

Framework for Change

In 2008, following extensive input from the Blue Ribbon Commission on Testing and Accountability, the State Board of Education crafted the *Framework for Change* which included 27 recommendations that would dramatically alter the scope of the *Standard Course of Study*, assessments, and testing.

These 27 recommendations are grouped under three main tenants: Curriculum, Assessment, and Accountability. The NCDPI's response to the SBE's *Framework for Change* was to first "Overhaul the K-12 *Standard Course of Study* to focus on *North Carolina Essential Standards* in order to narrow and deepen the state's curriculum."

Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE)

North Carolina's Accountability and Curriculum Reform Effort (ACRE) is the state's comprehensive initiative to redefine the *Standard Course of Study* for K-12 students, the student assessment program, and the school accountability model, in response to the SBE's *Framework for Change*. In undertaking this ambitious work, North Carolina education leaders are the first in the nation to address learning standards, student assessments, and school accountability simultaneously.

The ACRE initiative will accomplish the following during the 2008-2013 five year period:

- Identify the most critical knowledge and skills that students need to learn, filtering the "must have" elements of the curriculum from the "nice to have" elements;
 - Create new student tests for grades 3-8 and high school courses that use more open-ended questions, more technology and real-world applications of what students learn; and
 - Provide a new model for measuring school success to inform parents and educators about how well schools are preparing students for college, work and adulthood.
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