

OBJECTIVES AND CRITICAL ACTIONS, 2007-2008
Adopted October 8, 2007

1. Continue the implementation of the Education Accountability Act of 1998 and fulfill other responsibilities assigned by the General Assembly, including those within the Teacher Quality Act, the Parental Involvement in Their Children's Education Act, the Education and Economic Development Act and the early childhood development pilot program proviso and those made by special requests, including
 - Establishing a goal for high school graduation to include reporting data for different student groups and the inclusion of fifth year graduates; and
 - Conducting a comparative examination of ratings methodologies including simulations with the Measures of Academic Progress (MAPS) assessments.
2. Provide analyses and recommendations to achieve the 2010 goal by increasing the return on investment in education through the following:
 - Determining the assignments of NBPTS-certified teachers; their availability to work in high poverty settings and their impact on student achievement;
 - Working with school administrators and teacher preparation institutions to understand the differences between the competence level of the teacher graduate and the competence level needed in the classroom;
 - Emphasizing the need for valid and reliable data on student performance to guide improvements in policy and practice at the middle grades;
 - Convening a stakeholder effort to define the instructional technology infrastructure needed in our classrooms;
 - Following the progress of the Palmetto Priority Schools; and
 - Advocating for public choice innovation schools.
3. Increase partnerships among those who invest in South Carolina's schools by:
 - Convening informal meetings among the Governor, the State Superintendent of Education, the leadership of the legislative education committees, the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education, the South Carolina Technical College System and First Steps;
 - Continuing to employ formal and informal advisory groups representing parents, educators and business and civic leaders;
 - Providing information for and connections among those building community infrastructure in support of higher student achievement; and
 - Collaborating with informal education providers to encourage extended learning programs sponsored by civic, community and faith-based groups.
4. Increase the impact of communications to focus attention on achievement of the 2010 goal and heighten awareness of the value of educational achievement for all South Carolinians.
5. (to be reviewed in December 2007) Promote innovations and foster urgency to accelerate improvements in student, school and state performance.