



# 2021 FALL PLANNING & WORK SESSION

## #NCBetheChange: Bridges to Eliminating Opportunity Gaps

Progress and a Promise Toward a Sound Basic Education

NOVEMBER 2-4, 2021 • NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION EDUCATION BUILDING • RALEIGH, NC

DAY 1 – Tuesday, November 2, 2021 – Start Time 11:00 a.m.

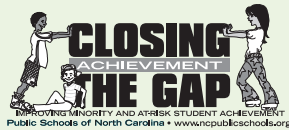
### 1 WELCOME ADDRESS

*Chairman Davis, Mr. James Ford, and Ms. Jill Camnitz*

### 2 OPENING REMARKS

**The History – A Sound Basic Education: (Past, Present and Future): Honoring Dr. Robert E Bridges**

*Dr. Mike Ward, Dr. Olivia Oxendine and Dr. Randy Bridges*



In 2001 the Closing the Achievement Gaps Commission proposed recommendations for State Board of Education consideration. Dr. Robert E. Bridges chaired this commission which produced recommendations we reference today.

Drs. Randy Bridges, Mike Ward, and Olivia Oxendine will highlight the recommendations of the past and how the recommendations support the Board's strategic plan grounded in equity and whole child to move forward the Board's commitments of the future.

The Board will present Dr. Bridges' Family a gift posthumously to express its appreciation for the educational efforts he consistently promoted in our state – always working toward ensuring a Sound and Basic Education.

### 3 THE TIME IS NOW: District & School Transformation – The Model to Support NC's Lowest Performing Schools and Districts

*Dr. Bev Emory, Dr. Catherine Edmonds, Dr. Cynthia Martin, Dr. Robert Locklear, Mr. Craig Lowry, Mr. Oliver Holley, and Dr. Ron Hargrave*

Over the years there have been many changes to the model to support NC's lowest performing schools. With State Board of Education (SBE) support, NC DPI has implemented a model of support to deliver to districts across the state based on current resources. At the heart of this approach is creating a partnership at the district level, assessing needs of the district/school, and providing a customized approach that is as unique as the district/school itself. The model is being tested in 24 districts affecting a total of 78 schools during this year. This presentation will share perspectives from the field and agency with recommendations on future direction.

### 4 RESOURCE ALLOCATION – National and State Best Practices: Edunomics – Georgetown University

*Mr. Chad Aldeman*



Edunomics Lab is a Georgetown University research center exclusively dedicated to exploring and modeling complex education finance decisions to inform education policy and practice. The end goal is the betterment of education, writ large. Established in 2012, the center is nationally recognized as a leader in the field of education finance.

This session will provide the Board with national, and state best practices related to resource allocation within the Board's purview. Specifically, this presentation will highlight supports to State Education Agencies through federally mandated resource allocation reviews.



[Link to Full Agenda, Including Presenter Bios](#)



**5 STARR COMMONWEALTH: Strategies to Build Resilience in Children, Families, and Communities**

*Mr. Will Weeks & NC Teacher Panel: Ms. Carol Forrest, Ms. Erin Ellington, Ms. Emilee Higdon, Ms. Eugenia Floyd, Ms. Tonya Smith, Ms. Maureen Stover & Ms. Lachandra Garrison*



Starr Commonwealth is driven to empower professionals to build resilience in children, families, and communities across the world through online education, in-person training and coaching, and direct behavioral health services. This presentation will detail the impacts of trauma and stress in adults and children while focusing on resilience and trauma as experiences. Ultimately, this presentation will detail processes that foster connections which lead to skill development and how safety can be established in and outside of schools.

This session will conclude with a teacher panel discussing connections to practices in their classrooms and schools elevating the importance of this work to address the social and emotional health of their colleagues and students.

**6 HEALING CIRCLE: Making Space for Good Things to Happen**

*Dr. Elena Ashburn & Mr. Jon Powell*



The 2021 Principal of the Year, Dr. Elena Ashburn provides us with an opportunity to learn from proven techniques and practices implemented in her high school to decrease exclusionary disciplinary practices by highlighting strategies for adults and students that promote effective techniques for communication and restorative practices. This session will be presented in collaboration with Mr. Jon Powell who will detail the benefits/differences between conflict resolution, mediation and facilitated dialogue describing when best to use each practice. We will conclude with an interactive portion and experience the benefits of using healing circles to “make space for good things to happen.”



DAY 2 – Wednesday, November 3, 2021 – Start Time 10:00 a.m.

