

***SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND AMENDMENTS***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-150.11(c), as enacted by Section 3J.1(a) of S.L. 2024-57, reads as rewritten:

"(c) Administrative Support. – The Department of Administration shall provide support to each school in matters related to finance, human resources, and procurement, ~~including~~ excluding support for information technology. Each school shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Administration with regard to this support. No civil liability shall attach to the Department of Administration, or to any of its employees, individually or collectively, for any acts or omissions of a school."

**SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115C-150.11 reads as rewritten:


**"§ 115C-150.11. Establishment of the schools for the deaf and blind.**

(a) Establishment. – The following are created as separate State agencies governed respectively by boards of trustees:

- (1) The Governor Morehead School for the Blind of the Department of Public Instruction for the function, purpose, and duty of serving students who are blind or visually impaired from birth to age 22. The Governor Morehead School for the Blind shall include the Governor Morehead ~~Preschool~~.Preschool and the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Vision.
- (2) The Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf of the Department of Public Instruction for the function, purpose, and duty of serving students who are deaf or hard of ~~hearing~~.hearing from birth to age 22. The Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf shall include the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing.
- (3) The North Carolina School for the Deaf of the Department of Public Instruction for the function, purpose, and duty of serving students who are deaf or hard of ~~hearing~~.hearing from birth to age 22. The North Carolina School for the Deaf shall include the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing.

...."

**SECTION #.(c)** Effective December 1, 2025, the Governor Morehead Preschool and the Early Learning Sensory Program for Vision is transferred from the Department of Instruction to the Governor Morehead School for the Blind.

 **SECTION #.(d)** Effective December 1, 2025, the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing is transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the North Carolina School for the Deaf and the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf. Upon transfer, the North Carolina School of the Deaf and the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf shall agree on a geographical boundary to divide the administrative responsibility for the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing between the two schools.

**N.C. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE  
ON  
EDUCATION**

**PROPOSED SPECIAL PROVISIONS**

**Senate Bill 257**

**May 15, 2025**

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# GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA



## SPECIAL PROVISIONS HOUSE APPROPRIATIONS, EDUCATION REPORT

**MAY 15, 2025**

Report Last Updated: May 14, 2025 4:16 p.m.

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GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H4(S6.2)i

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

***REPEAL MINORITY MALE SUCCESS INITIATIVE REPORT***

**SECTION 6.2.** G.S. 115D-58.17(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) No later than February 15, 2024, and annually thereafter, the State Board of Community Colleges shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on outcomes related to ~~the following recurring programs:~~

(1) ~~Minority male mentoring programs, including the Minority Male Success Initiative.~~

(2) ~~The~~ the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College Biotechnology Training Center and Greenhouse at the North Carolina Research Campus in Kannapolis."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H12(S6.3)-P

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

**PROPEL NC**

**SECTION 6.3.(a)** Section 8.3(b) of S.L. 2011-145 and Section 10.4(a) of S.L. 2013-360 are repealed.

**SECTION 6.3.(b)** The State Board of Community Colleges may revise its funding formula for community colleges and allocate funds under that revised formula, beginning with the 2025-2026 fiscal year. Revisions made pursuant to this section are subject to the following minimum criteria:

- (1) Each community college shall continue to receive a base allocation of funds.
- (2) In addition to the base allocation of funds, funds shall be provided to community colleges based on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) students enrolled in the following:
  - a. Curriculum, workforce continuing education, and Basic Skills courses.
  - b. Courses and programming conducted under the Customized Training Program and the Small Business Center Network.
- (3) Funds allocated pursuant to subdivision (2) of this subsection shall be weighted based on the workforce sector of each course, as determined by the State Board. In making its determinations, the State Board shall consider salary data and labor market demand for the applicable workforce sector.

**SECTION 6.3.(c)** Part 3 of Article 1 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes, as enacted by this act, is further amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115D-10.55. Course review.**

The State Board of Community Colleges shall review and revise, as necessary, its workforce sector designations for curriculum, workforce continuing education, and Basic Skills courses at community colleges by July 15, 2028, and every three years thereafter."

**SECTION 6.3.(d)** The State Board of Community Colleges may increase tuition rates to accommodate any revisions made to the funding formula pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

**SECTION 6.3.(e)** G.S. 115D-31(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) If receipts for community college tuition and fees exceed the amount certified in General Fund Codes at the end of a fiscal year, the State Board of Community Colleges ~~shall transfer the amount of receipts and fees above those budgeted to the Enrollment Growth Reserve.~~ may allocate those receipts to the community colleges for operating costs according to a formula adopted by the State Board. Funds ~~in the Enrollment Growth Reserve allocated pursuant to this subsection shall not revert to the General Fund and shall remain available to the State Board until expended. The State Board may allocate funds in this reserve to colleges experiencing an enrollment increase greater than five percent (5%) of budgeted enrollment levels.~~"

**SECTION 6.3.(f)** G.S. 115D-31 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e1) The State Board shall administer the Enrollment Increase Reserve as provided in G.S. 115D-31.4."

**SECTION 6.3.(g)** Article 3 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

1 **"§ 115D-31.4. Enrollment Increase Reserve.**

2 (a) There is established the Enrollment Increase Reserve (Reserve) to be administered by  
3 the State Board of Community Colleges. The purpose of the Reserve is to allow the State Board  
4 to provide funds to community colleges to account for enrollment increases beyond budgeted  
5 enrollment levels.

6 (b) Monies in the Reserve shall consist of funds appropriated by the General Assembly  
7 in the Current Operations Appropriations Act for a fiscal year. The State Board shall include in  
8 its annual enrollment request the appropriation to the Reserve that is needed to fund enrollment  
9 increases in the next fiscal year.

10 (c) The State Board may allocate monies from the Reserve to a community college with  
11 an eligible increase in full-time equivalent (FTE) enrollment according to a formula adopted by  
12 the State Board. An eligible increase in FTE enrollment is either of the following:

13 (1) An increase in FTE enrollment of more than five percent (5%) of the budgeted  
14 enrollment level in any of the following course categories:

15 a. Curriculum.

16 b. Workforce continuing education.

17 c. Basic Skills.

18 (2) An increase in total FTE enrollment of more than 325 students.

19 (d) Monies in the Reserve shall not revert at the end of each fiscal year but shall remain  
20 available until expended for the purposes of this section."

21 **SECTION 6.3.(h)** No later than April 1, 2027, the Community Colleges System  
22 Office shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on any revisions to  
23 its funding formula for community colleges pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, including  
24 the structure of the revised formula, the process for implementing the revised formula, and any  
25 recommended changes to the revised formula.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H14(S6.4)i

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

**NCCCS IDD WORKFORCE TRAINING EXPANSION**

**SECTION 6.4.(a)** G.S. 115D-10.21(a), as enacted by this act, reads as rewritten:

"(a) The State Board of Community Colleges shall establish a community college training program for up to ~~15~~25 community colleges. The program shall provide opportunities for micro-credentials or other credentials that lead to increased employment outcomes for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). To the extent funds are appropriated for this purpose, the program shall improve the ability of participating community colleges to offer training and educational components that include improving employability skills and providing on-the-job training and apprenticeships with business and industry for individuals with IDD. The goal of the program shall be to inform community colleges and address cross-departmental supports within the individual community colleges on programs for individuals with IDD related to at least the following:

- (1) Establishing best practices for providing vocational training for individuals with IDD.
- (2) Providing financial and benefits counseling.
- (3) Developing strategies on integrating assistive technology.
- (4) Maximizing access, with supports, to credential and degree programs, including micro-credentials that are established by the State Board.
- (5) Identifying methods to increase orientation and integration of individuals with IDD into the college community to the greatest extent possible.
- (6) Determining a needs assessment, marketing, and evaluation to serve a broad array of individuals with developmental and other similar disabilities or learning challenges to assure adequate demand for new or existing programs."

**SECTION 6.4.(b)** Of the funds appropriated for North Carolina Community Colleges System IDD Workforce Training Expansion in this act, the Community Colleges System Office shall use the funds as follows:

- (1) The sum of six hundred forty thousand dollars (\$640,000) in recurring funds shall be used to create two positions to facilitate the creation of work-based learning opportunities and be dedicated to engagement with business and industry partners statewide. These funds shall also be used for the expansion of Career and College Promise high school pathways and pre-apprenticeships and work-based learning for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
- (2) The sum of eight hundred ten thousand dollars (\$810,000) may be used for marketing evaluation, online resources, professional development, and infrastructure support.
- (3) The remaining funds shall be used to expand the program developed pursuant to G.S. 115D-10.21, as amended by this section.

**SECTION 6.4.(c)** The Community Colleges System Office shall continue to provide funds to community colleges participating in the program developed pursuant to

1 G.S. 115D-10.21, as amended by this section, at the rate of one hundred ninety-four thousand  
2 dollars (\$194,000) per participating community college.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H1(S6.5)i

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

**CHAPTER 115D REORGANIZATION**

**SECTION 6.5.(a)** Article 1 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Article 1.

"General Provisions for State Administration.

"Part 1. Establishment and Administration of the North Carolina Community Colleges System.

**"§ 115D-1. Statement of purpose.**

The purposes of this Chapter are to provide for the establishment, organization, and administration of a system of educational institutions throughout the State offering courses of instruction in one or more of the general areas of two-year college parallel, technical, vocational, and adult education programs, to serve as a legislative charter for such institutions, and to authorize the levying of local taxes and the issuing of local bonds for the support thereof. The major purpose of each and every institution operating under the provisions of this Chapter shall be and shall continue to be the offering of vocational and technical education and training, and of basic, high school level, academic education needed in order to profit from vocational and technical education, for students who are high school graduates or who are beyond the compulsory age limit of the public school system and who have left the public schools, provided, juveniles of any age committed to the Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety by a court of competent jurisdiction may, if approved by the director of the youth development center to which they are assigned, take courses offered by institutions of the system if they are otherwise qualified for admission.

The Community Colleges System Office is designated as the primary lead agency for delivering workforce development training, adult literacy training, and adult education programs in the State.

...

~~"§ 115D-1.3. Accreditation of secondary school located in North Carolina shall not be a factor in admissions, loans, scholarships, or other educational policies.~~

(a) For purposes of this section, the term "accreditation" shall include certification or any other similar approval process.

(b) ~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy that prohibits any community college from soliciting or using information regarding the accreditation of a secondary school located in North Carolina that a person attended as a factor affecting admissions, loans, scholarships, or other educational activity at the community college, unless the accreditation was conducted by a State agency.~~

...

~~"§ 115D-4.1. College transfer program approval; standards for programs; annual reporting requirements.~~

(a) Repealed by Session Laws 1995, c. 288, s. 1, effective September 1, 1995.

(b) ~~The State Board of Community Colleges may approve the addition of the college transfer program to a community college. If addition of the college transfer program to an~~

1 institution would require a substantial increase in funds, State Board approval shall be subject to  
2 appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose.

3 (c) ~~Addition of the college transfer program shall not decrease an institution's ability to~~  
4 ~~provide programs within its basic mission of vocational and technical training and basic academic~~  
5 ~~education.~~

6 (d) ~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop appropriate criteria and~~  
7 ~~standards to regulate the addition of the college transfer program to institutions.~~

8 (e) ~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop appropriate criteria and~~  
9 ~~standards to regulate the operation of college transfer programs.~~

10 (f) ~~The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall report to each~~  
11 ~~community college and to the State Board of Community Colleges in accordance with~~  
12 ~~G.S. 116-11(10b) on the academic performance of that community college's transfer students. If~~  
13 ~~the State Board of Community Colleges finds that college transfer students from a community~~  
14 ~~college are not consistently performing adequately at a four year college, the Board shall review~~  
15 ~~the community college's program and determine what steps are necessary to remedy the problem.~~  
16 ~~The Board shall report annually to the General Assembly on the reports it receives and on what~~  
17 ~~steps it is taking to remedy problems that it finds.~~

18 (g) ~~The Community Colleges System Office shall report by April 15, 2011, and annually~~  
19 ~~thereafter, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the State Board of Education,~~  
20 ~~the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General~~  
21 ~~Assembly on the implementation of the UNC NCCCS 2+2 E Learning Initiative. This report~~  
22 ~~shall include:~~

- 23 (1) ~~The courses and programs within the 2+2 E Learning Initiative;~~
- 24 (2) ~~The total number of prospective teachers that have taken or are taking part in~~  
25 ~~this initiative to date broken down by the current academic period and each of~~  
26 ~~the previous academic periods since the program's inception;~~
- 27 (3) ~~The total number of teachers currently in the State's classrooms, by local~~  
28 ~~school administrative unit, who have taken part in this initiative;~~
- 29 (4) ~~The change in the number of teachers available to schools since the program's~~  
30 ~~inception;~~
- 31 (5) ~~The qualitative data from students, teachers, local school administrative unit~~  
32 ~~personnel, university personnel, and community college personnel as to the~~  
33 ~~impact of this initiative on our State's teaching pool; and~~
- 34 (6) ~~An explanation of the expenditures and collaborative programs between the~~  
35 ~~North Carolina Community College System and The University of North~~  
36 ~~Carolina, including recommendations for improvement.~~

37 **~~"§ 115D-5. Administration of institutions by State Board of Community Colleges;~~**  
38 **~~personnel exempt from North Carolina Human Resources Act; extension~~**  
39 **~~courses; tuition waiver; in-plant training; contracting, etc., for establishment~~**  
40 **~~and operation of extension units of the community college system; use of existing~~**  
41 **~~public school facilities.~~**

42 (a) ~~The State Board of Community Colleges may adopt and execute such policies,~~  
43 ~~regulations and standards concerning the establishment, administration, and operation of~~  
44 ~~institutions as the State Board may deem necessary to insure the quality of educational programs,~~  
45 ~~to promote the systematic meeting of educational needs of the State, and to provide for the~~  
46 ~~equitable distribution of State and federal funds to the several institutions.~~

47 ~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall establish standards and scales for salaries and~~  
48 ~~allotments paid from funds administered by the State Board, and all employees of the institutions~~  
49 ~~shall be exempt from the provisions of the North Carolina Human Resources Act. Any and all~~  
50 ~~salary caps set by the State Board for community college presidents shall apply only to the~~  
51 ~~State paid portion of the salary. Except as otherwise provided by law, the employer contribution~~



1 rate on the local paid portion of the salary, to be paid from local funds, shall be set by the State  
2 Treasurer based on actuarial recommendations. The State Board shall have authority with respect  
3 to individual institutions: to approve sites, capital improvement projects, budgets; to approve the  
4 selection of the chief administrative officer; to establish and administer standards for professional  
5 personnel, curricula, admissions, and graduation; to regulate the awarding of degrees, diplomas,  
6 and certificates; to establish and regulate student tuition and fees within policies for tuition and  
7 fees established by the General Assembly; and to establish and regulate financial accounting  
8 procedures.

