental Relations Assistant, via postal mail at 7208 Falls of Neuse Rd., Raleigh, NC 27615, email at sholmes@ncsba.org, or fax at 919.841.4020.

Once you have provided use with the dates we will send an email to your district outlining the next steps.

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### UPCOMING LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

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#### Tuesday, February 12

8:30 AM – The House and Senate Education Appropriations Committees will meet in a joint session.

10:00 AM – The House Education Committee will meet and take up the following bills: HB 23- Digital Learning Competencies/School Employees; HB 44- Transition to Digital Learning in Schools; HB 45- Internet Access for Schools.

#### Wednesday, February 13

8:30 AM – The House and Senate Education Appropriations Committees will meet in a joint session.

#### Thursday, February 14

8:30 AM – The House and Senate Education Appropriations Committees will meet in a joint session.

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### BILLS

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[Click here to find bills that had action this week.](#)

**Leanne E. Winner**  
**Director of Governmental Relations**  
**(919) 747-6688**



**North Carolina School Boards Association**

**2013 School Board Legislative Meetings**

**School Board:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dates to meet legislators in Raleigh (between February 4 and June 30)** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**Local board members planning to attend:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Other individuals planning to attend (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact person/contact information (for all correspondences regarding the meetings):**