PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION Eric C. Davis, Chairman
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION Mark Johnson, Superintendent of Public Instruction
WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

DATE: March 27, 2020
TO: State Board of Education
FROM: Dr. David Stegall, Sneha Shah-Coltrane, and Internal Workgroup
RE: Recommendations for Remote Learning, Guidance for Evaluation of Student Progress, and Graduation of the 2020 Class

LEA/Charter School Guidance for Remote Learning, Evaluation of Student Progress, and Graduating Seniors

Effective March 30, 2020, NCDPI recommends the following:

REMOTE LEARNING GUIDANCE
Remote learning is strongly encouraged across the state for all NC public school students to support continued student growth and well-being during this public health crisis.

NCDPI encourages LEAs/Charters to provide a variety of remote learning opportunities to engage all students, continue academic growth, and respond to social and emotional needs. It is paramount to remember the unprecedented condition students are learning in and to focus on engagement more than evaluation.

Remote Learning Definition:
In NC K-12 public schools, remote learning is defined as learning that takes place outside of the traditional school setting using various media and formats, such as but not limited to: video conference, telephone conference, print material, online material, or learning management systems.

Critical factors for effective remote learning:
Remote learning...
- is accessible by all students for which the learning is intended and is responsive to diverse learning groups;
- maintains consistent communication between instructional staff and students;
- addresses the curricular and instructional needs associated with appropriate standards;
- includes evidence of student learning; and,
- considers the whole child as well as the home learning environment.

GUIDANCE FOR GRADES K-5:

When remote learning occurs in grades K-5, LEAs/Charters will provide meaningful feedback to promote student growth.

If the above critical factors are met for remote learning, LEAs/Charters may evaluate student learning in the format the school already uses for grades K-5. LEAs/Charters will focus on supporting student progress and communicating feedback to students and families rather than on assigning grades.

In the event NC public schools do not reopen for face-to-face learning after May 15, additional statewide guidance for final grading to ensure equitable treatment for all students will be provided by the State Board of Education.

GUIDANCE FOR GRADES 6-11:

When remote learning occurs in grades 6-11, LEAs/Charters will provide meaningful feedback to promote student growth.

If the above critical factors are met for remote learning, LEAs/Charters may assign grades in the format the school already uses for grades 6-11 to evaluate progress. If the above critical factors are not met, student grades will not be negatively impacted; feedback is still expected.

In the event NC public schools do not reopen for face-to-face learning after May 15, additional statewide guidance for final grading to ensure equitable treatment for all students will be provided by the State Board of Education.

GUIDANCE FOR SENIORS, GRADES 12-13:

NCDPI's goals for the Senior Class of 2020 are to graduate high school seniors by meeting minimum SBE graduation requirements of 22 credits on the originally scheduled graduation date.

Considerations:
- Remote learning for graduating seniors will be prioritized to focus on meeting graduation requirements with a particular emphasis on students who were not meeting expectations as of March 13.
- NCDPI encourages that remote learning opportunities be available for seniors to engage students, continue student growth, and respond to social and emotional needs.
- Students may not be able to finish the instructional year equitably across NC. Access to, and quality of, remote learning for NC Public School students varies across the state.
- Students have made progress in their learning this semester and need recognition of their learning until school closure on March 16.
- Grading practices for transcript purposes will hold students harmless for the impact of COVID-19. Note: PowerSchool is in the process of developing a new grade

scale to move from Pass/Fail to Pass/Withdraw due to COVID-19. "PC19" and "WC19" are the codes being added to PowerSchool.

SENIOR PLAN TO GRADUATE CLASS of 2020

- **Fall Courses**: Students will receive grades for fall courses as already stored, year-long and semester. Fall grades will count toward GPA.
  - For year-long courses, the fall term grade will be counted into the GPA. Note: Clear directions from PowerSchool will come at a later date.
  - For semester-long courses, the final course grade will be counted into the GPA.
- **Spring Courses:** Students will receive a Pass "PC19" or Withdrawal "WC19" based on their learning as of March 13 for spring courses.
- If the student has an F as of March 13 for graduation requirements, districts/schools shall provide remote learning opportunities for the student to improve to a passing grade. Opportunities for Seniors to pass graduation requirements **shall** include:
  - participate in remote learning through the enrolled LEA/Charter;
  - enroll in NC Virtual Public School for all courses applicable;
  - participate in credit recovery aligned to instructional topics covered through March 13; or
  - pass a final locally-developed assessment aligned to instructional topics covered through March 13. A final assessment can be in a variety of formats, including but not limited to a portfolio, interview, teacher-made test, project, and/or some other performance-based measure.
- Occupational Course of Study (OCS): If an OCS student completes 157 hours of the 225 hours of "paid work hours" graduation requirement, the student will receive a Pass "PC19". Note: This is dependent on a SBE amendment to GRAD-004.

NCDPI Recommendations for SBE Policy Amendments:
SBE GRAD 004:
Graduation Requirements
NCDPI recommends the following actions:
- Occupational Course of Study Paid Work Hour requirement: Students currently require "225 of paid work hours". *NCDPI recommends that this be changed to "157 of paid work hours" for the graduating class of 2020.*
- Future Ready Core requirements for CPR: *NCDPI recommends that this requirement is waived for the graduating class of 2020.*
  - Note that students receive this content in Grade 8 as well.
  - NCDPI also recommends that the SBE request waiver from the CPR legislation for this year's graduating class. NCGS 115C-12.9d and 115C-81.25.10.

- ○ Currently, based on PowerSchool data, there are 16,631 seniors who still have this requirement.

SBE GRAD-001:
Authority for Local School Boards to Exceed Minimum Graduation Requirements:
NCDPI recommends suspension of this policy through June 30, 2020.
- LEAs and charters may allow graduating seniors to pursue credits beyond the minimum State Board of Education graduation requirements but may not require more than the state minimum requirements for graduation through June 30, 2020.
- For seniors currently enrolled and passing elective courses beyond state graduation requirements, credit can be awarded as described in this document above.

SBE TEST-003:
Requirements Regarding End-of-Course Assessments
NCDPI recommends suspension of this policy through June 30, 2020.
This policy requires a student's final grade to include at least 20% the end-of-course test score. Since EOC scores will not be available, this is not possible for this year and needs to be waived.

Stakeholder Input:
Local superintendents and school leaders provided feedback and guidance for these recommendations. Additionally, NCDPI has consulted with the UNC System and NC Independent Colleges and Universities through their Admission Directors and system offices. The Admission Directors see this plan as reasonable and will not disadvantage students for transition to post-secondary plans.

Upcoming Resources:
- Further guidance including information regarding EC, AIG, CTE, AP/IB/CIE, NCAA, etc.
- Joint communication from NCDPI and NC Community College System Office on Career and College Promise courses.
- PowerSchool resource with clear details for data managers.

NCDPI Workgroup Members:
Sneha Shah-Coltrane, Chair; Dr. Jeremy Gibbs, Co-Chair; Dr. Rachel McBroom, Co-Chair; Dr. Lori Carlin; Beth Cross; Stephanie Cyrus; Tom Daugherty; Dr. Kristi Day; Christie Lynch Ebert; Dave Machado; Dreama McCoy; Trey Michael; and Melany Paden.