9 The State Board of Community Colleges shall require each community college to meet the  
10 faculty credential requirements of its accrediting agency for all community college programs.

11 (a1) Notwithstanding G.S. 66-58(c)(3) or any other provisions of law, the State Board of  
12 Community Colleges may adopt rules governing the expenditure of funds derived from bookstore  
13 sales by community colleges. These expenditures shall be consistent with the mission and  
14 purpose of the Community College System. Profits may be used in the support and enhancement  
15 of the bookstores, for student aid or scholarships, for expenditures of direct benefit to students,  
16 and for other similar expenditures authorized by the board of trustees, subject to rules adopted  
17 by the State Board. These funds shall not be used to supplement salaries of any personnel.

18 (a2) The State Board of Community Colleges shall comply with the provisions of  
19 G.S. 116-11(10a) to plan and implement an exchange of information between the public schools  
20 and the institutions of higher education in the State.

21 (a3) The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt the following rules to assist  
22 community colleges in their administration of procedures necessary to implement G.S. 20-11 and  
23 G.S. 20-13.2:

- 24 (1) To establish the procedures a person who is or was enrolled in a community  
25 college must follow and the requirements that person must meet to obtain a  
26 driving eligibility certificate.
- 27 (2) To require the person who is required under G.S. 20-11(n) to sign the driving  
28 eligibility certificate to provide the certificate if he or she determines that one  
29 of the following requirements is met:
  - 30 a. The person seeking the certificate is eligible for the certificate under  
31 G.S. 20-11(n)(1) and is not subject to G.S. 20-11(n1).
  - 32 b. The person seeking the certificate is eligible for the certificate under  
33 G.S. 20-11(n)(1) and G.S. 20-11(n1).
- 34 (3) To provide for an appeal through the grievance procedures established by the  
35 board of trustees of each community college by a person who is denied a  
36 driving eligibility certificate.
- 37 (4) To define exemplary student behavior and to define what constitutes the  
38 successful completion of a drug or alcohol treatment counseling program.

39 The State Board also shall develop policies as to when it is appropriate to  
40 notify the Division of Motor Vehicles that a person who is or was enrolled in  
41 a community college no longer meets the requirements for a driving eligibility  
42 certificate. The State Board also shall adopt guidelines to assist the presidents  
43 of community colleges in their designation of representatives to sign driving  
44 eligibility certificates.

45 The State Board shall develop a form for the appropriate individuals to  
46 provide their written, irrevocable consent for a community college to disclose  
47 to the Division of Motor Vehicles that the student no longer meets the  
48 conditions for a driving eligibility certificate under G.S. 20-11(n)(1) or  
49 G.S. 20-11(n1), if applicable, in the event that this disclosure is necessary to  
50 comply with G.S. 20-11 or G.S. 20-13.2. Other than identifying under which  
51 statutory subsection the student is no longer eligible, no other details or

1 information concerning the student's school record shall be released pursuant  
2 to this consent.

3 (b) ~~In order to make instruction as accessible as possible to all citizens, the teaching of~~  
4 ~~curricular courses and of noncurricular extension courses at convenient locations away from~~  
5 ~~institution campuses as well as on campuses is authorized and shall be encouraged. A pro rata~~  
6 ~~portion of the established regular tuition rate charged a full-time student shall be charged a~~  
7 ~~part-time student taking any curriculum course. In lieu of any tuition charge, the State Board of~~  
8 ~~Community Colleges shall establish a uniform registration fee, or a schedule of uniform~~  
9 ~~registration fees, to be charged students enrolling in extension courses for which instruction is~~  
10 ~~financed primarily from State funds. The State Board of Community Colleges may provide by~~  
11 ~~general and uniform regulations for waiver of tuition and registration fees for the following:~~

12 (1) ~~Persons not enrolled in elementary or secondary schools taking courses~~  
13 ~~leading to a high school diploma or equivalent certificate.~~

14 (2) ~~Courses requested by the following entities that support the organizations'~~  
15 ~~training needs and are on a specialized course list approved by the State Board~~  
16 ~~of Community Colleges:~~

17 a. ~~Volunteer fire departments.~~

18 b. ~~Municipal, county, or State fire departments.~~

19 c. ~~Volunteer EMS or rescue and lifesaving departments.~~

20 d. ~~Municipal, county, or State EMS or rescue and lifesaving departments.~~

21 d1. ~~Law enforcement, fire, EMS or rescue and lifesaving entities serving~~  
22 ~~a lake authority that was created by a county board of commissioners~~  
23 ~~prior to July 1, 2012.~~

24 e. ~~Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT)~~  
25 ~~under contract to a county as an emergency response agency.~~

26 f. ~~Municipal, county, or State law enforcement agencies.~~

27 f1. ~~Campus police agencies of private institutions of higher education~~  
28 ~~certified by the Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 74G of the~~  
29 ~~General Statutes.~~

30 g. ~~The Division of Prisons of the Department of Adult Correction and the~~  
31 ~~Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety for the~~  
32 ~~training of full-time custodial employees and employees of the~~  
33 ~~Divisions required to be certified under Article 1 of Chapter 17C of~~  
34 ~~the General Statutes and the rules of the Criminal Justice and Training~~  
35 ~~Standards Commission.~~

36 h. ~~Repealed by Session Laws 2017-186, s. 2(hhhhh), effective December~~  
37 ~~1, 2017.~~

38 i. ~~The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians law enforcement, fire, EMS or~~  
39 ~~rescue and lifesaving tribal government departments or programs.~~

40 j. ~~The Criminal Justice Standards Division of the Department of Justice~~  
41 ~~for the training of criminal justice professionals, as defined in~~  
42 ~~G.S. 17C-20(6), who are required to be certified under (i) Article 1 of~~  
43 ~~Chapter 17C of the General Statutes and the rules of the North~~  
44 ~~Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards~~  
45 ~~Commission or (ii) Chapter 17E of the General Statutes and the rules~~  
46 ~~of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards~~  
47 ~~Commission. The waivers provided for in this sub-subdivision apply~~  
48 ~~to participants and recent graduates of the North Carolina Criminal~~  
49 ~~Justice Fellows Program to obtain certifications for eligible criminal~~  
50 ~~justice professions as defined in G.S. 17C-20(6).~~

- (2a) ~~Firefighters, EMS personnel, and rescue and lifesaving personnel whose duty station is located on a military installation within North Carolina for courses that support their organizations' training needs and are approved for this purpose by the State Board of Community Colleges.~~
- (3) ~~Repealed by Session Laws 2011-145, s. 8.12(a), effective July 1, 2011.~~
- (4) ~~Trainees enrolled in courses conducted under the Customized Training Program.~~
- (5) ~~through (9) Repealed by Session Laws 2011-145, s. 8.12(a), effective July 1, 2011.~~
- (10) ~~Elementary and secondary school employees enrolled in courses in first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).~~
- (11) ~~Repealed by Session Laws 2013-360, s. 10.6, effective July 1, 2013.~~
- (12) ~~All courses taken by high school students at community colleges, in accordance with G.S. 115D-20(4) and this section.~~
- (13) ~~Human resources development courses for any individual who (i) is unemployed; (ii) has received notification of a pending layoff; (iii) is working and is eligible for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (FEITC); or (iv) is working and earning wages at or below two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty guidelines.~~
- (14) ~~Repealed by Session Laws 2011-145, s. 8.12(a), effective July 1, 2011.~~
- (15) ~~Courses providing employability skills, job-specific occupational or technical skills, or developmental education instruction to certain students who are concurrently enrolled in an eligible community college literacy course, in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Community Colleges.~~
- (16) ~~Courses provided to students who are participating in a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program that meets all of the following criteria:~~
- ~~a. Meets one of the following:~~
    - ~~1. Is a registered apprenticeship program recognized by the United States Department of Labor.~~
    - ~~2. Is a pre-apprenticeship program recognized and approved by the State agency administering the statewide apprenticeship program.~~
  - ~~b. Has a documented plan of study with courses relating to a job-specific occupational or technical skill.~~
  - ~~c. Requires the participants in the program to be North Carolina high school students when entering the program.~~

~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall not waive tuition and registration fees for other individuals.~~

~~(b1) The State Board of Community Colleges shall not waive tuition and registration fees for community college faculty or staff members. Community colleges may, however, use State or local funds to pay tuition and registration fees for one course per semester for full time community college faculty or staff members employed for a nine-, ten-, eleven-, or twelve-month term. Community colleges may also use State and local funds to pay tuition and registration fees for professional development courses and for other courses consistent with the academic assistance program authorized by the State Human Resources Commission.~~

~~(b2) Beginning February 1, 2018, and annually thereafter, the Community Colleges System Office shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the number and type of waivers granted pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.~~

~~(c) No course of instruction shall be offered by any community college at State expense or partial State expense to any captive or co-opted group of students, as defined by the State Board of Community Colleges, without prior approval of the State Board of Community~~

1 Colleges. All course offerings approved for State prison inmates or prisoners in local jails must  
2 be tied to clearly identified job skills, transition needs, or both. Approval by the State Board of  
3 Community Colleges shall be presumed to constitute approval of both the course and the group  
4 served by that institution. The State Board of Community Colleges may delegate to the President  
5 the power to make an initial approval, with final approval to be made by the State Board of  
6 Community Colleges. A course taught without such approval will not yield any full-time  
7 equivalent students, as defined by the State Board of Community Colleges.

8 (c1) Community colleges shall report full-time equivalent (FTE) student hours for  
9 correction education programs on the basis of student membership hours. No community college  
10 shall operate a multi-entry/multi-exit class or program in a prison facility, except for a literacy  
11 class or program.

12 The State Board shall work with the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the  
13 Department of Public Safety on offering classes and programs that match the average length of  
14 stay of an inmate in a prison facility.

15 (c2) Courses in federal prisons shall not earn regular budget full-time equivalents, but may  
16 be offered on a self-supporting basis.

17 (c3) Funds appropriated for community college courses for prison inmates shall be used  
18 only for inmates in State prisons. The first priority for the use of these funds shall be to restore  
19 the FTE for basic skills courses to the FY 2008-2009 level. Funds not needed for this purpose  
20 may be used for continuing education and curriculum courses related to job skills training.

21 (d) Recodified as G.S. 115D-5.1(a) by Session Laws 2005-276, s. 8.4(a), effective July  
22 1, 2005.

23 (e) Repealed by Session Laws 1999-84, s. 3, effective May 21, 1999.

24 (f) A community college may not offer a new program without the approval of the State  
25 Board of Community Colleges except that approval shall not be required if the tuition for the  
26 program will fully cover the cost of the program. If at any time tuition fails to fully cover the cost  
27 of a program that falls under the exception, the program shall be discontinued unless approved  
28 by the State Board of Community Colleges. If a proposed new program would serve more than  
29 one community college, the State Board of Community Colleges shall perform a feasibility study  
30 prior to acting on the proposal. The State Board of Community Colleges shall consider whether  
31 a regional approach can be used when developing new programs and, to the extent possible, shall  
32 initiate new programs on a regional basis.

33 The State Board of Community Colleges shall collect data on an annual basis on all new  
34 programs and program terminations it approved and any regionalization of programs during the  
35 year, including the specific reasons for which each program was terminated or approved.

36 (f1) The State Board shall adopt a policy requiring community colleges to be accredited  
37 in accordance with G.S. 115D-6.2.

38 (g) Funds appropriated to the Community Colleges System Office as operating expenses  
39 for allocation to the institutions comprising the North Carolina Community College System shall  
40 not be used to support recreation extension courses. The financing of these courses by any  
41 institution shall be on a self-supporting basis, and membership hours produced from these  
42 activities shall not be counted when computing full-time equivalent students (FTE) for use in  
43 budget funding formulas at the State level.

44 (h) Whenever a community college offers real estate continuing education courses  
45 pursuant to G.S. 93A-4.1, the courses shall be offered on a self-supporting basis.

46 (i) Recodified as G.S. 115D-5.1(c) by Session Laws 2005-276, s. 8.4(a), effective July  
47 1, 2005.

48 (j) The State Board of Community Colleges shall use its Board Reserve Fund for  
49 feasibility studies, pilot projects, start-up of new programs, and innovative ideas.

50 (k) Recodified as G.S. 115D-5.1(b) by Session Laws 2005-276, s. 8.4(a), effective July  
51 1, 2005.

