

A. The findings and conclusions set forth herein are hereby entered by this Court and incorporated into the record of this case;

B. The time has come for the State Defendants to work expeditiously and without delay to take all necessary actions to create and fully implement the following:

1. A system of teacher development and recruitment that ensures each classroom is staffed with a high-quality teacher who is supported with early and ongoing professional learning and provided competitive pay;
2. A system of principal development and recruitment that ensures each school is led by a high-quality principal who is supported with early and ongoing professional learning and provided competitive pay;
3. A finance system that provides adequate, equitable, and predictable funding to school districts and, importantly, adequate resources to address the needs of all North Carolina schools and students, especially at-risk students as defined by the *Leandro* decisions;
4. An assessment and accountability system that reliably assesses multiple measures of student performance against the *Leandro* standard and provides accountability consistent with the *Leandro* standard;
5. An assistance and turnaround function that provides necessary support to low-performing schools and districts;
6. A system of early education that provides access to high-quality prekindergarten and other early childhood learning opportunities to ensure that all students at-risk of educational failure, regardless of where they live in the State, enter kindergarten on track for school success; and
7. An alignment of high school to postsecondary and career expectations, as well as the provision of early postsecondary and workforce learning opportunities, to ensure student readiness to all students in the State.

C. To keep the Court fully informed as to the remedial progress, the Parties are hereby ordered to submit a status report to the Court (a joint report if all Parties agree, and individual reports if the Parties do not) no later than 60 days from the date of this Order setting out the following:

1. Specific actions that the State Defendants must implement in 2020 to begin to address the issues identified by WestEd and described herein and the seven components set forth above;

2. A date by which the State Defendants, in consultation with each other and the Plaintiffs, will submit to the Court additional, mid-range actions that should be implemented, including specific actions that must be taken, a timeframe for implementation, and an estimate of resources in addition to current funding, if any, necessary to complete those actions.
3. A date by which the State Defendants, in consultation with each other and the Plaintiffs, will submit to the Court a comprehensive remedial plan (“the Plan”) to provide all public school children the opportunity for a sound basic education, including specific long-term actions that must be taken, a timeframe for implementation, an estimate of resources in addition to current funding, if any, necessary to complete those actions, and a proposal for monitoring implementation and assessing the outcomes of the plan.


D. The State Defendants shall identify the State actors and institutions responsible for implementing specific actions and components of the proposed Plan.

E. The Parties may consult with WestEd and each other in the development of the short and longer-term remedial measures, as may be needed.

F. This Order may not be modified except by further Order of this Court.

G. The Court retains jurisdiction over this matter and the Parties.

This the 21st day of January, 2020


The Honorable W. David Lee
North Carolina Superior Court Judge