

Stop Budget Cuts to Education Invest in Our Future and Fund Schools First

Thanksgiving week, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction issued a press release detailing the impact of potential cuts to the K-12 education system. This release provides a glimpse of the multi-layer cuts to education expected when the General Assembly returns to session in January. During this holiday season, as we give thanks for our families and the educational opportunities provided to our children, we must remember that maintaining a world class education system is not something that comes without constant vigilance and improvement. Despite the glaring budget deficit of an estimated \$3.5 billion faced by our state, we cannot stand in place, and we certainly cannot afford to go backward.

Last spring, PTA members and teachers across the state joined forces to tell our legislators to Fund Schools First. That message is more important this year than ever before. We are continuing this message by asking our legislators to Invest in Our Future and Fund Schools First.



The message is critical. According to the NC DPI release, North Carolina ranks 42nd in the nation for the amount of money spent per student, though North Carolina is the sixth fastest growing state in the nation. Also according to the release, if public school funding is cut by 5 or 10 percent, the result will be teacher layoffs, larger class sizes, fewer courses and less help for students.

We will continue to provide you, our members, with information related to proposed education budget cuts and other important education issues. We ask that you, our PTA members, endeavor to be the best advocates for the most precious resources we have, our children and our educational opportunities.

NCPTA Participates at Governor's Education Roundtable

At the request of Governor Beverly Perdue, a group of 25 educators and parents were brought together at West Craven High School in New Bern for a roundtable discussion about education in North Carolina. The Governor shared remarks with parents, administrators and educators followed by a question/answer session with a focus on legislative priorities as it relates to K-12 education.

The group, including 10 parent representatives for NCPTA, shared their ideas with the Governor regarding education issues they believe should be a priority for the budget and legislative agenda during the upcoming General Assembly session that begins January 26, 2011.

NCPTA was honored to have been included in this discussion.



2011 NCPTA Parent Education Conference Holiday Inn I95, Fayetteville May 14, 2011

Please mark your calendars now to attend the 2011 NCPTA Parent Education Conference at the Holiday Inn I95 in Fayetteville on May 14th. It will be a day of great workshops, excellent speakers, sharing of ideas, meeting new people, and having fun!!!

Teresa Williams, National PTA Secretary-Treasurer, will be featured as a keynote speaker and workshop presenter at this year's conference. Teresa was elected to the position of Secretary-Treasurer in 2009. She has served on the National PTA Board since 2003 and has been involved locally in her home state of Colorado for many years. Teresa and her husband Clegg are the parents of three children. She graduated from Colorado State University with a bachelors degree and from the University of Northern Colorado with a masters degree. She was a school teacher for 30 years.



Tentative Schedule

Saturday, May 14

8:00 a.m.

9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

12:00 noon

2:00 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

4:30 p.m.

Registration

General Session I

Election of Officers

Education Issues Panel Discussion

Awards Celebration Luncheon

Workshop Sessions

General Session II

Closing Session with reception

Conference Packages & Fees

Conference Package – by April 29, 2011

Includes registration, materials and meals

\$90

On-site Registration – after April 29, 2011

\$125

Non-PTA members:

Conference Packet

\$100

Guests meals:

Saturday Luncheon

\$25

Registration will begin in February at www.ncpta.org.

HOTEL INFORMATION — Please ask for the NCPTA Convention room block

Holiday Inn I95

1944 Cedar Creek Road

Fayetteville, NC 28312

910-323-1600

Convention Room Rate — **\$92.00 per night**, single or double (plus applicable tax) .

Rooms must be reserved by **April 14, 2011** in order to receive the Convention rate.

Mark your calendars now and plan to attend!!

News from National PTA ...

National PTA and *Parenting* Partner to Help You Go Green!

National PTA® and *Parenting* magazine have teamed up to bring you "Small Steps, Big Difference - Your Guide to Going Green at Home and In School." This guide is a fun and informative eight-page magazine that offers parents and families tips and information on going green at home and at school. It offers tips and techniques to "Practice the Three R's – Reduce, Reuse, Recycle," how to "Take "Eco-Action," how to have "Green School Spirit," and information on "Up-Cycling." A preview of the magazine is available online at <http://www.pta.org/3452.htm>.