1       ~~(l) The State Board shall review and approve lease purchase and installment purchase~~  
2 ~~contracts as provided under G.S. 115D-58.15(b). The State Board shall adopt policies and~~  
3 ~~procedures governing the review and approval process.~~

4       ~~(m) The State Board of Community Colleges shall maintain an accountability function~~  
5 ~~that conducts periodic reviews of each community college operating under the provisions of this~~  
6 ~~Chapter. The purpose of the compliance review shall be to ensure that (i) data used to allocate~~  
7 ~~State funds among community colleges is reported accurately to the System Office and (ii)~~  
8 ~~community colleges are charging and waiving tuition and registration fees consistent with law.~~  
9 ~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall require the use of a statistically valid sample size~~  
10 ~~in performing compliance reviews of community colleges. All compliance review findings that~~  
11 ~~are determined to be material shall be forwarded to the college president, local college board of~~  
12 ~~trustees, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the State Auditor. The State Board of~~  
13 ~~Community Colleges shall adopt rules governing the frequency, scope, and standard of~~  
14 ~~materiality for compliance reviews.~~

15       ~~(n) The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall provide the Department~~  
16 ~~of Revenue with a list of all community colleges, including name, address, and other identifying~~  
17 ~~information requested by the Department of Revenue. The North Carolina Community Colleges~~  
18 ~~System Office shall update this list whenever there is a change.~~

19       ~~(o) All multicampus centers approved by the State Board of Community Colleges shall~~  
20 ~~receive funding under the same formula. The State Board of Community Colleges shall not~~  
21 ~~approve any additional multicampus centers without identified recurring sources of funding. A~~  
22 ~~community college facility shall be considered a multicampus center if it meets all of the~~  
23 ~~following criteria:~~

24               ~~(1) Is at least 4 miles away from the main campus of the community college and~~  
25               ~~other multicampus center locations.~~

26               ~~(2) Any other criteria established by the State Board.~~

27       ~~(p) The North Carolina Community College System may offer courses, in accordance~~  
28 ~~with Article 17D of Subchapter V of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, to individuals who~~  
29 ~~choose to enter the teaching profession through residency licensure.~~

30       ~~(q) Repealed by Session Laws 2009-451, s. 8.9, effective July 1, 2009.~~

31       ~~(r) The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop curriculum and continuing~~  
32 ~~education standards for courses of instruction in American Sign Language and shall encourage~~  
33 ~~community colleges to offer courses in American Sign Language as a modern foreign language.~~

34       ~~(s) The State Board of Community Colleges may establish, retain and budget fees~~  
35 ~~charged to students taking an adult high school equivalency diploma test, including fees for~~  
36 ~~retesting. Fees collected for this purpose shall be used only to (i) offset the costs of the test,~~  
37 ~~including the cost of scoring the test, (ii) offset the costs of printing adult high school equivalency~~  
38 ~~diplomas, and (iii) meet federal and State reporting requirements related to the test.~~

39       ~~(t) The purpose of the first semester of the Gateway to College Program is to address~~  
40 ~~additional support to successfully complete the program. Students may need to take~~  
41 ~~developmental courses necessary for the transition to more challenging courses; therefore, the~~  
42 ~~State Board of Community Colleges shall (i) permit high school students who are enrolled in~~  
43 ~~Gateway to College Programs to enroll in developmental courses based on an assessment of their~~  
44 ~~individual student needs by a high school and community college staff team and (ii) include this~~  
45 ~~coursework in computing the budget FTE for the colleges.~~

46       ~~(u) The State Board of Community Colleges shall direct each community college to adopt~~  
47 ~~a policy that authorizes a minimum of two excused absences each academic year for religious~~  
48 ~~observances required by the faith of a student. The policy may require that the student provide~~  
49 ~~written notice of the request for an excused absence a reasonable time prior to the religious~~  
50 ~~observance. The policy shall also provide that the student shall be given the opportunity to make~~  
51 ~~up any tests or other work missed due to an excused absence for a religious observance.~~

1       (v) ~~Community colleges may teach curriculum courses at any time during the year,~~  
2 ~~including the summer term. Student membership hours from these courses shall be counted when~~  
3 ~~computing full-time equivalent students (FTE) for use in budget funding formulas at the State~~  
4 ~~level.~~

5       (w) ~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall review, at least every five years,~~  
6 ~~service areas that include counties assigned to more than one community college to determine~~  
7 ~~the feasibility of continuing to assign those counties to more than one community college. The~~  
8 ~~State Board shall revise service areas as needed to ensure that counties are served effectively.~~  
9 ~~The first review and any revisions shall be completed no later than March 1, 2016, and the State~~  
10 ~~Board shall report its findings and any revisions to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight~~  
11 ~~Committee no later than March 1, 2016. All subsequent reviews and revisions shall also be~~  
12 ~~submitted to the Committee.~~

13       (x) ~~In addition to the evaluation of cooperative innovative high schools by the State Board~~  
14 ~~of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C 238.55, the State Board of Community Colleges, in~~  
15 ~~conjunction with the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of The University of~~  
16 ~~North Carolina, shall evaluate the success of students participating in the Career and College~~  
17 ~~Promise Program, including the College Transfer pathway and the Career and Technical~~  
18 ~~Education pathway. Success shall be measured by high school retention rates, high school~~  
19 ~~completion rates, high school dropout rates, certification and associate degree completion,~~  
20 ~~admission to four year institutions, postgraduation employment in career or study related fields,~~  
21 ~~and employer satisfaction of employees who participated in the programs. The evaluation shall~~  
22 ~~also include an analysis of the cost of students participating in each of the programs within the~~  
23 ~~Career and College Promise Program, including at least the following:~~

- 24           (1) ~~Total enrollment funding, the number of budgeted full-time equivalent~~  
25 ~~students, and the number of students enrolled in courses through cooperative~~  
26 ~~innovative high schools, the College Transfer pathway, and the Career and~~  
27 ~~Technical Education pathway.~~
- 28           (2) ~~The cost and number of waivers of tuition and registration fees provided for~~  
29 ~~students enrolled in courses through cooperative innovative high schools, the~~  
30 ~~College Transfer pathway, and the Career and Technical Education pathway.~~
- 31           (3) ~~Any additional costs of a student attending courses on campus if a student is~~  
32 ~~not attending public school in a local school administrative unit for the~~  
33 ~~majority of the student's instructional time.~~

34       ~~The Boards shall jointly report by March 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Education~~  
35 ~~Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the~~  
36 ~~House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General~~  
37 ~~Assembly. The report shall be combined with the evaluation of cooperative innovative high~~  
38 ~~schools required by G.S. 115C 238.55, and the Community Colleges System Office shall be~~  
39 ~~responsible for submitting the combined report.~~

40       (y) ~~The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy to be applied uniformly~~  
41 ~~throughout the Community College System to provide that any student enrolled in a community~~  
42 ~~college who is a National Guard service member placed onto State active duty status during an~~  
43 ~~academic term shall be given an excused absence for the period of time the student is on active~~  
44 ~~duty. The policy shall further provide all of the following:~~

- 45           (1) ~~The student shall be given the opportunity to make up any test or other work~~  
46 ~~missed during the excused absence.~~
- 47           (2) ~~The student shall be given the option, when feasible, to continue classes and~~  
48 ~~coursework during the academic term through online participation for the~~  
49 ~~period of time the student is placed on active duty.~~
- 50           (3) ~~The student shall be given the option of receiving a temporary grade of~~  
51 ~~"incomplete (IN)" or "absent from the final exam (AB)" for any course that~~

1 the student was unable to complete as a result of being placed on State active  
2 duty status; however, the student must complete the course requirements  
3 within the period of time specified by the community college to avoid  
4 receiving a failing grade for the course.

5 (4) The student shall be permitted to drop, with no penalty, any course that the  
6 student was unable to complete as a result of being placed on State active duty  
7 status.

8 (z) The State Board of Community Colleges shall monitor community colleges for  
9 compliance with Article 38 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes. If the State Board determines  
10 that a community college is in violation of Article 38, it shall report the identity of the community  
11 college to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

12 **"§ 115D-5.1. Workforce Development Programs.**

13 (a) Community colleges shall assist in the preemployment and in-service training of  
14 employees in industry, business, agriculture, health occupation and governmental agencies. Such  
15 training shall include instruction on worker safety and health standards and practices applicable  
16 to the field of employment. The State Board of Community Colleges shall make appropriate  
17 regulations including the establishment of maximum hours of instruction which may be offered  
18 at State expense in each in-plant training program. No instructor or other employee of a  
19 community college shall engage in the normal management, supervisory and operational  
20 functions of the establishment in which the instruction is offered during the hours in which the  
21 instructor or other employee is employed for instructional or educational purposes.

22 (b) through (d) Repealed by Session Laws 2008-107, s. 8.7(a), effective July 1, 2008.

23 (e) There is created within the North Carolina Community College System the  
24 Customized Training Program. The Customized Training Program shall offer programs and  
25 training services to assist new and existing business and industry to remain productive, profitable,  
26 and within the State. Before a business or industry qualifies to receive assistance under the  
27 Customized Training Program, the President of the North Carolina Community College System  
28 shall determine that:

29 (1) The business is making an appreciable capital investment;

30 (2) The business is deploying new technology;

31 (2a) The business or individual is creating jobs, expanding an existing workforce,  
32 or enhancing the productivity and profitability of the operations within the  
33 State; and

34 (3) The skills of the workers will be enhanced by the assistance.

35 (f) The Community Colleges System Office shall report no later than September 1 of  
36 each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on:

37 (1) The total amount of funds received by a company under the Customized  
38 Training Program.

39 (1a) The types of services sought by the company, whether for new, expanding, or  
40 existing industry.

41 (2) The amount of funds per trainee received by that company.

42 (3) The amount of funds received per trainee by the community college delivering  
43 the training.

44 (4) The number of trainees trained by the company and community college.

45 (5) The number of years that company has been funded.

46 (f1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Community Colleges  
47 may adopt guidelines that allow the Customized Training Program to use funds appropriated for  
48 that program to support training projects for the various branches of the Armed Forces of the  
49 United States.

50 (f2) Funds available to the Customized Training Program shall not revert at the end of a  
51 fiscal year but shall remain available until expended. Up to ten percent (10%) of the

college-delivered training expenditures and up to five percent (5%) of the contractor-delivered training expenditures for the prior fiscal year for Customized Training may be allotted to each college for capacity building at that college.

(f3) Of the funds appropriated in a fiscal year for the Customized Training Programs, the State Board of Community Colleges may approve the use of up to eight percent (8%) for the training and support of regional community college personnel to deliver Customized Training Program services to business and industry.

(g) The State Board shall adopt guidelines to implement this section. At least 20 days before the effective date of any criteria or nontechnical amendments to guidelines, the State Board must publish the proposed guidelines on the Community Colleges System Office's web site and provide notice to persons who have requested notice of proposed guidelines. In addition, the State Board must accept oral and written comments on the proposed guidelines during the 15 business days beginning on the first day that the State Board has completed these notifications. For the purpose of this subsection, a technical amendment is either of the following:

(1) An amendment that corrects a spelling or grammatical error.

(2) An amendment that makes a clarification based on public comment and could have been anticipated by the public notice that immediately preceded the public comment.

**"§ 115D-5.1A. Short Term Workforce Development Grant Program.**

(a) Program Established.—There is established the North Carolina Community College Short Term Workforce Development Grant Program (Program) to be administered by the State Board of Community Colleges. The State Board shall adopt rules for the disbursement of the grants pursuant to this section.

(b) Programs of Study.—The State Board of Community Colleges, in collaboration with the Department of Commerce, shall determine the eligible programs of study for the Program, according to the occupations that are in the highest demand in the State. The eligible programs of study shall include programs such as architecture and construction, health sciences, information technology, electrical line worker, and manufacturing programs and may include other programs to meet local workforce needs.

(c) Award Amounts.—To the extent funds are made available for the Program, the State Board of Community Colleges shall award grants in an amount of up to seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750.00) to students pursuing short term, noncredit State and industry workforce credentials. The State Board of Community Colleges shall establish criteria for initial and continuing eligibility for students. At a minimum, students shall be required to qualify as a resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in G.S. 116-143.1 and in accordance with the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the State Education Assistance Authority.

(d) Report.—The State Board shall submit a report by April 1, 2024, and annually thereafter, on the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall contain, for each academic year and by programs of study, the amount of grant funds disbursed and the number of eligible students receiving funds.

**"§ 115D-5.2. Commercial fishing and aquaculture classes.**

(a) The General Assembly urges all community colleges serving the coastal area of the State to offer classes on commercial fishing and aquaculture.

(b) The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall provide technical assistance to these colleges on offering such classes.

(c) The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on any fiscal and administrative issues it identifies that limit colleges' ability to offer such courses.

**"§ 115D-5.5. Board Reserve Fund.**



1     The State Board of Community Colleges shall use its Board Reserve Fund for feasibility  
2 studies, pilot projects, start-up of new programs, and innovative ideas.

3     "Part 2. Administration of Local Community Colleges by State Board of Community Colleges.

4     **"§ 115D-6. Withdrawal of State support.**

5     The State Board of Community Colleges may withdraw or withhold State financial and  
6 administrative support of any institutions subject to the provisions of this Chapter in the event  
7 ~~that~~ of any of the following:

- 8         (1)     The required local financial support of an institution is not ~~provided~~ provided.
- 9         (2)     Sufficient State funds are not ~~available~~ available.
- 10        (3)     The officials of an institution refuse or are unable to maintain prescribed  
11               standards of administration or ~~instruction~~ or instruction.
- 12        (4)     Local educational needs for such an institution cease to exist.

13     **"§ 115D-6.1. Administration of institutions.**

14        (a)     Policies. – The State Board of Community Colleges may adopt and execute such  
15 policies, regulations, and standards concerning the establishment, administration, and operation  
16 of institutions as the State Board may deem necessary to ensure the quality of educational  
17 programs, to promote the systematic meeting of educational needs of the State, and to provide  
18 for the equitable distribution of State and federal funds to the several institutions.

