

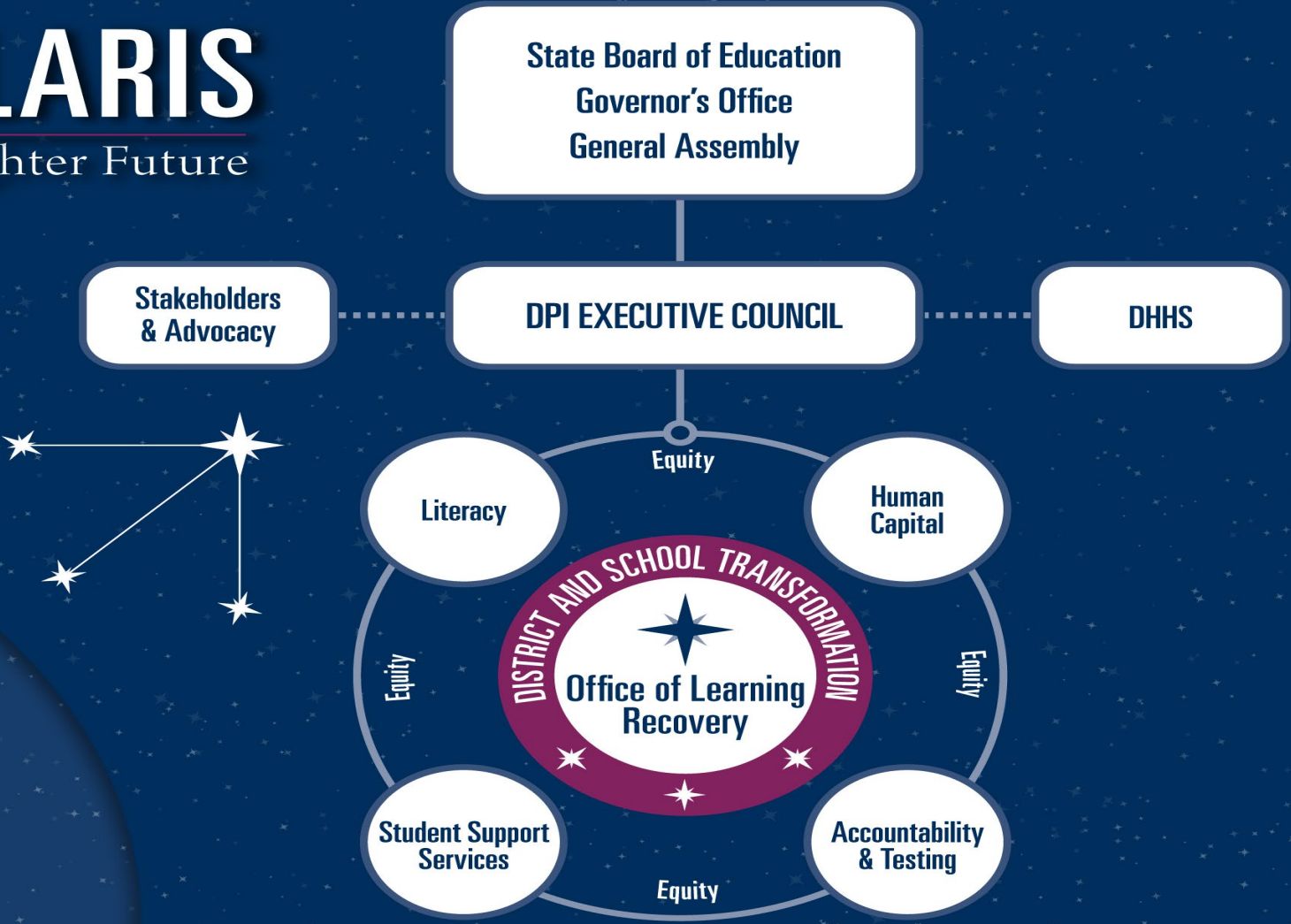
Redesigning School Performance Grades

Dr. Michael Maher, Deputy Superintendent
Dr. Andrew Smith, Assistant Superintendent

