

The board believes that an effective testing and assessment program evaluates the progress of individual students and helps to ensure that educational goals and objectives are being met for every child. A testing program also assists in the continued refinement of the instructional program.

Every effort will be made to ensure that the testing program contributes to the learning process rather than detracts from it. Efforts also will be made to use only culture-free or culture-fair tests in order to ensure that measurements are reasonably accurate.

The board directs the superintendent to administer all state-required tests. Students not meeting testing standards must be provided remedial instruction and retesting in accordance with legal requirements.

The instructional staff is responsible for the development and administration of the testing program. All testing personnel, teachers and school administrators are required to be familiar with and adhere to the Testing Code of Ethics for state tests and individual school tests. Failure to follow the Code may result in disciplinary sanctions, including termination or revocation of administrative and/or teaching licenses.

The superintendent or designee shall ensure that the time that students spend taking standardized state and local tests is minimized and that the frequency of field testing at a particular school is minimized. Specifically, the superintendent shall ensure the following.

1. Schools will devote no more than two days of instructional time per year to the taking of practice tests that do not have the primary purpose of assessing current student learning.
2. Students will not be subject to field tests or national tests during the two-week period preceding their school's administration of end-of-grade tests, end-of-course tests or regularly scheduled final exams.
3. No school will participate in more than two field tests at any one grade level during a school year unless that school volunteers, through a vote of its school improvement team, to participate in an expanded number of field tests.

Legal References: G.S. 115C, art. 10A; 115C-47, -81, -174.12(a), -276, -288, -307; State Board of Education Policies GCS-A series; GCS-C series; GCS-N series; 16 N.C.A.C. 6D .0301 – .0302

Cross References: Professional and Staff Development (policy 1610/7800), Goals and Objectives of the Educational Program (policy 3000), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420)

Adopted: January 5, 2009