19        (b)     Authority. – The State Board shall have the following authority with respect to  
20 individual institutions:

- 21           (1)     To approve sites, capital improvement projects, and budgets.
- 22           (2)     To approve the selection of the chief administrative officer.
- 23           (3)     To establish and administer standards for professional personnel, curricula,  
24               admissions, and graduation.
- 25           (4)     To regulate the awarding of degrees, diplomas, and certificates.
- 26           (5)     To establish and regulate student tuition and fees within policies for tuition  
27               and fees established by the General Assembly.
- 28           (6)     To establish and regulate financial accounting procedures.

29        (c)     Salaries. – The State Board shall establish standards and scales for salaries and  
30 allotments paid from funds administered by the State Board, and all employees of the institutions  
31 shall be exempt from the provisions of the North Carolina Human Resources Act. Any and all  
32 salary caps set by the State Board for community college presidents shall apply only to the  
33 State-paid portion of the salary. Except as otherwise provided by law, the employer contribution  
34 rate on the local-paid portion of the salary, to be paid from local funds, shall be set by the State  
35 Treasurer based on actuarial recommendations.

36        (d)     Faculty Credentials. – The State Board of Community Colleges shall require each  
37 community college to meet the faculty credential requirements of its accrediting agency for all  
38 community college programs.

39     **"§ 115D-6.2. Accreditation. Accreditation policy.**

40     The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy requiring community colleges  
41 to be accredited in accordance with G.S. 115D-21.2.

42        (a)     Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- 43           (1)     Accreditation cycle. – The period of time during which a community college  
44               is accredited.
- 45           (2)     Accrediting agency. – An agency or association that accredits institutions of  
46               higher education.
- 47           (3)     Regional accrediting agency. – One of the following accrediting agencies:
  - 48               a.     Higher Learning Commission.
  - 49               b.     Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
  - 50               c.     New England Commission on Higher Education.
  - 51               d.     Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.

- 1 e. ~~Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on~~  
2 ~~Colleges.~~
- 3 f. ~~Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting~~  
4 ~~Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.~~
- 5 (b) ~~Prohibit Consecutive Accreditation by an Accrediting Agency.~~ A community  
6 college shall not receive accreditation by an accrediting agency for consecutive accreditation  
7 cycles except as provided in subsection (c) of this section.
- 8 (c) ~~Accreditation Transfer Procedure.~~ A community college that pursues accreditation  
9 with a different accrediting agency in accordance with this section shall pursue accreditation with  
10 a regional accrediting agency. If the community college is not granted candidacy status by any  
11 regional accrediting agency that is different from its current accrediting agency at least three  
12 years prior to the expiration of its current accreditation, the community college may remain with  
13 its current accrediting agency for an additional accreditation cycle.
- 14 (d) ~~Certain Programs Exempt.~~ The requirements of this section do not apply to  
15 professional, departmental, or certificate programs at community colleges that have specific  
16 accreditation requirements or best practices, as identified by the State Board of Community  
17 Colleges.
- 18 (e) ~~Cause of Action.~~ A community college may bring a civil action, as follows:
- 19 (1) ~~Against any person who makes a false statement to the accrediting agency of~~  
20 ~~the community college, if all of the following criteria are met:~~
- 21 a. ~~The statement, if true, would mean the community college is out of~~  
22 ~~compliance with its accreditation standards.~~
- 23 b. ~~The person made the statement with knowledge that the statement was~~  
24 ~~false or with reckless disregard as to whether it was false.~~
- 25 c. ~~The accrediting agency conducted a review of the community college~~  
26 ~~as a proximate result of the statement.~~
- 27 d. ~~The review caused the community college to incur costs.~~
- 28 (2) ~~A community college that prevails on a cause of action initiated pursuant to~~  
29 ~~this subsection shall be entitled to the following:~~
- 30 a. ~~Costs related to the review conducted by the accrediting agency,~~  
31 ~~including for the following:~~
- 32 1. ~~Additional hours worked by community college personnel.~~
- 33 2. ~~Contracted services, including outside legal counsel.~~
- 34 3. ~~Travel, lodging, and food expenses.~~
- 35 4. ~~Fees required by the agency.~~
- 36 b. ~~Reasonable attorney fees.~~
- 37 c. ~~Court costs.~~

38 **"§ 115D-6.5. Notice of noncompliance; appointment of an interim board of trustees.**

39 ...

40 (c) **Interim Board Assumption of Powers and Duties.** – The adoption of the resolution to  
41 remove the full board under this section shall have the effect of vacating the terms of all of the  
42 members serving on the board of trustees. Notwithstanding G.S. 115D-12, the State Board of  
43 Community Colleges shall appoint an interim five-member board of trustees for a period not to  
44 exceed 12 months with input from the advisory committee listed in subsection (a) of this section.  
45 To preserve local autonomy, the appointing authorities of the local administrative area of the  
46 community college under G.S. 115D-12 shall make recommendations to the State Board on the  
47 appointment of the members to the interim board of trustees. All appointees to the interim board  
48 of trustees shall be residents of the administrative area of the institution for which they are  
49 selected or of counties contiguous thereto with the exception of members provided for in  
50 subsection (a) of G.S. 115D-12, Group Four. G.S. 115D-12(a)(3). At the end of the period of  
51 service of the interim board of trustees, a board of trustees for the community college shall be

1 appointed in accordance with G.S. 115D-12. Initial terms of members of the new board of  
2 trustees shall be staggered to align with the remainder of the vacated terms of the members of the  
3 board of trustees.

4 ...

5 **"§ 115D-9.5. Bookstore sales.**

6 Notwithstanding G.S. 66-58(c)(3) or any other provisions of law, the State Board of  
7 Community Colleges may adopt rules governing the expenditure of funds derived from bookstore  
8 sales by community colleges. These expenditures shall be consistent with the mission and  
9 purpose of the Community College System. Profits may be used in the support and enhancement  
10 of the bookstores, for student aid or scholarships, for expenditures of direct benefit to students,  
11 and for other similar expenditures authorized by the board of trustees, subject to rules adopted  
12 by the State Board. These funds shall not be used to supplement salaries of any personnel.

13 **"§ 115D-9.10. Exchange of information with The University of North Carolina and North**  
14 **Carolina public schools.**

15 The State Board of Community Colleges shall comply with the provisions of  
16 G.S. 116-11(10a) to plan and implement an exchange of information between the public schools  
17 and the institutions of higher education in the State.

18 **"§ 115D-9.15. Lease purchase and installment purchase contracts.**

19 The State Board of Community Colleges shall review and approve lease purchase and  
20 installment purchase contracts as provided under G.S. 115D-58.15(b). The State Board shall  
21 adopt policies and procedures governing the review and approval process.

22 **"§ 115D-9.20. Compliance review and requested information.**

23 (a) Compliance Review. – The State Board of Community Colleges shall maintain an  
24 accountability function that conducts periodic reviews of each community college operating  
25 under the provisions of this Chapter. The purpose of the compliance review shall be to ensure  
26 that (i) data used to allocate State funds among community colleges is reported accurately to the  
27 System Office and (ii) community colleges are charging and waiving tuition and registration fees  
28 consistent with law. The State Board of Community Colleges shall require the use of a  
29 statistically valid sample size in performing compliance reviews of community colleges. All  
30 compliance review findings that are determined to be material shall be forwarded to the college  
31 president, local college board of trustees, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the State  
32 Auditor. The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt rules governing the frequency,  
33 scope, and standard of materiality for compliance reviews.

34 (b) Information to Department of Revenue. – The North Carolina Community Colleges  
35 System Office shall provide the Department of Revenue with a list of all community colleges,  
36 including name, address, and other identifying information requested by the Department of  
37 Revenue. The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall update this list whenever  
38 there is a change.

39 **"§ 115D-9.25. Multicampus centers.**

40 All multicampus centers approved by the State Board of Community Colleges shall receive  
41 funding under the same formula. The State Board of Community Colleges shall not approve any  
42 additional multicampus centers without identified recurring sources of funding. A community  
43 college facility shall be considered a multicampus center if it meets the criteria established by the  
44 State Board and is at least 4 miles away from the main campus of the community college and  
45 other multicampus center locations.

46 **"§ 115D-9.30. Service areas.**

47 The State Board of Community Colleges shall review, at least every five years, service areas  
48 that include counties assigned to more than one community college to determine the feasibility  
49 of continuing to assign those counties to more than one community college. The State Board  
50 shall revise service areas as needed to ensure that counties are served effectively. The State Board

1 shall report its findings and any revisions to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
2 within 60 days of revisions being made.

3 **"§ 115D-9.35. Athletic teams.**

4 The State Board of Community Colleges shall monitor community colleges for compliance  
5 with Article 38 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes. If the State Board determines that a  
6 community college is in violation of Article 38 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes, it shall  
7 report the identity of the community college to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
8 Committee.

9 ...

10 **"Part 3. Community College Programs.**

11 **"§ 115D-10.5. Program funding.**

12 (a) New Programs and Terminations of Programs. – A community college may not offer  
13 a new program without the approval of the State Board of Community Colleges except that  
14 approval shall not be required if the tuition for the program will fully cover the cost of the  
15 program. If at any time tuition fails to fully cover the cost of a program that falls under the  
16 exception, the program shall be discontinued unless approved by the State Board. If a proposed  
17 new program would serve more than one community college, the State Board shall perform a  
18 feasibility study prior to acting on the proposal. The State Board shall consider whether a regional  
19 approach can be used when developing new programs and, to the extent possible, shall initiate  
20 new programs on a regional basis. The State Board shall collect data on an annual basis on all  
21 new programs and program terminations it approved and any regionalization of programs during  
22 the year, including the specific reasons for which each program was terminated or approved.

23 (b) Recreation Extension Courses. – Funds appropriated to the Community Colleges  
24 System Office as operating expenses for allocation to the institutions comprising the North  
25 Carolina Community College System shall not be used to support recreation extension courses.  
26 The financing of these courses by any institution shall be on a self-supporting basis, and  
27 membership hours produced from these activities shall not be counted when computing full-time  
28 equivalent students (FTE) for use in budget-funding formulas at the State level.

29 (c) Real Estate Continuing Education Courses. – Whenever a community college offers  
30 real estate continuing education courses, the courses shall be offered on a self-supporting basis.

31 **"§ 115D-10.10. College transfer program approval; standards for programs; annual**  
32 **reporting requirements.**

33 (a) The State Board of Community Colleges may approve the addition of the college  
34 transfer program to a community college. If addition of the college transfer program to an  
35 institution would require a substantial increase in funds, State Board approval shall be subject to  
36 appropriation of funds by the General Assembly for this purpose.

37 (b) Addition of the college transfer program shall not decrease an institution's ability to  
38 provide programs within its basic mission of vocational and technical training and basic academic  
39 education.

40 (c) The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop appropriate criteria and  
41 standards to regulate the addition of the college transfer program to institutions.

42 (d) The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop appropriate criteria and  
43 standards to regulate the operation of college transfer programs.

44 (e) The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall report to each  
45 community college and to the State Board of Community Colleges in accordance with  
46 G.S. 116-11(10b) on the academic performance of that community college's transfer students. If  
47 the State Board of Community Colleges finds that college transfer students from a community  
48 college are not consistently performing adequately at a four-year college, the Board shall review  
49 the community college's program and determine what steps are necessary to remedy the problem.  
50 The Board shall report annually to the General Assembly on the reports it receives and on what  
51 steps it is taking to remedy problems that it finds.

(f) The Community Colleges System Office shall report annually by April 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the State Board of Education, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly on the implementation of the UNC-NCCCS 2+2 E-Learning Initiative. This report shall include the following:

- (1) The courses and programs within the 2+2 E-Learning Initiative.
- (2) The total number of prospective teachers that have taken or are taking part in this initiative to date broken down by the current academic period and each of the previous academic periods since the program's inception.
- (3) The total number of teachers currently in the State's classrooms, by local school administrative unit, who have taken part in this initiative.
- (4) The change in the number of teachers available to schools since the program's inception.
- (5) The qualitative data from students, teachers, local school administrative unit personnel, university personnel, and community college personnel as to the impact of this initiative on our State's teaching pool.
- (6) An explanation of the expenditures and collaborative programs between the North Carolina Community College System and The University of North Carolina, including recommendations for improvement.

**"§ 115D-10.15. Workforce development programs.**

Community colleges shall assist in the preemployment and in-service training of employees in industry, business, agriculture, health occupation, and governmental agencies. Such training shall include instruction on worker safety and health standards and practices applicable to the field of employment. The State Board of Community Colleges shall make appropriate regulations, including the establishment of maximum hours of instruction which may be offered at State expense in each in-plant training program. No instructor or other employee of a community college shall engage in the normal management, supervisory, and operational functions of the establishment in which the instruction is offered during the hours in which the instructor or other employee is employed for instructional or educational purposes.

**"§ 115D-10.17. Customized Training Program.**

(a) There is created within the North Carolina Community College System the Customized Training Program. The Customized Training Program shall offer programs and training services to assist new and existing business and industry to remain productive, profitable, and within the State. Before a business or industry qualifies to receive assistance under the Customized Training Program, the President of the North Carolina Community College System shall determine the following:

- (1) The business is making an appreciable capital investment.
- (2) The business is deploying new technology.
- (3) The business or individual is creating jobs, expanding an existing workforce, or enhancing the productivity and profitability of the operations within the State.
- (4) The skills of the workers will be enhanced by the assistance.

(b) The Community Colleges System Office shall report no later than September 1 of each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the following:

- (1) The total amount of funds received by a company under the Customized Training Program.
- (2) The types of services sought by the company, whether for new, expanding, or existing industry.
- (3) The amount of funds per trainee received by that company.
- (4) The amount of funds received per trainee by the community college delivering the training.