November 30, 2022
NC State Board of Education

OPERATION POLARIS

Navigating Students Toward a Brighter Future



Testing and Accountability Goals



SMART Goals

- Build a statewide portrait of a graduate to be used by districts and schools to frame local efforts and define student success. Fully deploy in the 2022-23 academic year.
- Outline a multi-measure model of student success including recommended growth and achievement weights, and in compliance with federal guidelines, no later than June 30, 2022.
- Develop a competency-based model and implementation methodology aligned to the established content standards, to be deployed in the academic year 2023/24.
- Present a revised School Report Card template by December 2022. Pilot in the academic year 2022/23 and fully deploy in 2023-24.
- Use North Carolina Personalized Assessment Tool (NCPAT) data to refine and operationalize the multi-measure model of student success, components of the revised School Report Card, and in the development of the competency-based assessment model.

School Performance Grade Redesign

Goal: Develop a multi-measure model of school performance that moves beyond compliance with federal guidelines and represents NC educational values.

- Pandemic shed light on inadequacy of current school accountability model
- Reduce reliance on test scores & growth by adding valuable school quality indicators
- Indicators of school performance (i.e., school climate scores, POG competency attainment, school safety, parent engagement, career/college readiness, etc.)
- Federal requirements would continue to be met

School Performance Grade Redesign Timeline

September '21 - August '22

Operation Polaris - Testing & Accountability Committee Formed, Research on Multiple Measures

RESEARCH

September '22 - November '22

Advisory Group Convenes Monthly, Stakeholder Engagement (Survey + Feedback Sessions), New Measures Identified



DESIGN

December '22 - January '23

New Measures Examined by Content Experts, Advisory Group Considers New Criteria for School Performance Grades

January '23

Policy Recommendations Shared with General Assembly

IMPLEMENTATION

'23-'24 School Year

New Measures Potentially Piloted
Data Collection Processes Refined

Advisory Group Members

Catherine Truitt, NC State Superintendent of Public Instruction

External Members

Amy Galey, NC Senator
Ashton Clemmons, NC Representative
Brenda Berg, President & CEO - Best NC
Bruce Mack, Vice President - NC Community Colleges
David Willis, NC Representative
Debra Derr, Director Gov. Affairs - NC Chamber
Diana Lys, Assistant Dean - UNC Chapel Hill
Don Phipps, Superintendent - Caldwell County Schools
Edward McFarland, CAO - Wake County Public Schools
Frank Barnes, Deputy Superintendent - Charlotte Meck
Geoff Coltrane, Senior Education Advisor - Office of the Governor

Jessica Swencki, Deputy Director - MyFutureNC
Jill Camnitz, NC State Board of Education Member
John Marshall, Head of School - Union Academy Charter School
Jordan Whichard, Chief Deputy Sec. - NC Department of Commerce
Leah Carper, NC Teacher of the Year - Guilford County Schools
Levy Brown, Senior VP/CAO - NC Community College System
Lynn Moody, Strategic Advisor, SparkNC
Michael Sasscer, Superintendent - Edenton-Chowan Schools
Nick King, CAO - Johnston County Schools
Patrick Greene, NC Principal of the Year - Greene County Schools
Travis Reeves, Superintendent - Surry County Schools

