

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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**GOV. EASLEY DISCUSSES TEACHER WORKING CONDITIONS INITIATIVE
WITH NATIONWIDE AUDIENCE**

RALEIGH – Gov. Mike Easley today participated in a live, online chat sponsored by *Education Week* magazine to discuss North Carolina’s Teacher Working Conditions Initiative. Answering questions submitted by Education Week’s 100,000-person subscriber pool, the governor addressed topics such as teacher recruitment and retention, specific use of survey results, and the importance of opening a dialogue between educators and policy makers.

“I began this initiative in 2002 to make real progress in improving teacher working conditions in North Carolina,” said Easley. “The best way to find out what our educators need is to ask them directly. That is the only way we will be able to get and keep quality teachers in every classroom in the state.”

Melissa Bartlett, 2002 N.C. Teacher of the Year, as well as Eric Hirsch and Barnett Berry, leaders of the Southeast Center for Teacher Quality, participated in the online chat. *Education Week* maintains “Talkback Live” as an open forum where readers can participate in a give-and-take discussion with a variety of guests. A transcript of today’s discussion is available online at www.edweek-chat.org.

Currently, teachers and administrators across the state are participating in the second Teacher Working Conditions Survey, available online through April 28. As of today, nearly 22,900 participants have registered their results. School results will be available online in June. Statewide comparison data will be available in the fall.

The first statewide survey was conducted in 2002. More than 42,000 teachers and administrators responded, representing 67 percent of schools, 59 percent of principals and 98 percent of school districts.

Other states are now following North Carolina’s lead in finding ways to solve teacher recruitment and retention issues. South Carolina and Georgia will use the N.C. Teacher Working Conditions Survey as their template and will administer the survey to teachers in the next few months.

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For more information on the survey and to view statewide and individual school results, visit www.learnnc.org/gov/twc.nsf.

For a digital photograph of today's event, please contact the Governor's Press Office at 919/733-5612.

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