



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement Regarding the State Board of Education's
Approval of a Limited Contract Extension with Istation**

RALEIGH, NC – At a called meeting today the North Carolina State Board of Education approved a limited, three-month extension of the emergency contract that the State entered with Imagination Station, Inc. (“Istation”) in January of this year. The contract amendment responds to present and evolving circumstances concerning the worldwide COVID-19 Pandemic while maintaining Istation’s relationship with the State of North Carolina and school districts.

Importantly, the new amendment with Istation ensures that the data already generated this school year will remain intact and maintained. No Istation data will be gathered at the state-level over the next three months, but local districts and schools are free to engage Istation individually if they wish to have continued access to formative assessments for administration at home. Teachers, parents and students will continue to have uninterrupted login access to Istation, including its adaptive curriculum in reading, math and Spanish, throughout the duration of the school year, though certain adaptive features may be affected by local decision-making with respect to the formative assessments.

The contract amendment, which reflects a considerable cost savings from prior proposals during a time of economic uncertainty, is consistent with the State Board’s determination that investing in year-end tests and state-level formative assessments is not the best use of state resources at the present time. The Pandemic may prevent educators, NCDPI, and the State Board of Education from being able to fulfill the requirements of North Carolina’s Read to Achieve law, N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 115C-83.1 et seq., including (among other things) the administration of end-of-year testing and summer reading camps. As facts continue to develop, the State Board remains in close contact with leaders at the General Assembly. This narrower contract is a response to emergency

circumstances only and does not reflect any evaluation or assessment of Istation's services to the state of North Carolina.

The State Board looks forward to having Istation's adaptive curriculum, as well as other resources being used by districts around the State, available for students during the remainder of this school year. These resources are a component of the distance learning initiatives being used by families and by our creative and hard-working educators who are serving our students in these challenging and unprecedented times. The State Board remains most grateful to our educators for their continuing dedication to the needs of our students.

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