State, district, council, or local PTAs can register to receive FREE copies of the guide. Consider giving a copy to all your members, to all the families in your school, and sharing copies at your state PTA Convention or summer leadership institute. Distribute copies at your local community centers, libraries, recreation centers, or other locations! The possibilities are endless, but be sure to act fast, since quantities are limited.

Save the Date! – National Legislative Conference

On March 9-10, 2011, PTA will hold its annual National Legislative Conference in Washington, DC. This two-day conference will inspire and provide in-depth analysis on PTA's latest federal public policy priorities affecting families, schools and communities through skill building trainings, workshops, panel discussions, guest speakers, and Capitol Hill visits with congressional leaders. Join us and the many PTA child advocates making their voice heard on Capitol Hill.

The conference will take place at the Doubletree Hotel Crystal City-National Airport in Arlington, VA. Registration for the National Legislative Conference will be available on the National PTA website beginning in January 2011.

Education Nation Scorecard — A Tool for Parents

PTA has partnered with NBC News, GreatSchools, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and other organizations to create the Education Nation Scorecard, a tool that provides useful, clearly understandable information about school performance. Parents can use the tool to look up their child's school and to see how it is doing compared to schools in the community, district, state, and nation. Parents can also use it to view graduation rates, NAEP scores, and to see if their state has adopted the Common Core State Standards, among other things. More importantly, parents can use this information to have conversations with their child's teacher to find out how they can support their child's education.

Parents can find a list of questions on the scorecard under "What Can I Do?" to help start the conversation with their child's teacher or principal. Please visit <http://nbcscorecard.greatschools.org/> for more information.

Save the Date and Plan to Attend Now!



June 9-12, 2011

Visit

www.pta.org/annualconvention

Making Parent-Teacher Conferences Work for Your Child



A parent-teacher conference is a time when important people in a student's life can talk about how that student is doing in school. It's a chance for you to ask questions about the class or your child's progress. It is also a time for you and the teacher to work together as a team to discuss ways you both can help your son or daughter.

may want to talk to the teacher about the child's home life, personality, concerns, habits and hobbies, and other topics that may help the teacher in working with the child (e.g., religious holidays, music lessons, part-time jobs, a sick relative).

Whether your child is in elementary, middle, or secondary school, parent-teacher conferences are important. If your school does not schedule regular conferences, you can request them.

Teachers need your help to do a first-class job. Together, you can help your child have a great school year.

Before the Conference

Schedule an appointment—A parent-teacher conference is not the only time when parents and teachers should make contact.

Parents may want to schedule a special meeting with their child's teacher for a variety of reasons. If you need to set up an appointment with the teacher, make a phone call or write a quick note to the teacher, and let him or her know if you have particular issues you would like to discuss.



Talk to your child—Find out which subjects your child likes the best and the least. Ask why. Also, ask if there is anything your child would like you to talk about with the teacher. Help the child understand that you and the teacher are meeting to help him or her. If your child is in middle or high school, you may want to include him or her in the conference.

Gather input from others— If your spouse, another care-giving adult, or someone with pertinent information or insight (doctor, counselor, other guardian) can't attend the conference, ask for that person's concerns and questions before the conference.

Make a list— Before you go to the meeting, make a list of topics to discuss with the teacher. Along with questions about academics and behavior, you

During the Conference

Establish rapport—As an icebreaker, take notice of something that reflects well upon the teacher. For example, thank the teacher for having made thoughtful notes on your child's homework or for the special attention in helping your child learn to multiply.

Ask questions—Questions you ask during the conference can help you express your hopes for the student's success in class and for the teacher. It's a good idea to ask the important questions first, in case time runs out. The teacher's answers should help you both work together to help your child.

If your child receives special services (e.g., gifted and talented programs, speech or occupational therapy), be sure to ask about the frequency of services and your child's progress.

Addressing problems—Parent-teacher conferences are a good time to discuss any difficulties (either academic or behavioral) a child might be having at school. When problems arise, parents will want to:

- Avoid angry or apologetic reactions. Instead, ask for examples.
- Ask what is being done about the problem and what strategies seem to help at school.
- Develop an action plan that may include steps that parents can take at home and steps the teacher will take when the problem comes up at school.
- Schedule a follow-up conference and decide on the best way to stay in touch (phone, e-mail, or letters sent to the home).

