

*Resolution to*

**SUPPORT INCREASING THE AGE FOR  
COMPULSORY SCHOOL ATTENDANCE**

*from the Superintendent's  
Graduation Task Force*

- WHEREAS, local, state and national economies thrive on a skilled and educated populace that is imminently more employable than those without skills and education, and
- WHEREAS, it is incumbent on states across the nation to set goals for all students to graduate from high school, prepared for the jobs and professions of their future, and
- WHEREAS, states cannot have citizens prepared for 21st century careers and professions without adequate education, and
- WHEREAS, youth without high school diplomas are immediately disadvantaged for most of their lives, and
- WHEREAS, the societal costs of an undereducated citizenry far outweighs the costs associated with raising the compulsory attendance age, and
- WHEREAS, *compulsory attendance age laws* can have a profound impact on keeping children in school, thereby increasing their chance for a successful life, and
- WHEREAS, approximately one-fourth of at-risk students who are potential dropouts remain in school because of compulsory attendance laws, and
- WHEREAS, remaining in school increases a student’s eventual employability, increases wage-earning potential, ensures better health, enables mobility out of poverty, and improves life satisfaction, and
- WHEREAS, the benefits that accrue to students who graduate from high school also accrue to the states and the nation, and
- WHEREAS, the establishment of alternative learning opportunities and interventions designed to create change in the at-risk students plays a critical role in achieving a successful *compulsory attendance age* change

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

- RESOLVED, that the Superintendent’s Graduation Task Force encourages the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction to call for an increase in *North Carolina’s compulsory attendance age* from 16 to completion of the school year of the student’s 17th birthday along with the implementation of proven sustained interventions and support to engage students who leave school prior to graduation, and
- RESOLVED, that the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction begin working with school systems, educators, students, parents, and communities immediately to advocate for support in raising the *compulsory school attendance age* in North Carolina, and
- RESOLVED, that based on the results and impact of increasing North Carolina’s compulsory attendance age from 16 or completion of the school year of the student’s 17th birthday, the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction support increasing the *North Carolina’s compulsory attendance age* from 17 to completion of the school year of the student’s 18th birthday, and
- RESOLVED, that there is no higher mission for the State of North Carolina than to take the necessary steps to empower all children with the sound basic education that is their right under the *North Carolina Constitution* and to take steps necessary to keep students in school to increase their chances of earning the requisite high school diploma that ensures a better chance at a quality life.

November 28, 2016

Tina Wilson, Chair  
Graduation Task Force

Date