

Lt. Governor Forest Statement on the NCSBE Decision Impacting 461,000 N.C. Students

Raleigh, NC

Apr 1,
2020

In response to the State Board of Education's decision to pause its contract with Istation, Lt. Governor Dan Forest releases the following statement:

"The decision made by the State Board of Education last week was not in the best interest of our students. At a time when we should be doing everything we can to provide stability and continuity in the distance learning plans for students in our state, this action does not.

"This decision sends mixed signals to parents, teachers and school districts on what our expectations should be for our students. When we have a Board of Education advocating for waivers from the General Assembly to eliminate benchmark diagnostics, it makes it seem as though learning at home is not necessary when students are out of school. I, for one, will not advocate for blanket waivers for our students. I am very interested to see how students learn and progress during distance learning, but you cannot gather a true understanding of how students grew (or didn't) by eliminating diagnostic tools during this COVID-19 statewide school closure. Diagnostic tools, like Istation, show parents and teachers how much a student has grown in a subject by continually tracking the student's progress, rather than administering a standardized EOG test.

"Finally, the guidance in the State Board's own document for distance learning stated that 'When remote learning occurs in grades K-5, LEAs/Charters will provide meaningful feedback to promote student growth.' By not continuing the contract, the SBE decided to not proceed with the only statewide resource/tool for systematically measuring the reading progress of all 461,441 students, kindergarten through 3rd grade.

"During these uncertain times, it is more important than ever for the State Board of Education to provide certainty for parents, teachers and school districts. I had hoped the Board's decision of discontinuing the state's system to track the reading achievement of K-3 students would be reversed after significant conversations over the last several days among DPI staff, educators from across the state, and board members. However, it now seems that the original decision will most likely stand.

Still, I remain hopeful a positive outcome can emerge for our students."

This press release is related to:

[Education](#)

Contact Information

Jamey Falkenbury
jamey.falkenbury@nc.gov
(919) 814-3680

Share this page:



Facebook



Twitter



Contact Information

Lieutenant Governor

Dan Forest
310 N. Blount Street
Raleigh, NC 27601
P: (919) 814-3680

Latest Tweets

Tweets by [@LtGovDanForest](#)

Follow Us



Facebook



Flickr



Twitter



YouTube