— Continued on page 5

Reflections State Theme Search Winners Announced



NCPTA is pleased to announce the following State recipients of the Reflections Theme Search for 2012-2013:

- **"Do it, Hear it, See it, Experience it!"**
Catherine Coffee, Brooks Global PTA,
Greensboro
- **"My favorite things..."**
Demi Abernathy, Codington Elementary
PTA, Wilmington
- **"When I'm with my friends we..."**
Haleigh Brewster, Meadowlark Middle
PTA, Winston-Salem
- **"My Perfect World"**
Grace Cronin, Kernersville Middle PTSA,
Kernersville
- **"Dare to be different"**
Zac Everakes, Community House Middle
PTA, Charlotte

The National winner will be selected in January 2011 and will receive \$100 from the National PTA office.

NCPTA would like to thank all its talented students for participating in the 2012-2013 Reflections Theme Search Program. There were over 155 students who entered this year's competition. We encourage you to continue to develop your outstanding talent. PTA Presidents and Reflections Chairs, a special thank you to you for encouraging the students in your school to enter the 2012-2013 Reflections Theme Search Program.

Uniform Local Unit Bylaws Adoption Reminder

On June 25, 2010, the NCPTA Board of Directors unanimously approved Uniform PTA Bylaws for local PTAs. Committee members spent many hours working to make local unit bylaws less complicated, more user friendly, and easier to understand while providing you guidance in complying with IRS regulations and NC non-profit law. Once your PTA adopts these new Uniform Bylaws, you will not have to renew them ever again!

NCPTA wants to remind all our local units that the Uniform Local Unit bylaws must be adopted by your PTA before **July 1, 2011**. Please contact the State Office at office@ncpta.org if you have any questions or need assistance.

Parent-Teacher Conferences —continued from page 4

Develop an action plan If the student needs help with a behavioral or an academic issue, you and the teacher should agree on specific plans—that you both will work on—to help your child do better. Be sure you understand what the teacher suggests. If it's not clear, ask him or her to explain. Set up a way to check on your child's progress. You and the teacher can decide how best to stay in touch, such as through phone calls, notes, or additional meetings.

Ending the conference—End the conference by reviewing what you discussed and restating your action plan. This is also a good time to set up your next meeting.



After the Conference

When discussing the conference with the child afterward, stress the good things that were covered and be direct about problems that were identified. If an action plan is in place, explain to the child what was arranged. When an action plan is in place, consider the following: Watch your child's behavior and check on classwork and homework. Ask how the student feels about schoolwork. Stay in touch with the teacher to discuss your child's progress. Express appreciation as progress is made. A good way to promote a continuing relationship with the teacher is to say "thank-you" with a note or a telephone call. Continuing to keep in touch with the teacher, even if things are going well, can play an important role in helping the child do better in school. When a child knows parents and teachers are regularly working together, the child will see that education is a high priority requiring commitment and effort.

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Assuring that Students are Healthy and Ready to Learn!



Are the children in your school covered by health insurance? Students need health coverage to stay healthy. Healthy students learn better, are more alert during classes and *miss less school assuring that they are better prepared to succeed in school. Uninsured kindergartners and other children under the age of 19, or up to 21 in some cases, may qualify for free or low-cost health insurance based on their family's income. Even a family of 4 earning \$3,675 a month can qualify:*

Income guidelines:

Family Size	Monthly Income Before Taxes*
2	\$2,429
3	\$3,052
4	\$3,675
5 or more	Add \$624 for each family member

*A child may also qualify if earnings are higher, but family has child care, work-related or child support expenses.

Benefits Include: Well-child checkups, medicines, sick visits, dental care, immunizations, hospital care, lab tests, counseling, therapies, surgeries, medical equipment and supplies, vision and hearing care. Children with special health care needs may receive more benefits.

The North Carolina Pediatric Society Foundation is pleased to share information about a child health initiative called *Healthy and Ready to Learn*, a school-targeted outreach effort to enroll all “eligible and uninsured” kindergartners into North Carolina’s free or low-cost child health insurance programs, Health Check (Medicaid) and N.C. Health Choice. Our partners include physicians, school nurses, state agencies (including Department of Public Instruction, Division of Public Health, and the Division of Medical Assistance), school administrators, School Health Advisory Councils, and community-based organizations. **Now we are asking you to join us!**

The *Healthy and Ready to Learn* (HRL) initiative has been implemented in all public schools with a kindergarten program in 16 pilot counties: Columbus, Cumberland, Davidson, Edgecombe, Gaston, Halifax, Harnett, Lenoir, Pitt, Randolph, Robeson, Rutherford,

Vance, Wayne and Wilson Counties. School partners agreed to share North Carolina’s child health insurance information along with applications and the local DSS addresses with families of uninsured kindergartners. The *HRL* initiative expansion to 32 more counties will be announced in January 2011. However, Health Check / NC Health Choice child health insurance is available to all school-age children statewide.