**1 State & National Models to Build the Teacher Pipeline and Diversify the Teaching Workforce**

*Ms. Stacey McAdoo*



This presentation will highlight promising practices with state and national models built to focus on recruitment partnerships to increase the teacher pipeline and diversify the teaching workforce. Ms. McAdoo will highlight lessons learned from a state level with Teach Plus while also elevating how the national model aims to recruit, retain teachers of color, and build the teacher pipeline.

**2 ED TRUST: School Funding Systems and Resource Equity**

*Ms. Ivy Morgan & Mr. Rob Ruffins*



This presentation will highlight the importance of a finance system that provides “adequate, equitable, and predictable funding” to address the needs of each and every student, especially students with the highest levels of need as highlighted in the Comprehensive Remedial Plan. Dimensions of resource equity will be



highlighted detailing the respective roles different groups have to ensuring fiscal equity to support broader resource equity. Ultimately, this presentation will elevate a useful tool that helps highlight key recommendations for structuring state education funding.

**3 History of the NC Funding Model and Establishing Legislative Priorities to Meet the Needs of Each and Every Student**

*Ms. Alexis Schauss (NCDPI, Chief Financial Officer)*

Current context to NC’s public school funding model will be provided while relating to the action plan detailed in the comprehensive remedial plan. State Board of education Members (SBE) will have an opportunity to discuss, ask questions and connect prior discussions during the planning and work session to address any questions remaining from a NC context. The SBE may discuss specific legislative priorities it may want considered for the short session based on the action plan to implement a finance system that provides adequate, equitable and efficient resources.

### 4 DATA TRENDS: Delivering on the Promise of Equitable Access, Experiences, and Outcomes

*Dr. Iheoma U. Iruka*



This presentation will highlight research pre- and post-COVID-19 to detail system changes needed to support students. Specifically, emphasis will be placed on creating equitable systems, policy considerations to push system changes, and concluding with actions needed to eliminate opportunity gaps.

### 5 DISTRICT PERSPECTIVES: Leveraging NC Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) and Innovations to Promote Positive Outcomes for Students

*Ms. Angel Goodwine Batts, Ms. Beth Rice, Dr. Heidi Austin, Dr. Stephanie Lowe Ellis & Dr. Rodney Shotwell*

The State Board of Education has established guiding principles of equity and the whole child. COVID-19 has exacerbated the need to promote and develop social and emotional supports among students. District and Department of Public Instruction representatives will detail models of support to implement the School Mental Health Legislation and Plan. Specifically, innovations will be shared demonstrating resources that can be used to implement research-based models of support to meet student academic and non-academic needs.

### 6 Moving the Strategic Plan Forward

*Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt*

In 2020, the NC State Board of Education approved its Action Framework which details specific initiatives to reach the approved strategic priorities. The State Superintendent, as the Secretary to the Board, the Chief Administrative Officer of the State Board of Education, and the elected head of the Department, is responsible for leading the implementation of the strategic priorities adopted in the SBE's Strategic Plan, through systematic development of actionable items that the Department of Public Instruction will implement to eliminate opportunity gaps, improve school and district performance, and increase educator preparedness to meet the needs of every student.

The State Superintendent and a panel of Department of Public Instruction Directors will lead a discussion to engage the Board on making the approved Strategic Plan a reality and outline next steps to:

- Structure action items adopted in the Action Plan Framework through achievable evaluation methods
- Align objectives to address implementation capability of the department
- Suggest additional actions that address new challenges, including those exacerbated by COVID-19
- Strengthen the connection between the implementation plan and the Strategic Plan
- Identify statewide organizations who may partner with the department in achieving the strategic priorities

## DAY 3 – Thursday, November 4, 2021 – Start Time 9:00 a.m.

### 7 CLOSING KEYNOTE: Levers Impacting Change to Support Student Academic and Non-Academic Needs

*Denise Forte*

The theme for this fall session is #NCBetheChange: Bridges to Eliminating Opportunity Gaps – Progress & A Promise toward a Sound Basic Education. This closing keynote will highlight that to truly meet our constitutional obligation of providing a Sound Basic Education to each and every child, we need to bridge opportunity gaps by centering equity, allocating resources equitably and adequately (financial and otherwise), and supporting the mental health and social-emotional needs of students and teachers.



*Denise Forte* is the interim CEO at The Education Trust. With more than two decades of experience in the federal legislative and executive branches advancing progressive education and family policy, Denise brings strategic leadership to the organization's efforts to engage policymakers and diverse coalitions of advocates in demanding and securing equity-advancing policy change at the national and state levels. She also leads Ed Trust's legislative efforts and, as a member of the Senior Leadership Team, coordinates an organization-wide advocacy agenda and strategy.

