

North Carolina Education and Workforce Commissions, Task Forces, Boards and Councils Created in 2017/18

Below is information on eight education and/or workforce-focused commissions, task forces, boards, and councils that were created in 2017/18. This is not intended to be a comprehensive list of groups focused on education and workforce and does not include longstanding groups, such as the NCWorks Commission and the Education Cabinet.

Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education

- Governor Cooper established the Commission on Access to Sound Basic Education through Executive Order 10 in July 2017 (and amended by Executive Order 27 in November 2017).
- The commission is chaired by Brad Wilson, former CEO of Blue Cross Blue Shield of NC, and includes 19 members appointed by the Governor from the fields of education (from early childhood through higher education), business, government, law, health care, psychology and counseling, and public safety.
- The landmark *Leandro* court ruling reaffirmed North Carolina's constitutional duty to ensure all children have the opportunity to receive a sound, basic education. Since the court issued the *Leandro* ruling in 1997 and the subsequent *Hoke County Board of Education* ruling in 2004, North Carolina has struggled to live up to this constitutional requirement.
- The commission is taking a comprehensive, inter-disciplinary approach to tackling the three key areas highlighted in the original *Leandro* ruling to ensure North Carolina is meeting its constitutional duty:
 - Staffing each classroom with a competent, well-trained teacher;
 - Staffing each school with a competent, well-trained principal; and
 - Identifying the resources necessary to ensure that all children, including those at-risk, have an equal opportunity to obtain a sound, basic education.
- The commission will work in conjunction with an independent consultant selected by the parties to *Leandro* to help with the commission's review and assessment.
- The commission held its first meeting on Nov. 30, 2017, and is expected to work through at least early 2019.

Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee

- Governor Cooper established the Governor's Teacher Advisory Committee (GTAC) through Executive Order 16 in August 2017.
- The GTAC is composed of 25 teachers and support personnel appointed by the Governor and is chaired by LaTanya Pattillo, the Governor's Teacher Advisor.
- The GTAC advises the Governor on a range of education issues, particularly those of importance to teachers. Members of the GTAC serve as education ambassadors, representing the Governor at events, maintaining communication with local boards of education, teachers across the state, and other stakeholders, and sharing opportunities to support teachers.
- The GTAC held its first meeting on October 6, 2017.

NC Early Childhood Advisory Council

- Governor Cooper established the NC Early Childhood Advisory Council (NCECAC) through Executive Order 40 in February 2018.
- The Council is chaired by Dr. Mandy Cohen, Secretary, NC Department of Health and Human Services, and includes 25 members appointed by the Governor from the fields of education (from early childhood through higher education), business, government, philanthropy, health care, social services, child care, and parents.
- The purpose of the NCECAC is to promote a shared early childhood action plan driven by measurable goals and impacts for young children and families. The Executive Order lists duties that include federal requirements, as well as a vision for action in North Carolina to advance early childhood health, education, and well-being (birth through age 8).
- The NCECAC held its first meeting on May 11, 2018. It will meet quarterly and will submit an annual report on progress and recommendations.

B-3 Interagency Council

- The B-3 Interagency Council was created through Senate Bill 257 (the Appropriations Act) in the summer of 2017.
- It is a joint council of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and the Department of Public Instruction (DPI), and is co-chaired by Susan Perry-Manning, Deputy Secretary of Human Services at DHHS, and Dr. Pamela Shue, Associate Superintendent of Early Education at DPI.
- The council includes 12 voting members and 4 non-voting members, including six members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and six members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate.
- The council's charge is to develop a vision and accountability for a birth through 3rd grade system of early education, including the development and implementation of an interagency plan for a coordinated system of early care, education, and child development services.
- The council will study issues such as standards and assessment, student outcomes, data systems, teacher and administrator preparation, instruction, transitions, family engagement, governance, and funding.
- The council held its first meeting on Jan. 31, 2018, and will submit its initial quarterly report to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services by May 15, 2018.