Please consider becoming a champion in your school to help parents learn about these programs:

- Share information about Health Check/ NC Health Choice at a PTA meeting, School Open House, Pre-K or Kindergarten Registration or other school events. PowerPoint orientation is available at: www.ncpedsfoundation.org and <http://nchealthystart.org/outreach/index.html>.
- Order free and in-bulk outreach materials to include in parent packets or for display at meetings at: www.NCHealthyStart.org. Click on “Order.”
- Hang posters in areas of the school where parents are most likely to see them.
- Target outreach to children receiving free or reduced price school meals as they are likely to qualify for these programs. (For example, envelope stuffers could be distributed in school lunch approval letters). For examples of school-based outreach strategies, check www.ncpedsfoundation.org under “Action Plan.”
- For more information, contact the *HRL* Local Community Coordinators: Laura Brewer, (office in Robeson County, covering southwestern counties) at laura@ncpedsfoundation.org or (910) 865-5507; India Foy, (office in Guilford County, central/ western counties,) at india@ncpedsfoundation.org or (336) 617-6628; and Betty Macon, (office in Halifax County, northeastern region) at betty@ncpedsfoundation.org or (252) 822-3340. For information about statewide and minority outreach efforts contact Norma.Marti@dhhs.nc.gov.

Thank you for giving families peace of mind by helping them enroll their children in health insurance!

2010-11 Honor Roll



Congratulations to the following local units for reporting by November 15th a membership enrollment as large as or larger than total membership last year.

District 1

Beaufort County
Eastern Elementary School PTA
P. S. Jones Middle School PTA
John Small Elementary School PTA
John C. Tayloe Elem School PTA

Chowan County
Chowan Middle School PTA

Currituck County
Knotts Island Elem. School PTA

Dare County
Cape Hatteras Secondary School PTA

Gates County
Gatesville Elementary School PTA

Martin County
Rodgers Elementary School PTA

Pasquotank County
Pasquotank Elementary School PTA
Sheep Harney Elem. School PTA

Perquimans County
Perquimans Central School PTA

Pitt County
E.B. Aycok Middle School PTA
Sam D. Bundy School PTA
Falkland Elementary School PTA
South Greenville Elem. School PTA
Stokes Elementary School PTA
H.B. Sugg Elementary School PTA
Wintergreen Intermediate Sch PTA

District 2

Brunswick County
Town Creek Elementary School PTA
Virginia Williamson Elem. PTA

Lenoir County
Banks Elementary School PTA

New Hanover County
Edwin A. Anderson Elementary PTA
Heyward Bellamy Elem. School PTA
Bradley Creek Elem. School PTA
Castle Hayne Elementary School PTA
College Park Elem. School PTA
Hubert A. Eaton Elem. School PTA
Forest Hills Global Elementary PTA
Holly Tree Elem. School PTA
New Hanover High School PSTA
Ogden Elementary School PTA
Parsley Elementary School PTA
Roland-Grise Middle School PTA
Williston Middle School PTA
Wilmington Early College High PSTA

Onslow County
Brewster Middle School PTA
Delalio Elementary School PTA

Wayne County
Eastern Wayne Elem. School PTA
Fremont STARS PTA
Meadow Lane Elementary School PTA
Tommy's Road School PTA

District 3

Durham County
Durham School of the Arts PSTA
Hillside New Tech High School PSTA
Holt Elementary School PTA
Merrick Moore Elem. School PTA
Parkwood Elementary School PTA
W.G. Pearson Gifted & Talented Magnet PTA
E.K. Powe Elem. School PTA
Rogers Herr Middle School PTA
Spring Valley Elementary School PTA
Voyager Academy School PTA

