

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Invited to State Public School Meeting

Haywood County, North Carolina – October 13, 2016

North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) staff have scheduled a second round of six public comment sessions to receive feedback from educators, parents, students and other stakeholders on the state's K-12 Education Plan for the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The public is invited to attend the Western Regional Meeting to be held at Tuscola High School on Monday, October 24th at 5 pm.

Public input will help guide the development of the state's plan for complying with the new federal education law approved in December 2015 to replace No Child Left Behind. ESSA continues to focus on accountability and student-level assessments for all students in reading and mathematics in grades 3-8, science assessments at least once in the elementary grades and at least once in the middle grades, college and career readiness in the high school grades, and accountability for all student groups.

States are required to develop their own ESSA plan to comply with the federal law. The state plan will address issues of school accountability, student assessments, support for struggling schools and other elements.

The state's accountability plan must include goals for academic indicators (improved academic achievement on the state assessments, a measure of student growth or other statewide academic indicator for elementary and middle schools, graduation rates for high schools, and progress in achieving proficiency for English learners) and a measure of school quality or student success (examples include student and educator engagement, access and completion of advanced coursework, postsecondary readiness, school climate and safety). Participation rates on the assessments also must be included in the plan.

The purpose of this second round of sessions is to provide opportunities for the public to make comments on the rough draft of the state's plan, which will be posted on NCDPI's ESSA website (<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/succeeds/>). Please note that the state plan is a draft and does not contain answers to the many questions that must be answered before a final plan can be submitted to the US Department of Education in March 2017. There are many placeholders throughout the draft document where additional information will be placed in the state plan after those decisions are made based on feedback that NCDPI receives over the next few months.

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