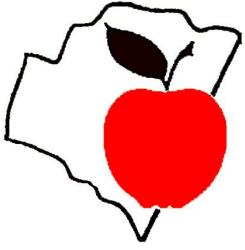


# Franklin County Schools



## Friday Update 10/29/4

**Quarterly Superintendents' Meeting:** This week I attended the Superintendents' Quarterly Meeting in Wilmington. The following are the highlights: 1) At the top of the Legislative Agenda is the restoration of the **Discretionary Cuts**. This year FCS trimmed 400k from the budget prior to board approval. If you have a chance to talk to our legislative delegation, please tell them how important the restoration is. 2) DPI reminded us that **Writing** will be part of the composite score, not part of the growth score. 3) **Exit Standards** were thoroughly discussed with some consensus. Included will be five EOCs (Algebra I, Biology, English I, Civics and U.S. History) and a senior project. If approved, Exit Standards would go into effect for the 2006 freshman class. 4) We discussed eligibility criteria for selected **Honors Courses**. The proposed recommendation would allow local flexibility within state standards. 5) DPI will propose to the State Board that the **6<sup>th</sup> grade reading score** be dropped for the 2003/2004 school year. If it is approved, it will mean that DPI will recalculate composite and growth scores and award bonuses accordingly.

**Gateways and Promotion:** Please discuss the proposed changes to the Gateway and Promotion Policy. We will finalize our recommendations at the November 10<sup>th</sup> Principals' Meeting.

**Bond Referendum:** We are in the home stretch! Franklin County citizens will make their decision on Tuesday along with many other important questions, i.e. governor and president! Lots of hard work went into the campaign. We had great volunteers, generous contributors, and enormous support from parents. Please thank your PTA/PTO and everyone who made the campaign a great success (I hope I'm not being presumptuous!).

**Custodial Evaluation:** This past week, schools received Custodial Evaluations. Some were pleased and others had issues. I appreciate all your hard work and I know you are as committed to clean schools as I am. Meanwhile, if you have questions or concerns or suggestions on how to improve the system, please call Tommy Piper or me.

**Leandro Funds (Disadvantaged Student Supplemental Funding):** Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to provide input into our plan for spending DSSF funds. On November 2<sup>nd</sup> we will be meeting with DPI to get our questions answered. I will report the results of the meeting in the next Friday Update. Meanwhile, should you have suggestions, please do not hesitate to e-mail them to me.

**North Carolina Action Plan for High School Innovation Conference:** The NC State Board of Education and the NC Department of Public Instruction invite you to the NC Action Plan for High School Innovation Conference – December 2, 2004 at the North Raleigh Hilton. The conference will provide short- and long-term strategies for high school reform. If interested, please visit the website at [www.ncpublicschools.org/newschoolsproject](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/newschoolsproject).

**PEP:** The Principals' Executive Program is offering the first of several training opportunities designed to help principals build their instructional leadership capacity. On December 3<sup>rd</sup>, PEP will offer the first training in the state using the Classroom Walkthrough (CWT) strategy as a structure to guide classroom visits and follow-up reflections. Enrollment is limited to 25 principals, so if you are interested, please contact Dr. Shirley Arrington at (919) 843-8841. (I studied examples of this strategy in Providence, Rhode Island and New York City and the strategy was successful and I was impressed.)

**Center for the Prevention of School Violence:** A parent at Bunn Middle School alerted David Hawks to an organization that works with schools to prevent gang violence. If you are interested, please call Danya Perry at 715-5966 ext. 336.

**Dropout Taskforce:** It's that time of year when many people have lots going on. No one understands that more than I do. So ... when it became obvious that many people had other pressing engagements, I cancelled the Dropout Taskforce Meeting. We will address the issue of dropouts at our next Principals' Meeting.

**Have a safe and enjoyable Halloween!**

**Bert**

**P.S. How about those Red Sox!**