



**Board of Education**  
Tom Roper  
Katherine Herring  
Karen Gonzales  
Kenneth I. Lanier, Jr.  
Karen Rouse

**Allison Sholar**  
Superintendent

### **Graduation Project 2009-2010**

*All students graduating from a Pender County school in 2008-09 and beyond must satisfy all state guidelines for the North Carolina Graduation Project.*

#### **The North Carolina Graduation Project consists of four components:**

1. Research Paper
  - Students choose an area of interest and focus on a specific topic. The topic must be approved by a school-based committee.
  - The length of the paper will be 6-9 pages for the body of the paper (excluding the title page and works cited page).
  - Students should complete the Graduation Project outside of class. Support for the paper will be provided during the English III course at traditional schedule schools and during the Junior Seminar course at the early college school.
  - Five sources are required for the paper, including 1 internet. Students may not use encyclopedias as sources.
  - Students will document all sources used for the paper with MLA format.
2. Product
  - Each student will select a mentor who is a Pender County Schools employee or has completed a background check with Pender County Schools and been approved by Central Office.
  - The product must have a logical link to the student's research and have real world applications.
  - The product must be a learning stretch for students, pushing them beyond anything they have tried before.
  - The product should take at least 10-15 hours to complete.
  - The student must verify the completion of the product with photos, documents, and mentor testimony.
3. Portfolio
  - The portfolio can be electronic or notebook based.
  - The following 9 documents must be included: title/cover page, table of contents, abstract/letter to the judges, interview summary, research paper final draft, product photos and documentation, mentor/advisor evaluation form, mentor/advisor meeting log, and a reflective essay.
4. Presentation
  - The length of the presentation will be 8-10 minutes not including the question and answer period.
  - Students must wear professional dress appropriate to the topic.
  - Students must demonstrate public speaking skills and deliver accurate, credible information.
  - The presentation will include: a summary of research, a description of the product, explanation of collaboration with mentor, and self-reflection about the project process.

---

925 Penderlea Highway • Burgaw, North Carolina 28425  
Telephone (910) 259-2187 • Fax (910) 259-0133  
[www.pendercountyschools.net](http://www.pendercountyschools.net)

---

***Pender County Schools . . . the future in progress***

**Scoring:**

1. State rubrics will be used for the final evaluation of each component. Schools will not assign a numeric grade to the final scoring of each component. Teachers may assign grades for drafts or parts, such as the resume, of a component.
2. Students will receive a P/F for each of the four components. These scores will appear on the student transcript. A student must achieve a P for each of the four components in order to be able to receive a diploma from a Pender County High School.
3. If students submit a component that does not meet the minimum state requirements, the students will go into the Recovery Process