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Northwestern Ohio Education Association

NEWSLETTER

September, 2001

101 West Sandusky – Suite 302 • PO Box 1042 • Findlay, Ohio 45839 • Tel: 800-366-9632 • Fax: 419-422-3417

NEA Delegates Agree to Partnership with AFT

Delegates to this year's national Representative Assembly approved a partnership agreement with the American Federation of Teachers. The NEAFT partnership shall provide the two organizations with a common front in dealing with critical educational and social issues. It shall also advocate, support and coordinate mutually agreed upon national, state, regional, and local activities. The NEAFT Partnership shall be directed by a joint council, which shall be composed of 15 representatives from each organization, including the executive committees of each organization.

The activities of the NEAFT Partnership shall be jointly funded and staffed by the AFT and NEA, and the council shall meet at least three times per year. The AFT and NEA shall be responsible for their own expenses and

staff assignments.

The NEAFT Partnership shall establish clear measures of accountability and explicit checkpoints at which the organizations shall assess progress of joint activities and change direction as needed. As a result of the passage of the partnership agreement, the previously agreed upon jurisdictional (no-raid) agreement with AFT became policy.

A related business item dealt with the expenses Wisconsin incurred when it merged with the Minnesota Federation of Teachers in 1998. In a 3,682-3,179 vote, conducted by roll call, delegates decided to release Education Minnesota from its obligation to pay NEA an outstanding balance of approximately \$1,675,000. Next year's NEA RA will be held in Dallas, Texas

State Proficiency Tests

With the passage of Senate Bill 1 this summer a new series of testing will be done in the state of Ohio which will not contain the word 'proficiency' in their title. Replacing the old proficiency tests will be a new set of achievement tests which will have four levels of passage: advanced, proficient, basic and a below basic level of skill. These levels will apply to all grade level tests with the exception of the tenth grade. All attempts will be made to have the Ohio tests scored by Ohio firms using Ohio citizens.

Three of the goals given in this new law are increases in Ohio college test scores (ACT and SAT) and entrance rates to college and the reduction in the need for remediation classes for those students entering their freshman year.

continued on page 8

NEA RA Tackles Many Issues

Approximately 9,000 NEA Representative Assembly delegates were faced with several important issues while meeting at the Los Angeles Convention Center in Los Angeles July 4-7. Among them were positions on charter schools, federally mandated testing, the restoration of estate taxes, merit pay and a partnership agreement with AFT (see NEA Delegates Agree to Partnership with AFT).

Delegates adopted new charter school guidelines to be used by educators, policy makers and parents in evaluating state charter school laws. The policy, drafted by a special committee made up of NEA officials, educators and charter school experts, provides principles for ensuring taxpayer funded charter schools are held to the same instructional standards as other mainstream public schools.

The NEA legislative program now

states our opposition to "federal requirements to make significant decisions about schools, teachers, or children based primarily on test scores." Too many states "create high-stakes tests based on one single criterion, meaning one size fits all, and high-priority students are most affected," pointed out Massachusetts Delegate Stephen Gorrie. He said the better ways to close the national achievement gap include smaller class sizes, early kindergarten and expanded early childhood education, quality professional development, and "assessments through multiple measures." Believing that estate taxes only affect 2% of the nation's families while public schools affect far more, NEA delegates voted to support the restoration of estate taxes, which have been used to fund schools.

continued on page 3



Christi (left) and Shayla Thomas, daughters of NWOEA President Angela Thomas and husband Shayne are pictured with OEA outgoing President Mike Billirakis. The girls were on hand in Los Angeles during the 2001 NEA RA to help campaign during Billirakis' successful election bid for a seat on the NEA Executive Committee. He will fill an unexpired one-year term.

Is Your Job Affected by Politics?

A letter from President Angela

If you answered "No" to the headline question, please reconsider. Then ask how you can influence those who affect your job. At a conference recently, Robert L. Wehling, Vice-Chair for the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards said, "Legislators respond to what they hear from their constituents." He shared a conversation with one of his own legislators. The legislator concurred with Wehling's position, but followed with, "but my phone's not ringing off the hook with calls from my constituents."



Again this year, NWOEA will continue to plan and coordinate grassroots efforts to get our members to the state house to meet and discuss with their legislators items that concern schools, students, and teachers. Meeting legislators during the legislative session is just one of the opportunities teachers have. Attending events such as town meetings within their home districts is another part of grassroots efforts. Since it is a long process, it provides an excellent opportunity for everyone to participate in it.

