

DATE: 12 MARCH 91  
RE: Establishment of Systemwide Instructional Assessment

The Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) have adopted the Comprehensive School Planning Process and Accountability Model as the foundation for individual student achievement and school improvement. According to Dr. Joe Peel, the basis for this model is found in the Effective Schools research, most commonly referred to as the Ron Edmonds Effective Schools Model.

Presently, our local schools have adopted the five correlates of effective schools. They are: Strong Instructional Leadership, An Orderly School Climate, High Expectations, An Emphasis on Basic Skills, and Frequent Assessment of Student Progress.

Unfortunately, as a school system, we do not monitor whether or not we are teaching or providing instruction as required by the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. CMS does not require lesson plans, thematic unit plans or other instructional management systems to assure ourselves that the North Carolina Standard Course of Study is being taught. Why is this so important? It is important because the End of Course tests; for example, the Science and Social Studies test at grades 3, 6, and 8, Algebra and other tests are based on the instruction from the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. And for test accountability- students should be tested on the instruction presented. The only current assessment of instruction is mandated by the state and it comes at the end of the year in the form of the CAT test.

I feel "testing" for the sake of testing is inappropriate. However, systemic diagnostic assessments during the school year provide the system and teachers with information that "ALLOWS FOR BETTER PLANNING OF LESSONS AND MORE PURPOSEFUL STRATEGIES FOR DELIVERING INSTRUCTION."

Wake, Stanley, Kings Mountain, and Gaston schools, (and I could go on), provide regular systemwide diagnostic testing during the academic year that allows teachers to adjust their instruction in a manner that enhances students ability to master the academic competencies of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.

Therefore, I propose the following motion;

That the Superintendent develop and recommend to the Board of Education a plan that establishes systemwide instructional assessment based on the North Carolina Standard Course of Study to begin not later than the 1992-93 school year.