

State Board addresses strategic plan, DOR rules; delays action on third-grade reading benchmark

At its June meeting, the State Board of Education voted to adopt the recently developed five-year strategic plan for education beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

A key feature of the plan are three “core principles” of equity, partnerships, and quality schools aimed at promoting continued education (beyond high school), earning a living wage or serving in the military within a year of graduation.

The State Board also approved stricter administrative rules for dropout prevention and recovery (DOR) school report cards and an increase in the percentage of students required to participate in DOR programs (see June issue of *BCHF Sponsor Update* for details).

The Achievement and Graduation Requirements Committee of the State Board considered raising the bar on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee score to designate student proficiency. Although state law requires increased target scores over time, the committee was unable to reach consensus on the proposal to raise the proficient score from the current 672, to 677 for the 2018-2019 school year.

The committee was expected to vote on the recommendation at its June meeting, placing the issue on the voting agenda for the full State Board in July. Laura Kohler, an at-large board member who chairs the committee, suggested that the board should take a broader look at “how we’re going to get to (a score of) 700” – as required by state law – and how long it will take to do so. She said committee members who do not support the proposed increase to 677 must provide ODE staff with a rationale for a different proposal.