DPI Members

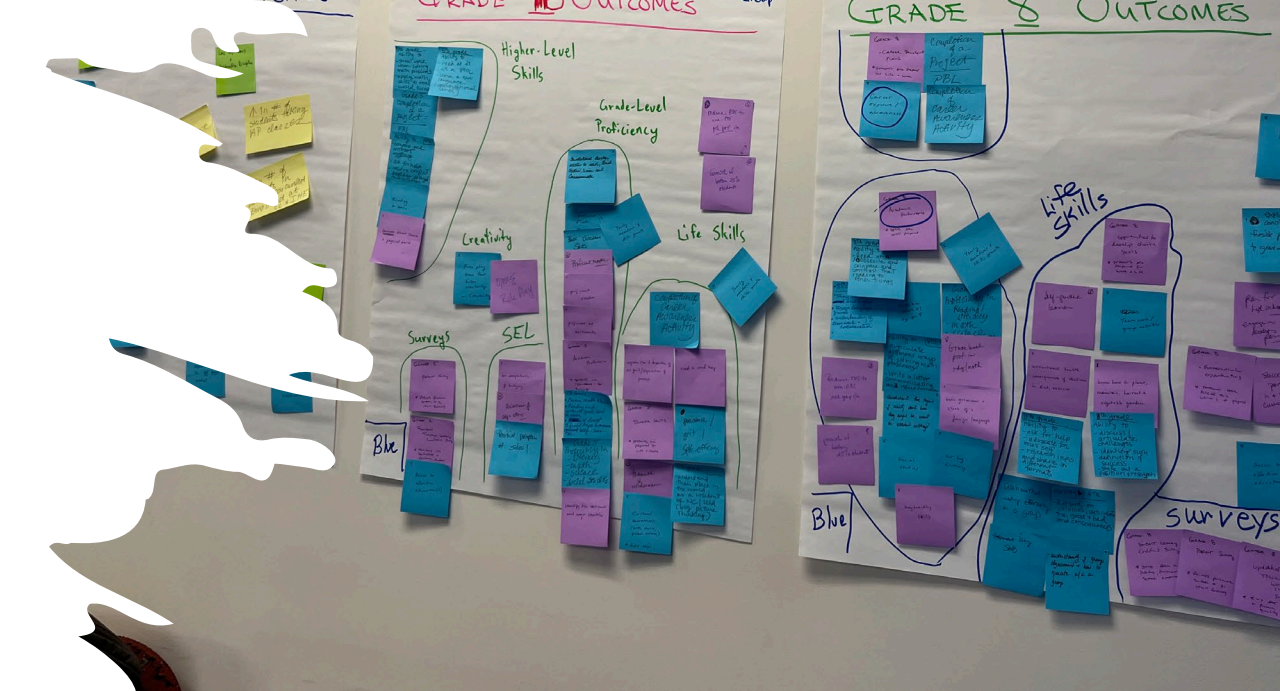
Michael Maher, Deputy Superintendent

Andrew Smith, Innovation
Angie Mullennix, Innovative Practices & Programs
Ashley Baquero, Charter Schools
Jeni Corn, Research and Evaluation
Jeremy Gibbs, Regional Director
Kristi Day, Academic Standards
Kristie VanAuken, Workforce Engagement

Maria Pitre-Martin, State Board of Education
Shelby Armentrout, Chief of Staff
Sherry Thomas, Exceptional Children
Sneha Shah Coltrane, Advanced Learning
Tammy Howard, Testing & Accountability
Tom Tomberlin, District Human Capital
Trey Michael, Career & Technical Education

Advisory Group Meeting September 2022

- Reviewed ESSA requirements and state accountability systems.
- Examined and explored North Carolina's education values.
- Brainstormed a “long list” of possible accountability indicators/measures that indicate student outcomes and high-quality schools.



Advisory Group Meeting October 2022

- Developed a comprehensive survey of “long list” of indicators with EdNC.
- Over 19,000 participants and approximately 5000 comments.
- Reviewed EdNC Survey results and discussed trends.
- Members discussed results with peers and provided individual ranking of indicators.

