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TO: Board of Education
FROM: Dale Ellis
DATE: January 6, 2014
SUBJ: INFORMATION ITEM (NC Final Exam Waivers)

One concern we hear is about the number of tests that students are required to take under the North Carolina Testing Program. Some tests can be waived if we have tests in place to judge student and teacher performance in other subjects. In other words, if we have a 7th grade ELA/Social Studies teacher, we can waive the social studies test for that teacher because students have to take the ELA test in 7th grade anyway.

After a careful review, we have identified several tests that can be waived and we have submitted that request to DPI. It is our hope that we can continue to reduce tests when we have ample performance data for our students and teachers. The following tests will be waived this year:

Grade Four Social Studies
Grade Four Science
Grade Five Social Studies
Grade Six Social Studies
Grade Six Science
Grade Seven Social Studies
Grade Seven Science
Grade Eight Social Studies
Earth/Environmental Science
Physical Science
Physics
Fourth Math (Advanced Functions and Modeling, Discrete Mathematics and Pre-Calculus)

Students may have final exams in these classes but they will not be the state standardized test. They would be teacher-based tests. This information is just an FYI for you and the general public and requires no action.

I am available to answer any questions you might have.