People have asked me, "What do you say to teachers who think that their job is not affected by the political system?" Here are some of my responses: There is no body which has a greater impact on every single phase of education in the state than the state legislature. Their fingerprints are on everything from our initial employment contract to our last retirement check. They figure everything: from what we teach, how long we will work each day in our schools, to how many pupils we will teach each day. When we fail to speak up on behalf of children and our profession, we allow the voices of their lesser interests to be magnified by our silence.

Legislators need to know that teachers are on the front lines. We need to

communicate with them directly. They must make sure that we teachers have tools necessary to do our jobs of teaching the children. When the House is in session, they make countless policy changes that impact our workplace. They can't make an informed decision without our professional input. Being active should be a part of everyone's professional career.

Whether a particular educator is liberal or conservative in their views, their career is directly affected by governmental politics. State government is currently being bombarded with demands to re-evaluate our public education process. Issues such as: funding or not funding certain programs; accountability; standardized testing; and options to public schools are all subject to legislative action. Communicating directly with your legislators is crucial. I believe that it should be in a positive atmosphere and that it is important for educators to become involved. Now.

Plato once said, "The fewer of us who become involved in governing results in our being governed by our inferiors." Sadly, he may have been correct.

This year, I encourage each and everyone one of you to become actively involved in the political process. It is absolutely critical for us to express our views by writing or calling our legislators and/or attending events sponsored by NWOEA and OEA such as their meetings and forums. Not only is it important for our profession, but it's much more important for our Northwestern Ohio children.



members. The training program was designed to inform and educate local leadership about OEA's strategic plan and new delivery service, as well as the duties and responsibilities of the elected leaders at the local level.

Please contact the NWOEA Center if you would like more information about how your UniServ can receive an NWOEA Professional Development Grant.

NWOEA RETIRED

NWOEA Retired wants to serve the active members of NWOEA as well as those who have retired. At the NWOEA Fall Workshop our committee will have a speaker who is knowledgeable about the new prescription company that STRS has chosen and you can find out what differences to expect. Also we will have information on the many cost saving benefits from NEA for active AND retired members. At the NWOEA Spring Workshop we will have a "COUNT DOWN TO RETIREMENT * * * WHAT TO DO, WHEN." This will be a "how to get ready" program for those thinking about retirement.

To make suggestions for programs that would be of interest to you call the NWOEA Center (1-800-366-9632). To join us as a pre-retired or retired person, complete the following form, sign a check and mail to NWOEA at 101 W. Sandusky St., Suite 302, Findlay, OH 45840.

See you soon, Sandy Wasielewski, NWOEA-R Chairperson

Name _____

Address _____

Local _____

Date of Retirement _____

Home Phone _____

Subject Taught _____

Yearly dues are \$5.00, lifetime dues are \$35.00 before September 1st, and

NWOEA Professional Development Grants Available to UniServs

In attendance at the Kaleidoscope UniServ workshop on August 1, 2001 were: (from left to right) Barb Auck, Wynford Education Association (NCOEA), Jennifer Bupp, Hopewell Loudon, and Jill Schlarb, Hopewell Loudon. Jennifer and Jill, both second year teachers, are the Co-Presidents of the Hopewell Loudon Education Association for the coming year.

Kaleidoscope used a Professional Development Grant funded by NWOEA to present a workshop entitled "OEA: Strategies for the Future" to their members. The training program was designed to inform and educate local leadership about OEA's strategic plan and new delivery service, as well as the duties and responsibilities of the elected leaders at the local level.

Please contact the NWOEA Center if you would like more information about how your UniServ can receive an NWOEA Professional Development Grant.

NWOWEA Members Attend OEA Lobby Day

At least twice a year OEA offers its members an opportunity to travel to Columbus for an organized day of visiting with and speaking to legislators about education issues.



Pictured are a group of NWOEA members who made the trip to Columbus on March 21, 2001 to speak out for education. Front row (from left): Dianne Carter, Lima; Rose Phillips, Lima; Sandy McCaslin (seated), Lima; and Senator Jim Jordan. Back row (from left): Tim Myers, Elida; Patty Castle, Lima; Debi Mullins, Lima; Joan Kline, WOEAE retired; Chris Myers, Central OEA; Richard Stotts, Lima; and Diane Streeter, Bellevue.