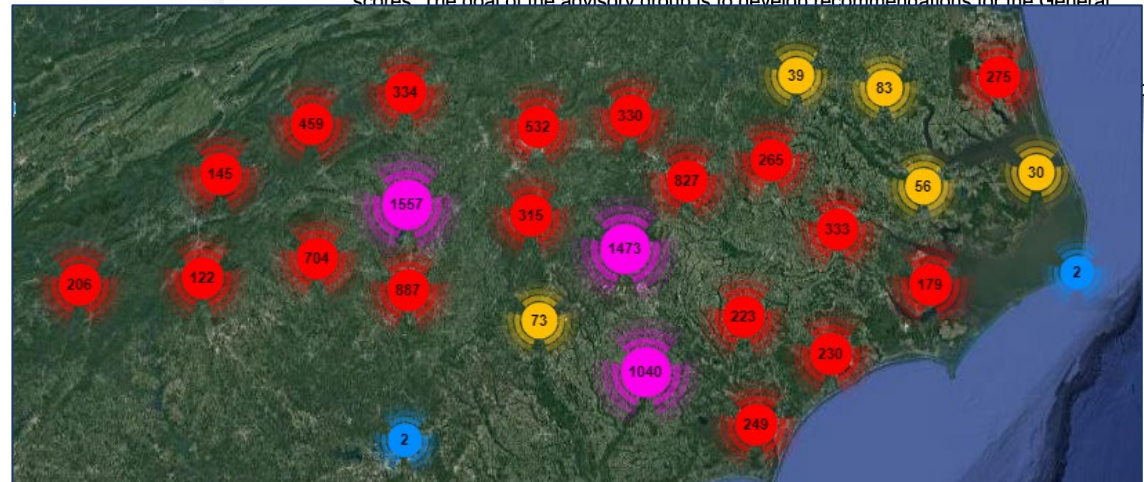
Redesigning School Performance Grades Advisory Group Conversation Guide

Background

School performance grades (SPG) were first implemented using data from the 2013–14 school year. Reporting an A–F grade for each school in the state, the model consists of achievement indicators (80%) and a growth measure (20%). Since implementation, feedback has indicated the weighting of the indicators and the emphasis on test scores does not reflect the broader context of school quality in North Carolina. Most recently this was evident in the release of the 2021–22 school year’s school performance grades where the impact of lower test scores yielded higher Ds and Fs. Schools worked diligently to provide strong instructional settings for students during the pandemic, but the school performance grades did not reflect the schools’ successes. This supported a review of the purpose and the methodology of the system.

Process for Gathering Input on SPG Redesign

Operation Polaris, State Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt’s four-year strategic vision aimed at improving outcomes for NC students, includes a goal for developing a multi-measure accountability model that moves beyond compliance with federal guidelines and represents North Carolina’s educational values. Led by Dr. Michael Maher, an advisory group that is composed of representatives from external stakeholders met on September 12, 2022, to begin a discussion of possible indicators for a robust accountability model that goes beyond test scores. The goal of the advisory group is to develop recommendations for the General



Advisory Group Meeting

November 2022

- Reviewed advisory group member feedback, based upon conversations with peers.
- Discussed indicators with highest agreeance to understand implications for inclusion in a new school performance grade model.
- Narrowed "long list" of indicators to top academic indicators and top school quality indicators for further review and refinement.

Statewide Stakeholder Engagement

- NC School Board Association
- Superintendent/Charter Leader Quarterly Meeting
- NC PAPA
- RESA Meetings - Superintendents
- Chief Academic Officers
- AIM Conference - Office Hours
- Accountability Directors
- Teacher Leadership Council
- Governors' Teacher Advisory Council



Ways to Categorize Indicators

Separate Models by Grade Band

- Elementary
- Middle
- High

SPG **Choice** Model Concept

- Required Indicators
- Optional Indicators

Academic Indicators

Most Agreeance:

- High School Graduation Rate (Extended)
- Advanced Course Work in High School (AP, IB, CCP, CTE, Arts)
- Improving Student Group Performance and Growth
- Postsecondary Pathways – Employed, Enlisted, Enrolled

Some Agreeance:

- Innovative Teaching and Learning Practices
- Access to Opportunities that Prepare Students for Postsecondary

**Indicators are under consideration and not finalized*

School Quality Indicators

Most Agreeance:

- Durable Skills
- Student Attendance or Absenteeism
- Teacher Effectiveness Profile (Teacher Attendance or Absenteeism)

Some Agreeance:

- School Climate (School Safety, School Environment & Cleanliness)
- Postsecondary Preparation (Work-based Learning Experiences)
- Extracurricular and Intracurricular Activities

**Indicators are under consideration and not finalized*

DPI Next Steps

- Cull the "long list" to a "short list" based upon feedback.
- Review indicators to determine measurements for validity and reliability.
- Continued stakeholder engagement – focusing on in-depth review of "short list" of indicators.
- Provide findings on December 12, 2022 to the Advisory Group.



North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION