

**James B. Hunt Jr.****Influence Index: 82****Date of Birth** May 16, 1937**Education** B.A. and M.S. North Carolina State University, 1959; J.D. University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 1964**Current Position** Chair, Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy**Career Highlights**

- ❑ Chair, Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy
- ❑ Chair, Institute for Emerging Issues
- ❑ Founding Chair, National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education,
- ❑ Partner, Womble, Carlyle, Sandridge & Rice Law Firm
- ❑ Governor of North Carolina (1977-1985 & 1993-2001)
- ❑ Chair, National Commission on Teaching and America's Future
- ❑ Chairman, National Education Goals Panel
- ❑ Vice Chairman, Achieve Inc. Board
- ❑ Founding Chair, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards
- ❑ Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina (1973-1977)

**Accomplishments**

- ❑ As Governor, oversaw largest statewide test score improvement in the 1990s
- ❑ Hunt's Smart Start initiative as Governor received the Innovations in American Government Award from the Ford Foundation and the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard
- ❑ Recipient of numerous awards, including the National Education Association Friend of Education Award (2005) and the Education Commission of the States James Bryant Conant Award (1984)
- ❑ Author of *First in America: An Education Governor Challenges North Carolina* (2001)

**Biographical Sketch**

James Baxter Hunt Jr. served four terms as governor of North Carolina, where he earned a reputation as an education governor. The RAND Corporation reports that North Carolina public schools improved test scores more than any other state during Hunt's tenure in the 1990s. In 1985, he co-chaired with David Hamburg the "Committee of 50" which led to the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy and eventually to the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Governor Hunt has served as chairman of the National Education Goals Panel and Vice Chairman of the board of Achieve, Inc. As Governor, he put into place one of the nation's most rigorous approaches to measuring student performance, requiring mastery for promotion and graduation, and providing assistance to turn around failing schools.

**James Hunt on teacher quality**

*"The single most important action we can take to improve our schools is to strengthen the ability, knowledge, professionalism and recognition of our teachers."*

From: "First Teachers Take National Certification Test" (AP), January 5, 1995

**Notes**

Information taken from the Hunt Institute for Educational Leadership and Policy website at [www.hunt-institute.org](http://www.hunt-institute.org) and the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education website at [www.highereducation.org](http://www.highereducation.org).