NWOWEA Sponsors LPDC Workshop

NWOWEA is sponsoring a workshop for Local Professional Development Committees on Nov. 3 at the Findlay Inn, 200 E. Main Cross, Findlay. The workshop will be led by Education Reform Consultant Karen Fulton of OEA and will center on three issues which should currently be of concern to the committees: the development and use of a rubric to evaluate an LPDC, the development of a State Advisory Council and a discussion of the impact of the elimination of the Professional Development Block Grants. All members of the committee are welcome to attend.

Registration is at 8:30 a.m. with the actual workshop to begin at 9:00 a.m. and end approximately at 11:30 a.m. Coffee and rolls will be served during registration. The workshop is being offered free of charge.

Name _____
 Address _____

 Home Phone _____
 School Phone _____
 Local _____
 Email _____

Mail to NWOEA, 101 W. Sandusky Suite 302, P.O. Box 1042, Findlay, OH 45839. **RETURN BY OCTOBER 26, 2001.**

NEA RA Tackles Many issues continued from page 1

The newly revised NEA resolutions reaffirm the Association's opposition to merit or performance pay systems. But they stress that any system that provides additional compensation beyond that provided by a single salary schedule should meet rigid criteria--one of which rules out additional compensation based on an employee evaluation, student performance, or attendance.

Being picketed was a new experience for many of the delegates. At issue was a proposal dealing with the development of programs that would provide a safe and inclusive environment for those of differing sexual orientation. Through education it was hoped that the stigma surrounding this issue would be lessened and no child or young adult would be bullied, beaten or ostracized because of their orientation. The proposal was withdrawn by the Resolution Committee and a task force is being set up to look into issues dealing with sexual orientation.

For more details on the RA visit the NEA site at www.nea.org.

NWOWEA Delegates Attend 2001 NEA RA



Pictured are delegates who attended the NEA RA in Los Angeles in July. First row (from left): Tim Myers, Elida; Dick Ehret, TAWLS; Karla Ruth, OSEA; Angela Thomas, Seneca East; Don Traxler, OEA-R; and Wally Fraker, Napoleon. Second row (from left): Marj Castanien, Northeastern; Tom Smathers, Bowling Green; Diane Streeter, Bellevue; Cathay Martin, TAWLS; and Jeremy Neff, OSEA. Third Row (from left): Angela Smith, Fremont; Dianne Carter, Lima; Sharon Carr, Lima; Melinda King, Lima; and Lynn Lawrence, Leipsic. Not pictured are Sandy Willier, TAWLS and Laurie Gillis, Fremont.



NWOEA Fall Workshop

The NWOEA Professional Development Committee will again be sponsoring a district wide workshop at the University of Findlay on Tuesday, October 2. Attendees will have an opportunity to meet and talk with OEA's new president and vice-president, Gary Allen and Patricia Frost-Brooks. The workshop is open to all OEA members in the Northwest district and education students in their senior year of college. In addition to a delicious meal there will be five workshops from which to choose.

A selection that would be very good for new teachers and college students would be one presented by Candace Henderson of the University of Findlay who will be speaking on Child Abuse; how to recognize it, how to deal with the abused child, and the steps you need to take in reporting it.

For those associations who will be negotiating this year a session will be offered on contract evaluation--how and where to look for weaknesses and strengths. This will be an interactive session led by

Carrie Smolik who is an LRC for S.H.O.E.S UniServ Council.

"Writing an IPDP Right-the first time!" will be a session led by Eugene Norris of the Ohio Department of Education. Mr. Norris has been active in the development of the LPDC program for many years.

For those members who are nearing, or already in, retirement, there will be a session centering on STRS and insurance, particularly prescription drug plans.

Chris Lopez of OEA's legal department and Chris Rearden of Kalnitz, Iorio and Feldstein will be presenting a session centering around current legal issues that should be of concern to NWOEA members including how the issue of child abuse can be turned against teachers.

NWOEA workshops are open to all teachers in the NWOEA area. They are encouraged to bring their student teachers or spread the word to their local colleges. Registration may be done on-line or by using the registration form included at the bottom of the flier.

When: Tuesday, October 2, 2001 • 5:15 - 8:30 p.m.