Franklin County
Cedar Creek Middle School PTA

Halifax County
Belmont Elementary School PTA
Northwest Halifax High School PSTA

Johnston County
Archer Lodge Middle PTA
Cleveland Elementary School PTA
Dixon Road Elementary School PTA
East Clayton Elementary School PTA
Four Oaks Elementary School PTA
Princeton Elementary School PTA
Smithfield Middle School PTA

Nash County
Red Oak Elementary School PTA

Wake County
Adams Year-Round Elem. School PTA
Alston Ridge Elementary PTA
Athens Drive High School PSTA
Ballentine Elementary School PTA
Barwell Road Elementary School PTA
A.V. Baucom Elementary School PTA
Brassfield Road Elem. School PTA
Briarcliff Elementary School PTA
Brier Creek Year-Round Elem. PTA
Carpenter Elementary School PTA
Carver Elementary School PTA
Cedar Fork Elementary PTA
Centennial Campus Mdl School PSTA
A. B. Combs Elem. School PTA
Conn Elementary School PTA
Daniels Middle School PTA
Durant Road Elementary School PTA
Durant Road Middle School PTA
East Garner Magnet Middle PSTA
East Millbrook Magnet Middle PSTA
Farmington Woods Elem. School PTA
Forest Pines Drive Elementary PTA
Fuller GT Magnet School PTA
Garner Magnet High School PSTA
Green Yr-Round Elementary PTA
Heritage Elementary School PTA
Heritage High School PSTA
Heritage Middle School PTA
Highcroft Drive Elementary PTA
Holly Grove Elementary School PTA
Holly Grove Middle School PSTA
Holly Ridge Elementary School PTA

Holly Springs High PSTA
Hunter GT Elementary School PTA
Jones Dairy Elementary School PTA
J.Y. Joyner Elem. School PTA
Knightdale Elem. School PTA
Lake Myra Elementary PTA
Ligon GT Middle School PTA
Lufkin Rd. Yr-Rd Middle School PTA
Middle Creek Elementary School PTA
Middle Creek High School PSTA
Mills Park Elementary PTA
Mills Park Middle School PSTA
North Forest Pines Elementary PTA
Northwoods Elementary School PTA
Oak Grove Elementary School PTA
Fred A. Olds Elem. School PTA
Poe Montessori Magnet Elem. PTA
Reedy Creek Middle School PTA
River Bend Elementary School PTA
Rolesville Elementary School PTA
Salem Elementary School PTA
Sanford Creek Elementary PTA
Sycamore Creek Elementary PTA
Trilogy School PTA
Turner Creek Elementary School PTA
Vance Elementary School PTA
Wake Early College of Health & Science PSTA
Wake Forest/Rolesville Middle PSTA
Wakefield Elementary School PTA
Wakefield Middle School PSTA
Weatherstone Elementary PTA
Willow Springs Elem. School PTA
Zebulon GT Elem. School PTA
Zebulon GT Magnet Middle Sch PTA

Warren County
Vaughan Elementary School PTA

District 4

Columbus County
Edgewood Elementary School PTA

Cumberland County
Beaver Dam Elem. School PTA
Teresa Berrien Elem. School PTA
Bowley Elementary School PTA
Pauline Jones Elem. School PTA
Mary McArthur Elem. School PTA
Morganton Road Elem. School PTA
Rockfish Elementary School PTA
Reid Ross Classical Mdl/High PTA
Terry Sanford High School PTA
J.W. Seabrook Elem. School PTA
Seventy First High School PTA
Stedman Elementary School PTA
Stedman Primary School PTA
Sunnyside Elementary School PTA
Westarea Elementary School PTA

Hoke County
West Hoke Elementary PTA

Moore County
Cameron Elementary School PTA

Highfalls Elementary School PTA
New Century Middle School PTA
Sandhills Farm Life Elem. Sch. PTA
Union Pines High School PSTA
West End Elementary School PTA
Westmoore Elementary School PTA

Robeson County

Deep Branch Elementary School PTA
Long Branch Elem. School PTA
Rex Rennert Elem. School PTA
Tanglewood Elementary School PTA

Scotland County

Laurel Hill Elementary School PTA

District 5

Alamance County

Altamahaw Ossipee Elem. School PTA
R. Homer Andrews Elem Sch Inc PTA
Marvin Smith Elem School PTA