1           (5)    The number of trainees trained by the company and community college.

2           (6)    The number of years that company has been funded.

3           (c)    Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Community Colleges  
4 may adopt guidelines that allow the Customized Training Program to use funds appropriated for  
5 that program to support training projects for the various branches of the Armed Forces of the  
6 United States.

7           (d)    Funds available to the Customized Training Program shall not revert at the end of a  
8 fiscal year but shall remain available until expended. Up to ten percent (10%) of the  
9 college-delivered training expenditures and up to five percent (5%) of the contractor-delivered  
10 training expenditures for the prior fiscal year for Customized Training may be allotted to each  
11 college for capacity building at that college.

12          (e)    Of the funds appropriated in a fiscal year for the Customized Training Program, the  
13 State Board of Community Colleges may approve the use of up to eight percent (8%) for the  
14 training and support of regional community college personnel to deliver Customized Training  
15 Program services to business and industry.

16          (f)    The State Board shall adopt guidelines to implement this section. At least 20 days  
17 before the effective date of any criteria or nontechnical amendments to guidelines, the State  
18 Board must publish the proposed guidelines on the Community Colleges System Office's website  
19 and provide notice to persons who have requested notice of proposed guidelines. In addition, the  
20 State Board must accept oral and written comments on the proposed guidelines during the 15  
21 business days beginning on the first day that the State Board has completed these notifications.  
22 For the purpose of this subsection, a technical amendment is either of the following:

23               (1)    An amendment that corrects a spelling or grammatical error.

24               (2)    An amendment that makes a clarification based on public comment and could  
25 have been anticipated by the public notice that immediately preceded the  
26 public comment.

27 **"§ 115D-10.19. Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program.**

28          (a)    Program Established. – There is established the North Carolina Community College  
29 Short-Term Workforce Development Grant Program (Program) to be administered by the State  
30 Board of Community Colleges. The State Board shall adopt rules for the disbursement of the  
31 grants pursuant to this section.

32          (b)    Programs of Study. – The State Board of Community Colleges, in collaboration with  
33 the Department of Commerce, shall determine the eligible programs of study for the Program,  
34 according to the occupations that are in the highest demand in the State. The eligible programs  
35 of study shall include programs such as architecture and construction, health sciences,  
36 information technology, electrical line worker, and manufacturing programs and may include  
37 other programs to meet local workforce needs.

38          (c)    Award Amounts. – To the extent funds are made available for the Program, the State  
39 Board of Community Colleges shall award grants in an amount of up to seven hundred fifty  
40 dollars (\$750.00) to students pursuing short-term, noncredit State and industry workforce  
41 credentials. The State Board of Community Colleges shall establish criteria for initial and  
42 continuing eligibility for students. At a minimum, students shall be required to qualify as a  
43 resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in G.S. 116-143.1 and in accordance with  
44 the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the State  
45 Education Assistance Authority.

46          (d)    Report. – The State Board shall submit a report by April 1 annually on the Program  
47 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division. The  
48 report shall contain, for each academic year and by programs of study, the amount of grant funds  
49 disbursed and the number of eligible students receiving funds.

50 **"§ 115D-10.21. Training programs for students with intellectual and developmental**  
51 **disabilities.**

1       (a)     The State Board of Community Colleges shall establish a community college training  
2 program for up to 15 community colleges. The program shall provide opportunities for  
3 micro-credentials or other credentials that lead to increased employment outcomes for  
4 individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD). To the extent funds are  
5 appropriated for this purpose, the program shall improve the ability of participating community  
6 colleges to offer training and educational components that include improving employability skills  
7 and providing on-the-job training and apprenticeships with business and industry for individuals  
8 with IDD. The goal of the program shall be to inform community colleges and address  
9 cross-departmental supports within the individual community colleges on programs for  
10 individuals with IDD related to at least the following:

- 11           (1)     Establishing best practices for providing vocational training for individuals  
12                 with IDD.
- 13           (2)     Providing financial and benefits counseling.
- 14           (3)     Developing strategies on integrating assistive technology.
- 15           (4)     Maximizing access, with supports, to credential and degree programs,  
16                 including micro-credentials that are established by the State Board.
- 17           (5)     Identifying methods to increase orientation and integration of individuals with  
18                 IDD into the college community to the greatest extent possible.
- 19           (6)     Determining a needs assessment, marketing, and evaluation to serve a broad  
20                 array of individuals with developmental and other similar disabilities or  
21                 learning challenges to assure adequate demand for new or existing programs.

22       (b)     No later than May 1 of each year, the Community Colleges System Office shall report  
23 on the funds appropriated to the System Office for the purposes of this section to the Joint  
24 Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division. At a minimum,  
25 the report shall address the impact of the program, the use of any additional positions created at  
26 community colleges, professional development training for staff, and funding sources identified  
27 for individuals with IDD to build programs at community colleges that support postsecondary  
28 trainings and certifications that enable individuals with IDD to engage in competitive, sustainable  
29 employment.

30 **"§ 115D-10.25. Commercial fishing and aquaculture classes.**

31       (a)     The General Assembly urges all community colleges serving the coastal area of the  
32 State to offer classes on commercial fishing and aquaculture.

33       (b)     The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall provide technical  
34 assistance to these colleges on offering such classes.

35       (c)     The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall report to the Joint  
36 Legislative Education Oversight Committee on any fiscal and administrative issues it identifies  
37 that limit colleges' ability to offer such courses.

38 **"§ 115D-10.30. Correction education programs.**

39       (a)     Approval. – No course of instruction shall be offered by any community college at  
40 State expense or partial State expense to any captive or co-opted group of students, as defined by  
41 the State Board of Community Colleges, without prior approval of the State Board. All course  
42 offerings approved for State prison inmates or prisoners in local jails must be tied to clearly  
43 identified job skills, transition needs, or both. Approval by the State Board shall be presumed to  
44 constitute approval of both the course and the group served by that institution. The State Board  
45 may delegate to the President the power to make an initial approval, with final approval to be  
46 made by the State Board. A course taught without such approval will not yield any full-time  
47 equivalent students, as defined by the State Board. Community colleges shall report full-time  
48 equivalent (FTE) student hours for correction education programs on the basis of student  
49 membership hours. Funds appropriated for community college courses for prison inmates shall  
50 be used only for inmates in State prisons. The first priority for the use of these funds shall be to  
51 restore the FTE for basic skills courses to the FY 2008-2009 level. Funds not needed for this

1 purpose may be used for continuing education and curriculum courses related to job skills  
2 training. No community college shall operate a multi-entry/multi-exit class or program in a prison  
3 facility, except for a literacy class or program. The State Board shall work with the Division of  
4 Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety on offering classes and  
5 programs that match the average length of stay of an inmate in a prison facility.

6 (b) Courses in Federal Prisons. – Courses in federal prisons shall not earn regular budget  
7 full-time equivalents but may be offered on a self-supporting basis.

8 **"§ 115D-10.35. Teacher residency licensure courses.**

9 The North Carolina Community College System may offer courses, in accordance with  
10 Article 17D of Subchapter V of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, to individuals who choose  
11 to enter the teaching profession through residency licensure.

12 **"§ 115D-10.40. American Sign Language courses.**

13 The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop curriculum and continuing education  
14 standards for courses of instruction in American Sign Language and shall encourage community  
15 colleges to offer courses in American Sign Language as a modern foreign language.

16 **"§ 115D-10.45. Adult high school equivalency diploma test.**

17 The State Board of Community Colleges may establish, retain, and budget fees charged to  
18 students taking an adult high school equivalency diploma test, including fees for retesting. Fees  
19 collected for this purpose shall be used only to (i) offset the costs of the test, including the cost  
20 of scoring the test, (ii) offset the costs of printing adult high school equivalency diplomas, and  
21 (iii) meet federal and State reporting requirements related to the test.

22 **"§ 115D-10.50. Motorcycle Safety Instruction Program.**

23 (a) There is created a Motorcycle Safety Instruction Program for the purpose of  
24 establishing statewide motorcycle safety instruction to be delivered through the Community  
25 Colleges System Office. The Program may be administered by a motorcycle safety coordinator  
26 who shall be responsible for the planning, curriculum, and completion requirements of the  
27 Program. The State Board of Community Colleges may elect a motorcycle safety coordinator  
28 upon nomination of the President of the Community College System, and the compensation of  
29 the motorcycle safety coordinator shall be fixed by the State Board upon recommendation of the  
30 President of the Community College System pursuant to G.S. 115D-3. The State Board of  
31 Community Colleges may contract with an appropriate public or private agency or person to  
32 carry out the duties of the motorcycle safety coordinator.

33 (b) The Motorcycle Safety Instruction Program shall be implemented through the  
34 Community Colleges System Office at institutions which choose to provide the Program. The  
35 motorcycle safety coordinator shall select and facilitate the training and certification of  
36 instructors who will implement the Program.

37 "Part 4. Students.

38 **"§ 115D-10.65. Accreditation of secondary school located in North Carolina shall not be a**  
39 **factor in admissions, loans, scholarships, or other educational policies.**

40 (a) For purposes of this section, the term "accreditation" shall include certification or any  
41 other similar approval process.

42 (b) The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy that prohibits any  
43 community college from soliciting or using information regarding the accreditation of a  
44 secondary school located in North Carolina that a person attended as a factor affecting  
45 admissions, loans, scholarships, or other educational activity at the community college, unless  
46 the accreditation was conducted by a State agency.

47 **"§ 115D-10.70. Driving eligibility certificates.**

48 (a) The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt the following rules to assist  
49 community colleges in their administration of procedures necessary to implement G.S. 20-11 and  
50 G.S. 20-13.2:



- (1) To establish the procedures a person who is or was enrolled in a community college must follow and the requirements that person must meet to obtain a driving eligibility certificate.
- (2) To require the person who is required under G.S. 20-11(n) to sign the driving eligibility certificate to provide the certificate if he or she determines that one of the following requirements is met:
- a. The person seeking the certificate is eligible for the certificate under G.S. 20-11(n)(1) and is not subject to G.S. 20-11(n1).
- b. The person seeking the certificate is eligible for the certificate under G.S. 20-11(n)(1) and G.S. 20-11(n1).
- (3) To provide for an appeal through the grievance procedures established by the board of trustees of each community college by a person who is denied a driving eligibility certificate.
- (4) To define exemplary student behavior and to define what constitutes the successful completion of a drug or alcohol treatment counseling program.
- (b) The State Board shall develop policies as to when it is appropriate to notify the Division of Motor Vehicles that a person who is or was enrolled in a community college no longer meets the requirements for a driving eligibility certificate. The State Board also shall adopt guidelines to assist the presidents of community colleges in their designation of representatives to sign driving eligibility certificates.
- (c) The State Board shall develop a form for the appropriate individuals to provide their written, irrevocable consent for a community college to disclose to the Division of Motor Vehicles that the student no longer meets the conditions for a driving eligibility certificate under G.S. 20-11(n)(1) or G.S. 20-11(n1), if applicable, in the event that this disclosure is necessary to comply with G.S. 20-11 or G.S. 20-13.2. Other than identifying under which statutory subsection the student is no longer eligible, no other details or information concerning the student's school record shall be released pursuant to this consent.
- "§ 115D-10.75. Excused absences for religious observances.**
- The State Board of Community Colleges shall direct each community college to adopt a policy that authorizes a minimum of two excused absences each academic year for religious observances required by the faith of a student. The policy may require that the student provide written notice of the request for an excused absence a reasonable time prior to the religious observance. The policy shall also provide that the student shall be given the opportunity to make up any tests or other work missed due to an excused absence for a religious observance.
- "§ 115D-10.76. Excused absences for National Guard service members.**
- The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy to be applied uniformly throughout the Community College System to provide that any student enrolled in a community college who is a National Guard service member placed onto State active duty status during an academic term shall be given an excused absence for the period of time the student is on active duty. The policy shall further provide all of the following:
- (1) The student shall be given the opportunity to make up any test or other work missed during the excused absence.
- (2) The student shall be given the option, when feasible, to continue classes and coursework during the academic term through online participation for the period of time the student is placed on active duty.
- (3) The student shall be given the option of receiving a temporary grade of "incomplete (IN)" or "absent from the final exam (AB)" for any course that the student was unable to complete as a result of being placed on State active duty status; however, the student must complete the course requirements within the period of time specified by the community college to avoid receiving a failing grade for the course.

(4) The student shall be permitted to drop, with no penalty, any course that the student was unable to complete as a result of being placed on State active duty status."