Board of Postsecondary Education Credentials

- The Board of Postsecondary Education Credentials was created through Senate Bill 257 (the Appropriations Act) in the summer of 2017.
- The Board is chaired by Lt. Governor Dan Forest, and includes the UNC System President, the President of the NC Community College System, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Commissioner of Labor, the Secretary of Commerce, the President of the NC Independent Colleges and Universities, the Executive Director of the State

Board of Proprietary Schools, the President of the Healthcare Association (formerly the NC Hospital Association), and the Executive Director of the State Education Assistance Authority.

- The board is tasked with reviewing and making recommendations for a statewide system of postsecondary education that links industry, corporations, and businesses with education. The main duties of the board are to:
 - Recommend state postsecondary attainment goals for 2025,
 - Identify the postsecondary credentials that are acceptable for meeting those goals, and
 - Address the issue of postsecondary credentials, including the various levels of knowledge and skills that those credentials signify.
- The board held its first meeting on Oct. 10, 2017, and will submit its initial report to the General Assembly by March 1, 2018.

Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform

- The Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform was created through Senate Bill 257 (the Appropriations Act) in the summer of 2017. The task force was created in response to a General Assembly Program Evaluation Division report on the K-12 education finance system.
- The task force is co-chaired by Rep. Craig Horn and Sen. Michael Lee. A total of 18 state legislators are serving on the task force.
- The task force shall study various weighted student funding formula models and develop a new funding model for North Carolina's K-12 schools based on a weighted student funding formula.
- The task force held its first meeting on Nov. 1, 2017, and is expected to submit a report to the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House, and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on or before Oct. 1, 2018.

My Future NC Commission

- The My Future NC Commission is co-chaired by UNC System President Margaret Spellings; Dale Jenkins, CEO of Medical Mutual Holdings; and Andrea Smith, CAO of Bank of America.
- The commission is led by a steering committee composed of Ann Goodnight, Senior Director, Goodnight Education Foundation; Jennifer Haygood, Acting President, NC Community College System; Mark Johnson, Superintendent, NC Department of Public Instruction; Anna Spangler Nelson, UNC Board of Governors; and MC Belk Pilon, Board Chair, Belk Endowment.
- The commission, which was created as a result of the UNC System's strategic plan, is composed of 44 members from education, business, philanthropy, faith-based, and non-profit organizations.

- The main responsibility of the commission is to develop a multi-year education plan from early childhood through postsecondary education with clear educational attainment goals and benchmarks. The commission is focused on three primary questions:
 - What goals should NC set for its education system across the education continuum and into the workforce?
 - What barriers stand in the way and keep the state from leveraging resources?
 - What solutions can improve outcomes?
- The commission has three committees, the P-12 Committee, the Postsecondary Committee, and the Workforce Committee.
- The commission held its first meeting on Nov. 6, 2017, and is expected to complete its work by the end of 2018.

Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC)

- PEPSC was created through Senate Bill 599 in the summer of 2017. The commission is a permanent commission that will make recommendations to the State Board of Education.
- PEPSC includes 18 members appointed by the General Assembly. These members include superintendents, principals, deans of educator preparation programs, teachers, personnel administrators, the State Superintendent, and the state teacher of the year. Dr. Patrick Miller, Superintendent of Greene County Schools, is the chair.
- The commission will make rule recommendations on all aspects of preparation, licensure, continuing education, and standards of conduct for public school teachers and principals.
- Senate Bill 599 rewrote state statutes around educator preparation programs, including eliminating the lateral entry license and replacing it with a residency license. PEPSC is tasked with determining pedagogical and preservice training requirements for the new residency license programs, as well as recommending ways to ensure that clinical practice requirements (“student teaching”) effectively prepare high-quality educators.
- PEPSC held its first meeting on October 11, 2017 and will report annually to the General Assembly beginning on December 1, 2018.