



EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION

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John Guard
Chairman

Resolution Regarding the State's Proposal to Assign Letter Grades to Each Public School

Kay Wright
Vice-Chair

WHEREAS, at the direction of the North Carolina General Assembly the State Board of Education intends to issue "School Performance Grades" for each public school in the state beginning early next year; and

Ricky Browder

WHEREAS, both parents and taxpayers in North Carolina have a right to know how well our individual public schools are performing in their duties to educate our children, and

Jean Bunch

WHEREAS, the School Performance Grades for Elementary and Middle Schools will be based primarily on the results of the standardized End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) tests in Mathematics, English Language Arts and 5th and 8th grade Science; and

Gil Burroughs

Glorious Elliott

WHEREAS, the School Performance Grades for High School will also be based primarily on students' performance on standardized tests in English, Mathematics, and Biology, as well as the ACT and the school's graduation rate; and

Gene Jordan

Rob Jackson
Superintendent

WHEREAS, extensive empirical analyses exist demonstrating a preponderance for evidence that strongly correlates economic and demographic conditions of school's neighborhood with student performance on North Carolina's standardized tests, such that schools drawing from wealthier populations of students consistently do better than schools drawing from populations of higher relative poverty; and

WHEREAS, this correlation of performance of socio-economic conditions is reflected in the results of the students who attend Edenton-Chowan Schools, and

WHEREAS, it is clear that students who come from families with more resources are better prepared and equipped to learn, and

WHEREAS, the year-long measure of educational success that a child attains is the best indicator of overall quality of instruction provided to that student, and

WHEREAS, the state's proposed grading system for schools under-emphasizes gains in yearly growth (i.e., what a child learns in a year) by a weight of 20%, while disproportionately emphasizing performance on standardized tests a weight of 80%,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education finds, for all of the reasons stated above, the North Carolina General Assembly's mandated School Performance Grading system is an ill-conceived, ineffective and potentially damaging approach to addressing otherwise legitimate needs to provide parents and taxpayers an accurate indications of school performance; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education believes North Carolina's reputation as a state with a strong education system will be unnecessarily damaged by the assignment of

misleading and counter-productive 'grades' to many of its public schools; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education respectfully requests that the Superintendent of Edenton-Chowan Schools work with the Superintendents of other school districts in North Carolina, as well as with the North Carolina Schools Boards Association, to develop an alternative grading system which can be used to give parents and taxpayers a truer vision of the performance of our schools.

Adopted this 3rd day of November 2014

Chairman

Secretary