**SECTION 6.5.(b)** G.S. 115D-20(4) reads as rewritten:

"(4) To apply the standards and requirements for admission and graduation of students and other standards established by the State Board of Community Colleges. ~~Notwithstanding any law or administrative rule to the contrary, local community colleges are permitted to offer the following programs:~~

a. ~~Subject to the approval of the State Board of Community Colleges, local community colleges may collaborate with public school units and nonpublic schools to offer courses through the following programs:~~

1. ~~Repealed by Session Laws 2022-71, s. 3.2, effective July 8, 2022.~~

2. ~~Academic transition pathways for qualified junior and senior high school students that lead to a career technical education certificate, diploma, or State or industry-recognized credential and academic transition pathways for qualified freshmen and sophomore high school students that lead to a career technical education certificate or diploma in (i) industrial and engineering technologies, (ii) agriculture and natural resources, (iii) transportation technology, (iv) construction, or (v) business technologies.~~

3. ~~College transfer pathways requiring the successful completion of 30 semester credit hours of transfer courses, including English and mathematics, for the following students:~~

I. ~~Qualified junior and senior high school students.~~

II. ~~Qualified freshman and sophomore high school students, if all of the following requirements are met:~~

A. ~~The student is determined to be academically gifted, have a demonstrated readiness for the course material, and have the maturity to justify admission to the community college by (i) the community college president, (ii) the student's high school principal or equivalent administrator, and (iii) the academically gifted coordinator, if one is employed by the high school or local school administrative unit.~~

B. ~~The student participates in academic advising focused on the implications of being admitted to college early with representatives from the high school and the community college.~~

C. ~~The student's parent or guardian has given consent for the student to participate.~~

a1. ~~Subject to the approval of the State Board of Community Colleges, local community colleges may collaborate with local school administrative units to offer cooperative innovative high school programs, as provided by Part 9 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.~~

- b. ~~During the summer quarter, persons less than 16 years old may be permitted to take noncredit courses on a self-supporting basis, subject to rules of the State Board of Community Colleges.~~
- e. ~~High school students may be permitted to take noncredit courses in safe driving on a self-supporting basis during the academic year or the summer.~~
- d. ~~High school students 16 years and older may be permitted to take noncredit courses, except adult basic skills, subject to rules promulgated by the State Board of Community Colleges.~~
- e. ~~Notwithstanding any other provision of this subdivision, qualified youth 15 years and older may be permitted to enroll in courses, including certification-eligible courses, in fire training pursuant to G.S. 95-25.5(n) and on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community Colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-5(b)(2)."~~

**SECTION 6.5.(c)** Article 2 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115D-21.2. Accreditation.**

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Accreditation cycle. – The period of time during which a community college is accredited.
- (2) Accrediting agency. – An agency or association that accredits institutions of higher education.
- (3) Regional accrediting agency. – One of the following accrediting agencies:
  - a. Higher Learning Commission.
  - b. Middle States Commission on Higher Education.
  - c. New England Commission on Higher Education.
  - d. Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities.
  - e. Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges.
  - f. Western Association of Schools and Colleges Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges.

(b) Prohibit Consecutive Accreditation by an Accrediting Agency. – A community college shall not receive accreditation by an accrediting agency for consecutive accreditation cycles except as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(c) Accreditation Transfer Procedure. – A community college that pursues accreditation with a different accrediting agency in accordance with this section shall pursue accreditation with a regional accrediting agency. If the community college is not granted candidacy status by any regional accrediting agency that is different from its current accrediting agency at least three years prior to the expiration of its current accreditation, the community college may remain with its current accrediting agency for an additional accreditation cycle.

(d) Certain Programs Exempt. – The requirements of this section do not apply to professional, departmental, or certificate programs at community colleges that have specific accreditation requirements or best practices, as identified by the State Board of Community Colleges.

(e) Cause of Action. – A community college may bring a civil action, as follows:

- (1) Against any person who makes a false statement to the accrediting agency of the community college, if all of the following criteria are met:
  - a. The statement, if true, would mean the community college is out of compliance with its accreditation standards.

- b. The person made the statement with knowledge that the statement was false or with reckless disregard as to whether it was false.
- c. The accrediting agency conducted a review of the community college as a proximate result of the statement.
- d. The review caused the community college to incur costs.
- (2) A community college that prevails on a cause of action initiated pursuant to this subsection shall be entitled to the following:
  - a. Costs related to the review conducted by the accrediting agency, including for the following:
    - 1. Additional hours worked by community college personnel.
    - 2. Contracted services, including outside legal counsel.
    - 3. Travel, lodging, and food expenses.
    - 4. Fees required by the agency.
  - b. Reasonable attorneys' fees.
  - c. Court costs."

**SECTION 6.5.(d)** G.S. 115D-21.5 is repealed.

**SECTION 6.5.(e)** Article 2 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115D-21.10. Curriculum courses taught throughout year.**

Community colleges may teach curriculum courses at any time during the year, including the summer term. Student membership hours from these courses shall be counted when computing full-time equivalent students (FTE) for use in budget funding formulas at the State level."

**SECTION 6.5.(f)** Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 2B.

"High School Programs.

**"§ 115D-30.1. Career and College Promise Program.**

(a) There is established the Career and College Promise Program to allow pathways for qualified high school students to take community college courses without the payment of tuition.

(b) Subject to the approval of the State Board of Community Colleges, local community colleges may collaborate with public school units and nonpublic schools to offer courses through the following programs:

- (1) Academic transition pathways for qualified junior and senior high school students that lead to a career technical education certificate, diploma, or State or industry-recognized credential and academic transition pathways for qualified freshmen and sophomore high school students that lead to a career technical education certificate or diploma in one of the following:
  - a. Industrial and engineering technologies.
  - b. Agriculture and natural resources.
  - c. Transportation technology.
  - d. Construction.
  - e. Business technologies.
- (2) College transfer pathways requiring the successful completion of 30 semester credit hours of transfer courses, including English and mathematics, for the following students:
  - a. Qualified junior and senior high school students.
  - b. Qualified freshmen and sophomore high school students, if all of the following requirements are met:
    - 1. The student is determined to be academically gifted, have a demonstrated readiness for the course material, and have the maturity to justify admission to the community college by (i)

the community college president, (ii) the student's high school principal or equivalent administrator, and (iii) the academically gifted coordinator, if one is employed by the high school or local school administrative unit.

2. The student participates in academic advising focused on the implications of being admitted to college early with representatives from the high school and the community college.

3. The student's parent or guardian has given consent for the student to participate.

**"§ 115D-30.5. Evaluation of Career and College Promise Program.**

(a) Evaluation. – In addition to the evaluation of cooperative innovative high schools by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-238.55, the State Board of Community Colleges, in conjunction with the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, shall evaluate the success of students participating in the Career and College Promise Program, including the College Transfer pathway and the Career and Technical Education pathway.

(b) Metrics. – Success shall be measured by high school retention rates, high school completion rates, high school dropout rates, certification and associate degree completion, admission to four-year institutions, postgraduation employment in career or study-related fields, and employer satisfaction of employees who participated in the programs. The evaluation shall also include an analysis of the cost of students participating in each of the programs within the Career and College Promise Program, including at least the following:

(1) Total enrollment funding, the number of budgeted full-time equivalent students, and the number of students enrolled in courses through cooperative innovative high schools, the College Transfer pathway, and the Career and Technical Education pathway.

(2) The cost and number of waivers of tuition and registration fees provided for students enrolled in courses through cooperative innovative high schools, the College Transfer pathway, and the Career and Technical Education pathway.

(3) Any additional costs of a student attending courses on campus if a student is not attending public school in a local school administrative unit for the majority of the student's instructional time.

(c) Report. – The Boards shall jointly report by March 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division of the General Assembly. The report shall be combined with the evaluation of cooperative innovative high schools required by G.S. 115C-238.55, and the Community Colleges System Office shall be responsible for submitting the combined report.

**"§ 115D-30.10. Cooperative innovative high schools.**

Subject to the approval of the State Board of Community Colleges, local community colleges may collaborate with local school administrative units to offer cooperative innovative high school programs, as provided by Part 9 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

**"§ 115D-30.15. Noncredit courses.**

Subject to rules adopted by the State Board of Community Colleges, local community colleges may provide for the following:

(1) During the summer quarter, persons less than 16 years old may be permitted to take noncredit courses on a self-supporting basis.

(2) High school students may be permitted to take noncredit courses in safe driving on a self-supporting basis during the academic year or the summer.

- 1           (3)   High school students 16 years and older may be permitted to take noncredit  
2           courses, except adult basic skills.  
3           (4)   Notwithstanding any other provision of this Article, qualified youth 15 years  
4           and older may be permitted to enroll in courses, including  
5           certification-eligible courses, in fire training pursuant to G.S. 95-25.5(n) and  
6           on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community  
7           Colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-30.1.

8   **"§ 115D-30.20. Gateway to College Program.**

9       The purpose of the first semester of the Gateway to College Program is to address additional  
10      support to successfully complete the Program. Students may need to take developmental courses  
11      necessary for the transition to more challenging courses; therefore, the State Board of Community  
12      Colleges shall (i) permit high school students who are enrolled in Gateway to College Programs  
13      to enroll in developmental courses based on an assessment of their individual student needs by a  
14      high school and community college staff team and (ii) include this coursework in computing the  
15      budget FTE for the colleges.

16   **"§ 115D-30.25. NC Career Coach Program.**

17      (a)   Purpose. – There is established the NC Career Coach Program to place community  
18      college career coaches in high schools to assist students with determining career goals and  
19      identifying community college programs that would enable students to achieve these goals.

20      (b)   Memorandum of Understanding. – The board of trustees of a community college and  
21      a local board of education of a local school administrative unit within the service area of the  
22      community college shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for the placement of career  
23      coaches employed by the board of trustees of the community college in schools within the local  
24      school administrative unit. At a minimum, the memorandum of understanding shall include the  
25      following:

- 26           (1)   Requirement that the community college provides the following:  
27           a.   Hiring, training, and supervision of career coaches. The board of  
28           trustees may include a local board of education liaison on the hiring  
29           committee to participate in the decision making regarding hiring for  
30           the coach positions.  
31           b.   Salary, benefits, and all other expenses related to the employment of  
32           the career coach. The coach will be an employee of the board of  
33           trustees and will not be an agent or employee of the local board of  
34           education.  
35           c.   Development of pedagogical materials and technologies needed to  
36           enhance the advising process.  
37           d.   Criminal background checks required by the local school  
38           administrative unit for employees working directly with students.  
39           e.   Agreement that, while on any school campus, the career coach will  
40           obey all local board of education rules and will be subject to the  
41           authority of the school building administration.  
42           (2)   Requirement that the local school administrative unit provides the following  
43           to career coaches:  
44           a.   Access to student records, as needed to carry out the coach's job  
45           responsibilities.  
46           b.   Office space on site appropriate for student advising.  
47           c.   Information technology resources, including, but not limited to,  
48           internet access, telephone, and copying.  
49           d.   Initial school orientation and ongoing integration into the faculty and  
50           staff community.  
51           e.   Promotion of school-wide awareness of coach duties.

- 1                   f.       Facilitation of the coach's access to individual classes and larger  
2                               assemblies for the purposes of awareness building.
- 3       (c)   Application for NC Career Coach Program Funding. – The board of trustees of a  
4       community college and a local board of education of a local school administrative unit within the  
5       service area of the community college jointly may apply for available funds for NC Career Coach  
6       Program funding from the State Board of Community Colleges. The State Board of Community  
7       Colleges shall establish a process for award of funds as follows:
- 8               (1)   Advisory committee. – Establishment of an advisory committee, which shall  
9                       include representatives from the NC Community College System, the  
10                      Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Commerce, and at least  
11                      three representatives of the business community, to review applications and  
12                      make recommendations for funding awards to the State Board.
- 13              (2)   Application submission requirements. – The State Board of Community  
14                      Colleges shall require at least the following:
- 15                   a.       Evidence of a signed memorandum of understanding that meets, at a  
16                               minimum, the requirements of this section.
- 17                   b.       Evidence that the funding request will be matched with local funds in  
18                               accordance with the following:
- 19                               1.       Matching funds may come from public or private sources.  
20                               2.       The match amount shall be determined based on the  
21                                       development tier designation of the county in which the local  
22                                       school administrative unit is located where the career coach is  
23                                       assigned on the date of the award of funds by the State Board  
24                                       of Community Colleges according to the following:
- 25                                       I.       If located in a tier one county as defined in  
26   G.S. 143B-437.08, no local match shall be required.
- 27                                       II.       If located in a tier two county as defined in  
28   G.S. 143B-437.08, one dollar (\$1.00) of local funds for  
29   every two dollars (\$2.00) in State funds shall be  
30   required.
- 31                                       III.       If located in a tier three county as defined in  
32   G.S. 143B-437.08, one dollar (\$1.00) of local funds for  
33   every one dollar (\$1.00) in State funds shall be  
34   required.
- 35              (3)   Awards criteria. – The State Board of Community Colleges shall develop  
36                      criteria for consideration in determining the award of funds that shall include  
37                      the following:
- 38                   a.       Consideration of the workforce needs of business and industry in the  
39                               region.
- 40                   b.       Targeting of resources to enhance ongoing economic activity within  
41                               the community college service area and surrounding counties.
- 42                   c.       Geographic diversity of awards.
- 43       (d)   Annual Report. –
- 44              (1)   The board of trustees of a community college that employs one or more career  
45                      coaches shall report annually to the State Board of Community Colleges on  
46                      implementation and outcomes of the Program, including the following  
47                      information:
- 48                   a.       Number of career coaches employed.
- 49                   b.       Number of local school administrative units served and names of  
50                               schools in which career coaches are placed.
- 51                   c.       Number of students annually counseled by career coaches.

- 1                   d.     Impact of career coaches on student choices, as determined by a valid  
2                         measure selected by the State Board of Community Colleges.  
3       (2)     The State Board of Community Colleges shall report annually no later than  
4                   October 1 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the  
5                   following:  
6                   a.     A compilation of the information reported by the board of trustees of  
7                         community colleges, as provided in subdivision (1) of this subsection.  
8                   b.     Number and names of partnership applicants for NC Career Coach  
9                         Program funding.  
10                  c.     Number, names, and amounts of those awarded NC Career Coach  
11                         Program funding."

12       **SECTION 6.5.(g)**   G.S. 115D-39, 115D-39.1, 115D-40.1, and 115D-40.5 are  
13   codified into Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes, which shall be entitled  
14   "Tuition and Fees." The remaining sections of Article 3 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes  
15   are codified into Part 1 of Article 3 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes, which shall be  
16   entitled "Funding of Community Colleges."