Chatham County

Bonlee Elementary School PTA
Jordan Matthews High School PTA
North Chatham School PTA
Pittsboro Elementary School PTA
Margaret B. Pollard Middle PSTA
The Woods Charter School PTA
Virginia Cross Elementary School PTA
J.S. Waters Elementary School PTA

Forsyth County

Bolton Elementary School PTA
Brunson Elementary School PTA
Clemmons Elementary School PTA
Cook Elementary School PTA
East Forsyth Senior High PSTA
Jefferson Elementary School PTA
Kernersville Elementary School PTA
Kimmel Farm Elementary PTA
Lewisville Elementary School PTA
Meadowlark Middle School PTA
Middle Fork Elementary PTA
Mineral Springs Elem. School PTA
Moore Magnet School PTA
Old Richmond Elementary School PTA
Paisley IB Magnet Middle PSTA
David H. Petree Elem. School PTA
Piney Grove Elementary School PTA
R.J. Reynolds High School PSTA
Sherwood Forest Elem. School PTA
South Fork Elementary School PTA
The Downtown School PTA
Whitaker Elementary School PTA

Guilford County

Alamance Elementary School PTA
Allen Middle School PTA
Bessemer Elementary School PTA
Bluford Elementary School PTA
Brooks Global Studies Magnet PTA
Brown Summit Middle Center PTA
Colfax Elementary School PTA
Erwin Montessori Elem. School PTA
Falkener Elementary School PTA
Gibsonville Elementary School PTA
Gillespie Park Elementary PTA
General Greene Elem. School PTA
Grimsley Senior High School PSTA
Guilford Preparatory Academy PTA
Jamestown Elementary School PTA
James Y. Joyner Elem. School PTA
Kirkman Park Elementary School PTA

Kiser Middle School PTA
John Van Lindley Elem. School PTA
Middle College at GTCC High Point
Millis Road Elementary School PTA
Monticello-Brown Summit Elem. PTA
Morehead Elementary School PTA
NE Guilford Middle School PSTA
Northern Elementary School PTA
Northern Guilford Middle School PSTA
Parkview A+ Elem. School PTA
E. P. Pearce Elementary School PTA
Peeler Open Elementary School PTA
Penn-Griffin Sch. for the Arts PTA
Rankin Elementary School PTA
Reedy Fork Elementary PTA
Ben L. Smith High School PSTA
Southwest Guilford Elementary PTA
Sternberger Elementary School PTA
Sumner Elementary School PTA
SW Guilford High School PSTA
Washington Montessori PTA
Weaver Education Center PTA
Jesse Wharton Elem. School PTA

Orange County

Grady Brown Elementary School PTA
Carrboro High School PSTA
Estes Hills Elem. School PTA
Morris Grove Elementary PTA
Mary Scroggs Elem. School PTA
C.W. Stanford Middle School PSTA

Person County

North Elementary School PTA
North End Elementary School PTA
Northern Middle School PTA
Oak Lane Elementary School PTA

Randolph County

Donna Loflin Elem. School PTA

Rockingham County

Bethany Elementary School PTA
Lincoln Elementary School PTA
Wentworth Elem. School PTA

District 6

Cabarrus County

NW Cabarrus High School PSTA
Patriots Elementary School PTA

Gaston County

New Hope Elementary School PTA

Lincoln County

Iron Station Elem. School PTA

Mecklenburg County

Albemarle Road Elem. School PTA
J.M. Alexander Middle School PSTA
Allenbrook Elementary School PTA
Bailey Middle School PTA
Bain Elementary School PTA
Barnette Elementary School PTA
Phillip O Berry Acad. of Tech PSTA
Blythe Elementary School PTA
Bradley Middle School PTA
Community House Middle School PTA
Croft Community School PTA
Dilworth Elementary School PTA
Alex. Graham Middle School PTA
Grier Academy PTA
J. H. Gunn Elem. School PTA
Highland Mill Montessori PTA
Hornets Nest Elementary School PTA
William A. Hough High School PSTA

Lake Wylie Elementary School PSTA
Lebanon Road Elementary PTA
Long Creek Elementary School PTA
McKinney Academy PTA
Mint Hill Middle School PTA
John M. Morehead Elem. School PTA
Oakhurst Elementary School PTA
Oaklawn Language Academy PTA
Olde Providence Sch for C&AS PTA
Piney Grove Elem. School PTA
Polo Ridge Elementary PTA
Quail Hollow Middle School PSTA
Reedy Creek Elementary School PTA
River Gate Elementary PTA
River Oaks Academy PTA
Sedgefield Elementary School PTA
Smithfield Elementary School PTA
Southwest Middle School PSTA
Whitewater Academy PTA
Winding Springs Elem. School PTA