Where: University of Findlay
Alumni Memorial Union

Time: 5:15 - 5:45	Registration/ Hors d'oeuvres
5:45 - 6:45	Dinner
6:45 - 7:00	Break
7:00 - 8:30	Break-out Session

Cost: \$8.00 for teachers and OEA-R members
\$4.00 for college students



Choose one:

- A. Writing an IPDP Right - the First Time
- B. Contract Evaluation
- C. Child Abuse
- D. Current Legal Issues in Education
- E. STRS/Insurance - What's New

Eugene Norris, Ohio Department of Education
 Carrie Smolik, S.H.O.E.S. Labor Relations Consultant
 Candace Henderson, University of Findlay
 Chris Reardon, Kalnitz, Iorio, and Feldstein
 Chris Lopez, OEA Legal Department
 Belinda Shaw, STRS Enrollee Advocate Team Leader
 Shelia Llewellyn, STRS Asst. Director of Internal Operation



NWOEA Fall Workshop Registration Form

Your Name _____ Local Association _____

Your Address _____ Phone _____
Street City Zip

Small Group Session: _____

Please return this registration form & your check (made payable to NWOEA) to the
NWOEA Center, PO Box 1042, Findlay, Ohio 45839
Questions?? Call 1-800-36-NWOEA

REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2001 • You may register online at www.nwoea.com

NWOWEA Executive Committee and Committee Chairs



Angela Falter-Thomas
President
Seneca East



Marjorie Castanien
Vice President
PDC Chair
Northeastern Local



Marlene Garrett
Secretary
Washington Local



Laura Herroon
Unit 1
Swanton



Jeffrey Nichols
Unit 1
Bowling Green



Rosetta Neese
Unit 1
Washington Local



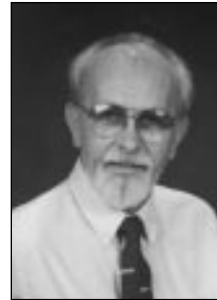
Stephanie Croy
Unit II
Delphos



Melinda King
Unit II
Lima City



Jerry Oberhaus
Unit II
Awards Chair
Liberty Center



Don Law
Unit III
Resolutions Chair
Findlay City



Roberta Neff
Unit III
Kenton City



Angela Smith
Unit III
Fremont City



Tom Smathers
Unit I OEA Rep
Bowling Green



Michael Jordan
Unit II OEA Rep
Bath



Diane Streeter
Unit III OEA Rep
Bellevue



Tim Myers
NEA Director #6
IAC & Nominating Chair
Elida



Muriel Stevens
OEA Retired Rep



Karen Detert
Executive
Director/Treasurer
Budget Chair



Steve Brown
Constitution & Bylaws
Chair
OEA-R



Rita Croy
Convention Planning
Chair
NWOWEA-R



Cindy Norman
Credentials Chair
Margaretta



Mary Hart
Fundraising Chair
Gibsonburg



Debi Mullins
Public Relations Chair
Lima City



Sandy Wasielewski
NWOWEA-Retired Chair
NWOWEA-R



Emilee Whetstone
Scholarship Chair
Riverdale

At press time, vacancies existed in the following executive committee seats: At-Large Minority Representative, At-Large School Support Personnel Representative and Ohio Student Education Association Consultant.

NWEOA MAKES PUBLIC RELATIONS GRANT MONEY AVAILABLE TO LOCALS

NWEOA awards grants of up to \$400 to locals that meet qualifying requirements. Grant money should be used to benefit the local membership in the form of professional development or public relations. No money is awarded to locals for student scholarship programs. The grants are awarded on first come first served basis until the allocated funding of \$10,800 had been depleted. For the first time this year a local will have an opportunity to apply for additional money if it can be shown that the project they have in mind requires additional funding and there is a surplus of grant money after all the applications received have been evaluated.

The requirements for receiving the grant are as follows: 1) Each local must have elected delegate(s) to the Fall 2001 and Spring 2002 OEA Representative Assemblies and the Spring 2002 NWEOA Representative Assembly (these delegates must be present and voting at the three assemblies); 2) Each local must show evidence of a successful EPAC drive for the 2001-02 school year; 3) Each local must have members in attendance at two NWEOA events which include the fall workshop, spring workshop, and awards banquet; and 4) Documentation of the local's project with pictures, a write up in the form of a news article, and receipts must be submitted to the Public Relations Committee within 30 days after the completion of the grant project.

Public Relations Grant applications will be sent to local presidents in September. A grant application may also be obtained by calling the NWEOA Center at 1-800-366-9632. Grant applications are due back to the NWEOA center by November 15, 2001.