17       **SECTION 6.5.(h)**   Part 2 of Article 3 of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is  
18   amended by adding new sections to read:

19   **"§ 115D-39.2. Pro rata tuition and uniform registration fees.**

20       In order to make instruction as accessible as possible to all citizens, the teaching of curricular  
21   courses and of noncurricular extension courses at convenient locations away from institution  
22   campuses as well as on campuses is authorized and shall be encouraged. A pro rata portion of  
23   the established regular tuition rate charged a full-time student shall be charged a part-time student  
24   taking any curriculum course. In lieu of any tuition charge, the State Board of Community  
25   Colleges shall establish a uniform registration fee, or a schedule of uniform registration fees, to  
26   be charged students enrolling in extension courses for which instruction is financed primarily  
27   from State funds.

28   **"§ 115D-39.5. Tuition waivers.**

29       (a)     Allowed Tuition Waivers. – The State Board of Community Colleges shall not waive  
30   tuition and registration fees for any individuals, except the State Board may, as provided by  
31   general and uniform regulations, waive tuition and registration fees for the following:

- 32           (1)     Persons not enrolled in elementary or secondary schools taking courses  
33                   leading to a high school diploma or equivalent certificate.  
34           (2)     Courses requested by the following entities that support the organizations'  
35                   training needs and are on a specialized course list approved by the State Board:  
36                   a.     Volunteer fire departments.  
37                   b.     Municipal, county, or State fire departments.  
38                   c.     Volunteer EMS or rescue and lifesaving departments.  
39                   d.     Municipal, county, or State EMS or rescue and lifesaving departments.  
40                   e.     Law enforcement, fire, or EMS or rescue and lifesaving entities  
41                         serving a lake authority that was created by a county board of  
42                         commissioners prior to July 1, 2012.  
43                   f.     Radio Emergency Associated Communications Teams (REACT)  
44                         under contract to a county as an emergency response agency.  
45                   g.     Municipal, county, or State law enforcement agencies.  
46                   h.     Campus police agencies of private institutions of higher education  
47                         certified by the Attorney General pursuant to Chapter 74G of the  
48                         General Statutes.  
49                   i.     The Division of Prisons of the Department of Adult Correction and the  
50                         Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety for the  
51                         training of full-time custodial employees and employees of the



Divisions required to be certified under Article 1 of Chapter 17C of the General Statutes and the rules of the Criminal Justice and Training Standards Commission.

- j. The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians law enforcement, fire, or EMS or rescue and lifesaving tribal government departments or programs.
  - k. The Criminal Justice Standards Division of the Department of Justice for the training of criminal justice professionals, as defined in G.S. 17C-20(6), who are required to be certified under (i) Article 1 of Chapter 17C of the General Statutes and the rules of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission or (ii) Chapter 17E of the General Statutes and the rules of the North Carolina Sheriffs' Education and Training Standards Commission. The waivers provided for in this sub-subdivision apply to participants and recent graduates of the North Carolina Criminal Justice Fellows Program to obtain certifications for eligible criminal justice professions, as defined in G.S. 17C-20(6).
- (3) Firefighters, EMS personnel, and rescue and lifesaving personnel whose duty station is located on a military installation within North Carolina for courses that support their organizations' training needs and are approved for this purpose by the State Board.
  - (4) Trainees enrolled in courses conducted under the Customized Training Program.
  - (5) Elementary and secondary school employees enrolled in courses in first aid or cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR).
  - (6) All courses taken by high school students at community colleges, in accordance with this section and Article 2B of this Chapter.
  - (7) Human resources development courses for any individual who (i) is unemployed, (ii) has received notification of a pending layoff, (iii) is working and is eligible for the Federal Earned Income Tax Credit (FEITC), or (iv) is working and earning wages at or below two hundred percent (200%) of the federal poverty guidelines.
  - (8) Courses providing employability skills, job-specific occupational or technical skills, or developmental education instruction to certain students who are concurrently enrolled in an eligible community college literacy course, in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board.
  - (9) Courses provided to students who are participating in a pre-apprenticeship or apprenticeship program that meets all of the following criteria:
    - a. Meets one of the following:
      - 1. Is a registered apprenticeship program recognized by the United States Department of Labor.
      - 2. Is a pre-apprenticeship program recognized and approved by the State agency administering the statewide apprenticeship program.
    - b. Has a documented plan of study with courses relating to a job-specific occupational or technical skill.
    - c. Requires the participants in the program to be North Carolina high school students when entering the program.

(b) Faculty and Staff. – The State Board shall not waive tuition and registration fees for community college faculty or staff members. Community colleges may, however, use State or local funds to pay tuition and registration fees for one course per semester for full-time community college faculty or staff members employed for a nine-, 10-, 11-, or 12-month term.

1 Community colleges may also use State and local funds to pay tuition and registration fees for  
2 professional development courses and for other courses consistent with the academic assistance  
3 program authorized by the State Human Resources Commission.

4 (c) Annual Report. – Annually by February 1, the Community Colleges System Office  
5 shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the number and type of  
6 waivers granted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section."

7 **SECTION 6.5.(i)** G.S. 115D-41 is recodified as G.S. 115D-38.5.

8 **SECTION 6.5.(j)** G.S. 115D-43 is recodified as G.S. 115D-38.10.

9 **SECTION 6.5.(k)** G.S. 115D-44 is repealed.

10 **SECTION 6.5.(l)** G.S. 20-11(n) reads as rewritten:

11 "(n) Driving Eligibility Certificate. – A person who desires to obtain a permit or license  
12 issued under this section must have a high school diploma or its equivalent or must have a driving  
13 eligibility certificate. A driving eligibility certificate must meet the following conditions:

14 (1) The person who is required to sign the certificate under subdivision (4) of this  
15 subsection must show that he or she has determined that one of the following  
16 requirements is met:

- 17 a. The person is currently enrolled in school and is making progress  
18 toward obtaining a high school diploma or its equivalent.  
19 b. A substantial hardship would be placed on the person or the person's  
20 family if the person does not receive a certificate.  
21 c. The person cannot make progress toward obtaining a high school  
22 diploma or its equivalent.

23 (1a) The person who is required to sign the certificate under subdivision (4) of this  
24 subsection also must show that one of the following requirements is met:

- 25 a. The person who seeks a permit or license issued under this section is  
26 not subject to subsection (n1) of this section.  
27 b. The person who seeks a permit or license issued under this section is  
28 subject to subsection (n1) of this section and is eligible for the  
29 certificate under that subsection.

30 (2) It must be on a form approved by the Division.

31 (3) It must be dated within 30 days of the date the person applies for a permit or  
32 license issuable under this section.

33 (4) It must be signed by the applicable person named below:

- 34 a. The principal, or the principal's designee, of the public school in which  
35 the person is enrolled.  
36 b. The administrator, or the administrator's designee, of the nonpublic  
37 school in which the person is enrolled.  
38 c. The person who provides the academic instruction in the home school  
39 in which the person is enrolled.  
40 c1. The person who provides the academic instruction in the home in  
41 accordance with an educational program found by a court, prior to July  
42 1, 1998, to comply with the compulsory attendance law.  
43 d. The designee of the board of directors of the charter school in which  
44 the person is enrolled.  
45 e. The president, or the president's designee, of the community college  
46 in which the person is enrolled.

47 Notwithstanding any other law, the decision concerning whether a driving eligibility  
48 certificate was properly issued or improperly denied shall be appealed only as provided under  
49 the rules adopted in accordance with G.S. 115C-12(28), ~~115D-5(a3)~~, 115D-10.70, or 115C-566,  
50 whichever is applicable, and may not be appealed under this Chapter."

51 **SECTION 6.5.(m)** G.S. 20-13.2(c1) reads as rewritten:

"(c1) Upon receipt of notification from the proper school authority that a person no longer meets the requirements for a driving eligibility certificate under G.S. 20-11(n), the Division must expeditiously notify the person that his or her permit or license is revoked effective on the thirtieth calendar day after the mailing of the revocation notice. The Division must revoke the permit or license of that person on the thirtieth calendar day after the mailing of the revocation notice. Notwithstanding subsection (d) of this section, the length of revocation must last for the following periods:

- (1) If the revocation is because of ineligibility for a driving eligibility certificate under G.S. 20-11(n)(1), then the revocation shall last until the person's eighteenth birthday.
- (2) If the revocation is because of ineligibility for a driving eligibility certificate under G.S. 20-11(n1), then the revocation shall be for a period of one year.

For a person whose permit or license was revoked due to ineligibility for a driving eligibility certificate under G.S. 20-11(n)(1), the Division must restore a person's permit or license before the person's eighteenth birthday, if the person submits to the Division one of the following:

- (1) A high school diploma or its equivalent.
- (2) A driving eligibility certificate as required under G.S. 20-11(n).

If the Division restores a permit or license that was revoked due to ineligibility for a driving eligibility certificate under G.S. 20-11(n)(1), any record of revocation or suspension shall be expunged by the Division from the person's driving record. The Division shall not expunge a suspension or revocation record if a person has had a prior expunction from the person's driving record for any reason.

For a person whose permit or license was revoked due to ineligibility for a driving eligibility certificate under G.S. 20-11(n1), the Division shall restore a person's permit or license before the end of the revocation period, if the person submits to the Division a driving eligibility certificate as required under G.S. 20-11(n).

Notwithstanding any other law, the decision concerning whether a driving eligibility certificate was properly issued or improperly denied shall be appealed only as provided under the rules adopted in accordance with G.S. 115C-12(28), ~~115D-5(a3)~~, 115D-10.70, or 115C-566, whichever is applicable, and may not be appealed under this Chapter."

**SECTION 6.5.(n)** G.S. 90-631(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) A massage and bodywork therapy program operated by a North Carolina community college that is accredited by a regional accrediting agency, as defined in ~~G.S. 115D-6.2~~, G.S. 115D-21.2, is exempt from the approval process, licensure process, or both, established by the Board. The college shall certify annually to the Board that the program meets or exceeds the minimum standards for curriculum, faculty, and learning resources established by the Board. Students who complete the program shall qualify for licenses from the Board as if the program were approved, licensed, or both, by the Board."

**SECTION 6.5.(o)** G.S. 93A-4(a2) reads as rewritten:

"(a2) A certified real estate education provider shall pay a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per licensee to the Commission for each licensee completing a postlicensing education course conducted by the school, provided that these fees shall not be charged to a community college, junior college, college, or university located in this State and accredited by a regional accrediting agency, as defined in ~~G.S. 115D-6.2~~ G.S. 115D-21.2 and G.S. 116-11.4, respectively."

**SECTION 6.5.(p)** G.S. 93A-38.5(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) The Commission may establish a nonrefundable course application fee to be charged to private real estate education providers for the review and approval of a proposed continuing education course. The fee shall not exceed one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) per course. The Commission may charge the private real estate education providers of an approved course a nonrefundable fee not to exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) for the annual renewal of course approval.

1 A private real estate education provider shall pay a fee of ten dollars (\$10.00) per licensee to  
2 the Commission for each licensee completing an approved continuing education course  
3 conducted by the sponsor.

4 The Commission shall not charge a course application fee, a course renewal fee, or any other  
5 fee for a continuing education course sponsored by a community college, junior college, college,  
6 or university located in this State and accredited by a regional accrediting agency, as defined in  
7 ~~G.S. 115D-6.2~~ G.S. 115D-21.2 and G.S. 116-11.4, respectively."

8 **SECTION 6.5.(q)** G.S. 93E-1-7(b2) reads as rewritten:

9 "(b2) The Board shall not charge a course application fee, a course renewal fee, or any other  
10 fee for a continuing education course offered by a North Carolina college, university, junior  
11 college, or community or technical college accredited by a regional accrediting agency, as  
12 defined in ~~G.S. 115D-6.2~~ G.S. 115D-21.2 and G.S. 116-11.4, respectively, or an agency of the  
13 federal, State, or local government."

14 **SECTION 6.5.(r)** G.S. 93E-1-8 reads as rewritten:

15 "**§ 93E-1-8. Education program approval and fees.**

16 ...

17 (b) The Board may by rule set nonrefundable fees chargeable to private real estate  
18 appraisal schools or course sponsors, including appraisal trade organizations, for the approval  
19 and annual renewal of approval of their qualifying courses required by G.S. 93E-1-6(a), or  
20 equivalent courses. The fees shall be one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per course for approval and  
21 fifty dollars (\$50.00) per course for renewal of approval. No fees shall be charged for the approval  
22 or renewal of approval to conduct appraiser qualifying courses where such courses are offered  
23 by a North Carolina college, university, junior college, or community or technical college  
24 accredited by a regional accrediting agency, as defined in ~~G.S. 115D-6.2~~ G.S. 115D-21.2 and  
25 G.S. 116-11.4, respectively, or an agency of the federal, State, or local government.

26 ...

27 (d) Nonrefundable fees of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per course may be charged to  
28 schools and course sponsors for the approval to conduct appraiser continuing education courses  
29 and fifty dollars (\$50.00) per course for renewal of approval. However, no fees shall be charged  
30 for the approval or renewal of approval to conduct appraiser continuing education courses where  
31 such courses are offered by a North Carolina college, university, junior college, or community  
32 or technical college accredited by a regional accrediting agency, as defined in ~~G.S. 115D-6.2~~  
33 G.S. 115D-21.2 and G.S. 116-11.4, respectively, or by an agency of the federal, State, or local  
34 government. A nonrefundable fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) per course may be charged to current  
35 or former licensees or certificate holders requesting approval by the Board of a course for  
36 continuing education credit when approval of such course has not been previously obtained by  
37 the offering school or course sponsor."