Union County

Weddington Elementary School PTA

District 7

Burke County

Icard Elementary School PTA

Caldwell County

Lower Creek Elementary School PTA
Sawmills Accelerated School PTA

Catawba County

South Newton Elem. School PTA

Davie County

Mocksville Elementary School PTA

Rowan County

China Grove Middle School PTA
Cleveland Elementary School PTA
Corriher Lipe Middle School PTA
Eliz.Hanford Dole Elem. School PTA
Granite Quarry Elementary PTA
H.D. Isenberg Elementary PTA
Knollwood Elementary School PTA
Koontz Elementary School PTA
Morgan Elementary School PTA
North Rowan Elementary School PTA
North Rowan Middle School PTA
Woodleaf Elementary School PTA

Watauga County

Green Valley Elementary PSTA

Yadkin County

Yadkinville Elementary School PTA

District 8

Buncombe County

Glen Arden Elementary School PTA
Valley Springs Middle School PTA

Cherokee County

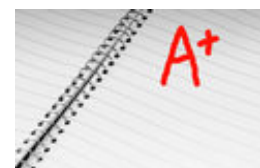
Tri-County Early College High PSTA

Jackson County

Cullowhee Valley School PTA
Fairview Elementary School PTA

Madison County

Laurel Elementary School PTA





North Carolina Pilots First Statewide Microsoft IT Academy®

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) signed a three-year agreement with Microsoft IT Academy this past August. The implementation of this IT Academy is the first statewide rollout in the country and the largest in the world to date. The Microsoft IT Academy Program provides training at public high schools to teachers and students in Microsoft® technology. It provides access to a range of resources that allow a complete Information Communication and Technology (ICT) Skills solution for teachers and students. Resources include curriculum, e-learning, hands-on labs and interactive tools that will help prepare students for a career in IT and a long-term Industry Partnership.

Currently, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is piloting Microsoft Office 2010 and Windows 7 in 29 school systems (see <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/superintendents/messages/2010/1115/msit-map.pdf> for a map and listing of these sites). Students in pilots are enrolled in one of two courses. The first IT Academy course is based around Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Publisher skills, while the other course focuses on Microsoft Excel and Access.

“School principals work with local Career and Technical Education directors and other school personnel to determine class offerings for their schools” noted Mary Jo Nason, NCDPI chief of Career and Technical Education curriculum. “Parents should contact the principal for more information about the IT Academy. By August 2011, Microsoft IT Academy classes should be available in high schools statewide. For more information about the IT Academy program, visit <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/superintendents/messages/2010/1115/msit-faq.pdf>.

In addition, the agreement includes one year’s worth of unlimited Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certification testing through Certipoint testing sites. These certifications are available to all high school students and staff across the state. Over 75 percent of managers believe that certifications are important to team performance in the workplace.

Although the IT Academy is still in the early stages of development in North Carolina Public Schools, this agreement has the potential to bring our students to the forefront of the technological skills needed to be

successful in the 21st century. Said State Superintendent June Atkinson, “The ability to effectively use Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access are essential skills in most businesses and offices today. I am pleased that North Carolina can provide this opportunity for teachers to improve their skills and for students to be career-ready.”

For more information about the Microsoft IT Academy, please contact Curt Miller, NCDPI Business and Information technology consultant, at msita@dpi.state.nc.us.

Happy New Year!

LOOK WHAT’S HAPPENING!

December

- Review plans and goals for the new year
- Prepare Reflections entries for District competition
- Enjoy the holidays and rejuvenate yourself for the remainder of the year

January

- **14 — District Reflections judging deadline**
- **15 — Gold Key Membership Award deadline**
- 17 — Martin Luther King, Jr. Day observed
- Elect Nominating Committee for local unit (check your Bylaws)
- Review NCPTA’s Awards at www.ncpta.org and apply for awards to celebrate your programs and successes.
- **Treasurer: File NC Form E-585, Claim for Refund of State and County Sales and Use Taxes for sales tax paid on non-resellable items purchased July-December.**

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