Kenton Education Association used its NWEOA Public Relations Grant money to purchase 40 writing software programs to be shared in each elementary building in the district. Roberta Neff, Espy teacher and grant writer (left) and Judy Dorsey, former KEA President (right) are shown below with third graders Robert Cole and Kelcy Moore as they work on new software purchased with the grant. The software is



designed to appeal to children's creativity in writing, thus boosting writing scores toward proficiency testing.

For the second year in a row Fremont Education Association used its NWEOA Public Relations money to sponsor a booth at the Northcoast Expo held at the Terra Community College during March 17 and



18, 2001. The booth was organized by Sue Badertscher and Penny Deffenbaugh and manned by different teachers throughout the two-day event. By displaying pictures and work of the students the public was made more aware of what public education is doing in the Fremont community. The volunteers also distributed suckers and pencils to those in attendance.

On March 2, 2001 Lima Education Association (LEA) used a portion of its Public Relations Grant to present to 17 new parents at the two Lima hospitals a packet containing the books "Cat and the Hat" and "Cat and the Hat Comes Back." Pictured on page 8 with their 'Cat in the Hat' caps on are LEA member Jackie Blosser (left) and LEA President Debi Mullins (far right) with one of the Lima parents and baby. The program is designed to promote the importance of reading with your children.

A One-Stop Resource for the Wise Educator - OWL.org

Adapted from NEA RA Today, July 5 edition

Coming this fall, teachers will have a new tool to help make their life easier. Get ready for Owl.org, NEA's 'One-stop Web Location' for education.

NEA Secretary-Treasurer Dennis Van Roekel says Owl.org -- unlike the current Web sites or printed documents -- will allow members to communicate directly with others throughout the Association and share their expertise member-to-member.

"How could you ever think of an owl without thinking of someone who is wise?" asks Van Roekel. "The collective knowledge of our 2.6 million peers is immense."

Members who use Owl.org won't have to search the complex World Wide

Web to find that one nugget of information just right for them. This new electronic network promises to deliver individualized content based on members' personal and professional needs -- whether it's writing lesson plans as a classroom teacher or presenting materials via the Internet as a higher education member.

The site will require use registration and offer a closed environment for participants. Colorado delegate Beverly Ingle, a sixth grade social studies teacher, considers the added privacy a plus. "We'll be able to communicate more freely and not have to

worry about people who are not supportive of NEA."

Illinois delegate Jeri Stodola has worked in computer support for 10 years.

Technology is a big part of her job and her professional life. "I see

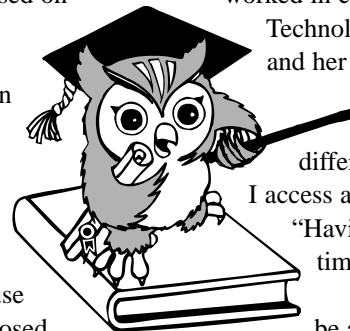
Owl.org as an opportunity to unify a lot of the

different kinds of information that I access all the time," she says.

"Having it in one spot will be a big timesaver."

Professional development will be another major component of

Owl.org. "Our educational support personnel have told us consistently that they want and need professional development," said Van Roekel. "We have a real opportunity to fill that void."



Annual Retreat Held for Members of NWOEA Executive Committee

The NWOEA Executive Committee held their annual retreat at the Zelkova Country Manor on June 14. A combination working and social retreat, they recommended the rehiring of Karen Detert as Executive Director during their business meeting. They also recommended approval of committee appointments and the calendar for the 2001-2002 year.

Other items discussed were evaluations of the Spring Representative Assembly and the surveys distributed there. Committee chairs were given the opportunity to discuss their plans for the upcoming year. A report on the spring bus trip was given as well as plans for future trips. Dennis Reardon, OEA Executive Director, gave a report on the changes in the delivery of services to OEA local associations. He provided brochures which will be used by individual members, local associations and LRC's to profile the locals strengths and weaknesses in the areas of goal setting, leadership development and effectiveness, bargaining and contract enforcement, local political action, professional development, and community involvement. Local leaders and association members may each complete the questionnaire to gauge the effectiveness of the local in meeting member needs and alignment with OEA's goals.

