

MINUTES
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
August 3, 2015
8:30 a.m., CDT

The State Board of Education met via telephone conference call at 8:30 a.m., CDT, on August 3, 2015.

Tenn. Code Ann. § 49-1-602 requires the State Board of Education to approve annual measurable objectives (“AMOs”) for achievement and achievement gap closure for the state and local education agencies (“LEAs”) by September 1 of each year. In addition, the terms of Tennessee’s approved waiver from certain provisions of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act requires the identification of a list of Reward Schools each year based on the results from the immediate prior school year.

As the state and LEA AMOs must be approved prior to the beginning of the upcoming 2015-16 school year, and because the list of 2015 Reward Schools could not be compiled until district TCAP data was available, the State Board of Education was not able to approve these items at their last in-person meeting on July 24, 2015. It was further determined that no quorum of the Board could be physically present in Nashville on August 3, 2015 to approve these items.

As such, a quorum of the State Board of Education met via teleconference to approve the list of state and LEA AMOs for the 2015-16 school year as well as the 2015 list of Reward Schools. A statement of the necessity for the teleconference meeting was made by Board Chairman, Fielding Rolston.

The following Board members announced participation in the meeting via teleconference:

Fielding Rolston
Lillian Hartgrove
Allison Chancey
Lonnie Roberts
Mike Edwards
Carolyn Pearre
Wendy Tucker
William Troutt
Cato Johnson

Personally appearing for the meeting were:

State Board of Education Staff
Phyllis Childress
Nathan James
Laura Encalade
Angela Sanders
Tess Stovall
Philip Cramer

Department of Education Staff
 Nakia Towns
 Mary Batiwalla
 Stephen Smith
 Elizabeth Fiveash

Chairman Rolston welcomed the members and called the meeting to order.

I. Consent Items

A. Adoption of Agenda

ACTION: **Mr. Johnson** moved approval. **Mr. Roberts** seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

II. Action Items (Final Reading)

A. State Identified Reward, Priority, and Focus Schools

Dr. Nakia Towns, Department of Education, listed the State’s 2015 Reward, Priority, and Focus schools. She stated that reward schools are made up of the top five percent of schools in the state for performance—as measured by overall student achievement levels—and the top five percent for year-over-year progress—as measured by growth in student achievement. These 10 percent of schools receive recognition for their success, and we aim to learn from their successes.

ACTION: **Ms. Chancey** moved approval. **Mr. Edwards** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Lillian Hartgrove	X		
Cato Johnson	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
William Troutt	X		
Wendy Tucker	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

B. Annual Performance Goals and Objectives for Achievement and Achievement Gap Closure

Dr. Towns presented this item. She stated that the methodology for establishing goals for schools has been slightly altered in that it accommodates transition to TNReady.

Vice Chair Pearre asked how this information was transmitted to the districts. **Dr. Towns** replied that they utilized the Commissioner’s Update to Directors of Schools for an explanation as well as presentations to regional offices, Superintendent Study Councils, and webinars.

Mr. Roberts asked what percentage of Directors of Schools was notified. **Dr. Towns** responded that 100% were notified by the Commissioner’s Update as well as a Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents (TOSS) working group.

Mr. Johnson asked what changes occurred to the gap closure measure.

Dr. Towns responded that gap closure will be determined by:

- The relative rank of the district’s percent of students in the super subgroup (Black/Hispanic/Native American, Economically Disadvantaged, English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities combined);
- District performance will be judged based on the percentile rank of the district in terms of the percent of students performing at below basic using 2015 assessment results compared to the percentile rank of the district on the same metric using 2016 assessment results; and,
- Districts that have maintained or improved their relative performance in at least 25 percent of applicable grade-content areas will meet the criteria to earn that key.

ACTION: **Vice Chair Pearre** moved approval. **Mr. Johnson** seconded. A roll call vote was taken as follows:

	Yes	No	Absent
Allison Chancey	X		
Mike Edwards	X		
Lillian Hartgrove	X		
Cato Johnson	X		
Carolyn Pearre	X		
Lonnie Roberts	X		
William Troutt	X		
Wendy Tucker	X		
Fielding Rolston	X		

The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Chancey asked if any teacher licensure items were being presented. **Chairman Rolston** replied that they would be presented at the next meeting.

Chairman Rolston thanked members for being available to participate in the meeting by telephone and reminded them of the upcoming workshop and meeting on October 30-31, 2014 in Nashville. He also gave the 2016 meeting dates as follows:

January 28, 29
April 14, 15
July 21, 22
October 20, 21

The meeting was adjourned.

Approved by: _____ Date _____