The rest of the afternoon was spent trying out team building activities led by Heather Weinandy of Tiffin, and listening to Rod Kagy, owner of American Institute of Massotherapy, Tiffin, who talked about maintaining good health through diet and relaxation techniques. Members were treated to a five minute massage while listening to Rod speak.

Regional Coordinating Council Trained in Collaborative Decision Making

The second meeting of the Region 4 Coordinating Council was held August 8 at the Pioneer Mill in Tiffin. This all day meeting centered on training in Collaborative Decision Making led by the Federal Mediation Conciliation Service. In other business a draft of the proposed constitution was presented by the constitution committee for approval. An election of officers will be held at the next meeting on September 4 at the Pioneer Mill.

The Regional Coordinating Council combines Northwestern OEA with North Central OEA for the purposes of delivering OEA services. The Council is responsible for identifying the needs of members in this region through surveys, setting goals and implementing programs that would best meet those needs as well as meeting the priorities set by OEA. A program assessment will be carried out each year to ascertain the meeting of those goals. Joanne Gay is the Region 4 Director and is working out of the Lexington office.



The winning team of the scavenger hunt held at the NWOEA Exec. Committee Retreat are: (left to right): Stephanie Croy, Delphos; Rita Croy, NWOEA-R; Muriel Stevens, NWOEA-R; Tim Myers, Elida Local; and Michele Joliff and Debi Mullins of Lima City Schools.



Gary Allen, OEA President, and Dennis Reardon, OEA Executive Director, (both standing), are seen talking with (from left to right): Laura Herroon, Swanton; Mary Hart, Gibsonburg Local; Jeremy Neff, Ohio Student Education Association Consultant; and Angela Smith, Fremont.

Marietta Trip A Success

NWOEA sponsored its first trip in several years. Muriel Stevens, OEA-R representative on the Executive Board of NWOEA planned and escorted the trip to Marietta, Ohio on June 9 and 10. The teachers who joined the tour had a great time. The laughter and good food, along with the interesting sights and beautiful scenery, proved to be a super way to celebrate the end of a school year.



Pictured are teachers from Upper Sandusky as they wait to be picked up on the first morning of their Marietta adventure. From left: Bonnie Castanien, Nancy Sauer, Diane Grossman, Vicki Swavel, and Sue Kitzler.

101 W. Sandusky - Suite 302
PO Box 1042
Findlay, Ohio 45839



Lima EA uses NWOEA Public Relations Grant. See article on page 6.

Non-Profit
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**State Proficiency Tests
continued from page 1**

New tests will be written after the new state standards for each area are completed. Reading, writing and math standards are in the final phases now and must be completed by Dec. 31, 2001. By Dec. 2002, standards must be completed for science and social studies.

The curricula for each of these areas must be completed within 18 months of the completion of the standards and then tests will be developed.

Third graders in the year 2003 will be given reading and writing tests. The next year as fourth graders they will take the new math test and in fifth grade will take the science test. Seventh graders in the year 2006 will take tests in reading, writing and math. Science and social studies tests will be given in eighth grade starting in 2006. A new set of graduation tests will be developed in the areas of reading, writing, math, science and citizenship/social studies and will be given at the end of tenth grade.

The new schedule for testing also includes three testing dates for third graders: once before December 31, between December 31 and the week containing May 8 and after the completion of a summer intervention program. Other grades will be tested at least once a year but no testing schedule has been determined.

Other facets of the bill contain a section on testing students who move into the district when they have been in the district 30 days. Another section requires charter schools

to test their students. A child may also be excused from taking a test on the given day if they have a valid medical excuse or other good cause, providing he/she takes the test within 9 days of the scheduled date.

For those high school students who have not passed all five of the graduation tests they must meet all of the following requirements. They must have come within 10 points of passing in an area and have letters from their teachers stating their competence in that field as well as a 2.5 point average in that subject; have an attendance rate for the four years of high school of 97%, excluding excused absences; have not been suspended or expelled in the four years; have taken advantage of any intervention programs provided with an attendance rate of 97%; and have completed the high school curriculum requirements. The State Board of Education has been directed to establish rules for determining equivalent grade point averages between school districts with different grading systems.

The law also requires the State Board of Education to recommend a plan for end of course exams aligned with the academic standards for high school classes as an alternative to passing various sections of the tenth grade test.

School grade cards will also have a new look since they will no longer be required to report passage of tests by percentages at the various grade levels. Those percentages will, however, still be used in determining the base dollar amount a district gets per student.