38 **SECTION 6.5.(s)** G.S. 95-25.5(n) reads as rewritten:

39 "(n) Nothing in this section prohibits qualified youths under 18 years of age from  
40 participating in training through their fire department, the Office of State Fire Marshal, or the  
41 North Carolina Community College System. As used in this subsection, the term "qualified youth  
42 under 18 years of age" means an uncompensated fire department or rescue squad member who  
43 is at least the age of 15 and under the age of 18 and who is a member of a bona fide fire  
44 department, as that term is defined in G.S. 58-86-2(4), or of a rescue squad described in  
45 G.S. 58-86-2(6). A qualified youth under 18 years of age under this subsection may be permitted  
46 to enroll in courses, including certification-eligible courses, in fire training at a community  
47 college on a specialized course list approved by the State Board of Community Colleges pursuant  
48 to ~~G.S. 115D-20(4)~~ G.S. 115D-30.15(4)."

49 **SECTION 6.5.(t)** G.S. 115C-84.3(a)(3) reads as rewritten:

1           "(3) Institution of higher education courses, as provided in Article 16 of this  
2           Chapter or ~~G.S. 115D-20(4)~~ Article 2B of Chapter 115D of the General  
3           Statutes."

4           **SECTION 6.5.(u)** G.S. 115C-238.55 reads as rewritten:

5   **"§ 115C-238.55. Evaluation of cooperative innovative high schools.**

6           The State Board of Education and the governing Boards shall evaluate the success of students  
7   in cooperative innovative high schools approved under this Part. Success shall be measured by  
8   high school retention rates, high school completion rates, high school dropout rates, certification  
9   and associate degree completion, admission to four-year institutions, postgraduation employment  
10  in career or study-related fields, and employer satisfaction of employees who participated in and  
11  graduated from the schools. The Boards shall jointly report by March 15 of each year to the Joint  
12  Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on  
13  Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal  
14  Research Division of the General Assembly on the evaluation of these schools. The report shall  
15  be combined with the evaluation of and analysis of cost of students participating in the Career  
16  and College Promise Program required by ~~G.S. 115D-5(x)~~, G.S. 115D-30.5, and the Community  
17  Colleges System Office shall be responsible for submitting the combined report."

18          **SECTION 6.5.(v)** G.S. 115D-2(2) reads as rewritten:

19          "(2) The term "community college" is defined as an educational institution  
20          operating under the provisions of this Chapter and dedicated primarily to the  
21          educational needs of the service area which it serves, and may offer any of the  
22          following:

- 23           a. The freshmen and sophomore courses of a college of arts and sciences,  
24           authorized by ~~G.S. 115D-4.1~~; G.S. 115D-10.10.  
25           b. Organized credit curricula for the training of technicians; curricular  
26           courses may carry transfer credit to a senior college or university  
27           where the course is comparable in content and quality and is  
28           appropriate to a chosen course of ~~study~~; study.  
29           c. Vocational, trade, and technical specialty courses and ~~programs~~,  
30           and programs.  
31           d. Courses in general adult education."

32          **SECTION 6.5.(w)** G.S. 115D-39(a1) reads as rewritten:

33          "(a1) In addition, federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS personnel, and rescue  
34   and lifesaving personnel whose permanent duty station is within North Carolina and who do not  
35   otherwise qualify for tuition waivers under ~~G.S. 115D-5(b)(2a)~~ G.S. 115D-39.5(a)(3) shall also  
36   be eligible for the State resident community college tuition rate for courses that support their  
37   organizations' training needs and are approved for this purpose by the State Board of Community  
38   Colleges."

39          **SECTION 6.5.(x)** G.S. 115D-41(a) reads as rewritten:

40          "(a) Community college contracts with local school administrative units shall not be used  
41   by these agencies to supplant funding for a public school high school teacher providing courses  
42   offered pursuant to ~~G.S. 115D-20(4)~~ Article 2B of this Chapter who is already employed by the  
43   local school administrative unit. In no event shall a community college contract with a local  
44   school administrative unit to provide high school level courses."

45          **SECTION 6.5.(y)** Article 6A of Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is repealed.

46          **SECTION 6.5.(z)** G.S. 116-201(b)(8) reads as rewritten:

47          "(8) "Private institution" means an institution other than a seminary, Bible school,  
48          Bible college or similar religious institution in this State that is not owned or  
49          operated by the State or any agency or political subdivision thereof, or by any  
50          combination thereof, that offers post-high school education and is accredited  
51          by a regional accrediting agency, as defined in ~~G.S. 115D-6.2~~ G.S. 115D-21.2

1 and G.S. 116-11.4, or the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and  
2 Schools, or, in the case of institutions that are not eligible to be considered for  
3 accreditation, accredited in those categories and by those nationally  
4 recognized accrediting agencies that the Authority may designate;"

5 **SECTION 6.5.(aa)** G.S. 116-280(3) reads as rewritten:

6 "(3) Eligible private postsecondary institution. – A school that is any of the  
7 following:

8 a. A nonprofit postsecondary educational institution with a main  
9 permanent campus located in this State that is not owned or operated  
10 by the State of North Carolina or by an agency or political subdivision  
11 of the State or by any combination thereof that satisfies all of the  
12 following:

13 1. Is either (i) accredited by a regional accrediting agency, as  
14 defined in ~~G.S. 115D-6.2~~ G.S. 115D-21.2 and G.S. 116-11.4,  
15 or the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and  
16 Schools or (ii) was accredited by ~~SACSCOC~~ the Southern  
17 Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges  
18 on January 1, 2021, and, beginning January 1, 2021, was a  
19 member of the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges  
20 and Schools.

21 2. Awards a postsecondary degree as defined in G.S. 116-15.

22 b. A postsecondary institution owned or operated by a hospital authority  
23 as defined in G.S. 131E-16(14) or school of nursing affiliated with a  
24 nonprofit postsecondary educational institution as defined in  
25 sub-subdivision a. of this subsection."

26 **SECTION 6.5.(bb)** G.S. 126-5(c2)(3) reads as rewritten:

27 "(3) Employees of community colleges whose salaries are fixed in accordance with  
28 ~~G.S. 115D-5~~ G.S. 115D-6.1 and G.S. 115D-20 and employees of the  
29 Community Colleges System Office whose salaries are fixed by the State  
30 Board of Community Colleges in accordance with G.S. 115D-3."

31 **SECTION 6.5.(cc)** Section 6.9(b) of S.L. 2023-134 reads as rewritten:

32 "SECTION 6.9.(b) Of the recurring funds appropriated in this act to the Community  
33 Colleges System Office for the 2023-2025 fiscal biennium to support increasing program  
34 offerings for individuals with IDD pursuant to ~~G.S. 115D-44~~, as enacted by this section,  
35 G.S. 115D-10.21, the System Office shall establish at least two statewide positions for program  
36 support, provide professional development training for college advising staff to assist students  
37 with IDD for career pathway exploration and the identification of credentials leading to  
38 competitive employment, and explore funding sources to sustain programs for students with  
39 IDD."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H9(S6.6)-P

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

**NCCCS LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

**SECTION 6.6.(a)** The State Board of Community Colleges shall conduct a competitive solicitation, including a request for information or a request for proposals, to provide a learning management system to all community colleges. The competitive solicitation shall be completed by December 31, 2025, and the transition to the new learning management system shall be completed by December 31, 2027. Answers to the competitive solicitation shall include information on how the learning management system would align with the learning management systems (i) offered by the Department of Public Instruction to local school administrative units and (ii) used by the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina.

**SECTION 6.6.(b)** By December 31, 2025, the State Board shall report to the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division on the information received.

**SECTION 6.6.(c)** G.S. 143B-1320 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 143B-1320. Definitions; scope; exemptions.**

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this Article:

(1) CGIA. – Center for Geographic Information and Analysis.

...

(17) State agency or agency. – Any agency, department, institution, commission, committee, board, division, bureau, office, unit, officer, or official of the State. The term does not include the legislative or judicial branches of ~~government~~ government, the Community Colleges System Office, or The University of North Carolina.

...

(b) Exemptions. – Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, the provisions of this Chapter do not apply to the following entities: the General Assembly, the Judicial Department, the Community Colleges System Office, and The University of North Carolina and its constituent institutions. These entities may elect to participate in the information technology programs, services, or contracts offered by the Department, including information technology procurement, in accordance with the statutes, policies, and rules of the Department. The election must be made in writing, as follows:

(1) For the General Assembly, by the Legislative Services Commission.

(2) For the Judicial Department, by the Chief Justice.

(2a) For the Community Colleges System Office, by the State Board of Community Colleges.

(3) For The University of North Carolina, by the Board of Governors.

(4) For the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina, by the respective boards of trustees.

...."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H11(S6.7)i

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

***FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE TECH PLANNING***

**SECTION 6.7.** Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115D-9.40. Evaluation of technology costs.**

The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy that requires all community colleges to evaluate the following when acquiring technology, computer hardware, and software:

- (1) The long-term cost of ownership, including costs of repairing the technology, computer hardware, or software.
- (2) Any flexibility for innovation during the life of the technology, computer hardware, or software.
- (3) Any anticipated resale or salvage value at the end of the target life cycle for the technology, computer hardware, or software based on the average resale or salvage value of similar technology, computer hardware, or software as a percentage of the initial cost of purchase."



# GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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**Proofed**  
**SPECIAL PROVISION**



**2025-NCCCS-H13(S8.21)-P**

## **North Carolina Community College System House Appropriations, Education**

### ***EXPEDITED TEACHER PIPELINE PATHWAY STUDY***

**SECTION #.** No later than March 15, 2026, ApprenticeshipNC shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on a plan to facilitate one or more expedited pathways for apprenticeship candidates to enter the teaching profession. ApprenticeshipNC shall develop the plan in collaboration with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the State Board of Community Colleges, the Department of Public Instruction, and Teach NC. In addition, ApprenticeshipNC may, in its discretion, collaborate with representatives of approved educator preparation programs, local school administrative units, and existing apprenticeship programs. The plan shall include at least the following components:

- (1) Options for an accelerated transition pathway that allows high school students to earn college credits leading to a teaching license while participating in structured, paid, or other experiential learning in the classroom, including applicable program design and sequencing components needed to achieve that goal.
- (2) Maximize usage and transferability of at least the following coursework completion opportunities:
  - a. College transfer pathways provided through the Career and College Promise Program that support entry into a recognized educator preparation program.
  - b. Community college coursework leading to completion of an associate degree related to teacher preparation.
  - c. Online or asynchronous coursework provided at a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina leading to a bachelor's degree.
  - d. Enrollment in an associate degree program or a bachelor's degree program while serving (i) as a full-time employee in a public school unit and (ii) as a teacher assistant or apprentice in a registered apprenticeship program pursuant to G.S. 115C-269.33, as enacted by Section 7.37 of this act.
- (3) Any legislative changes or appropriations needed to implement the plan.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H2-P

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**VARIOUS NCCCS STATUTORY CHANGES**

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115D-10.17(e), as enacted by this act, reads as rewritten:

"(e) Of the funds appropriated in a fiscal year for the Customized Training Program, the State Board of Community Colleges may approve the use of up to ~~eight percent (8%)~~ fifteen percent (15%) for the training and support of regional community college personnel to deliver Customized Training Program services to business and industry."

**SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115D-31.3(e) reads as rewritten:

"(e) Mandatory Performance Measures. – The State Board of Community Colleges shall evaluate each college on the following performance measures:

- (1) Progress of basic skills students.
- (2) Repealed by Session Laws 2016-94, s. 10.1, effective July 1, 2016.
- (3) Performance of students who transfer to a four-year institution.
- (3a) Success rate of students in credit-bearing English courses.
- (3b) Success rate of students in credit-bearing Math or Science courses.
- (4), (5) Repealed by Session Laws 2016-94, s. 10.1, effective July 1, 2016.
- (5a) Progress of first-year curriculum students.
- (6) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-142, s. 8.5, effective July 1, 2012.
- (7) Curriculum student retention and graduation.
- (8) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-142, s. 8.5, effective July 1, 2012.
- (9) Attainment of licensure and certifications by students.

The State Board may also evaluate each college on additional performance measures."

**SECTION #.(c)** G.S. 115D-30.25, as enacted by this act, is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e) Administrative Costs. – The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office may use up to four percent (4%) of the funds appropriated for the NC Career Coach Program for administrative costs, including system office staffing, professional development, and program management and evaluation. These funds shall be utilized to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of the program, ensuring its continued support for students within the community college system. The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall have the authority to allocate and oversee the utilization of these administrative funds in alignment with the Program's goals and requirements."

**SECTION #.(d)** G.S. 115D-30.1(b), as enacted by this act, is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(3) Career and College Ready Graduate pathways introducing college developmental mathematics and developmental English and reading curricula in the senior year of high school, including the immediately preceding summer, and providing opportunities for college remediation for students prior to high school graduation, ensuring students are prepared for college and career success as they transition from high school to higher education."

**SECTION #.(e)** The following provisions are repealed:

- 1           (1)     Section 10.13 of S.L. 2015-241.
- 2           (2)     Section 10.5 of S.L. 2016-94.
- 3           (3)     Section 9.4 of S.L. 2018-5.
- 4           (4)     Section 3J.19 of S.L. 2024-57.
- 5           **SECTION #.(f)** This section applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H5-P

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM**

**SECTION #.(a)** Program; Purpose. – The Community Colleges System Office shall establish the Workforce Diploma Program (Program) for the 2025-2026 and the 2026-2027 fiscal years. The purpose of the Program is to assist eligible students to obtain a high school diploma and develop employability and career and technical skills. The System Office shall contract with each qualifying third-party entity to separately administer a statewide version of the Program.

**SECTION #.(b)** Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Eligible student. – Any adult who meets the following criteria:
  - a. Is 21 years of age or older.
  - b. Is a resident of North Carolina.
  - c. Has not earned a high school diploma or its equivalent.
- (2) Employability skills certification. – A certificate earned by demonstrating professional nontechnical skills through assessment and must include the program standards of the United States Department of Labor's "Skills to Pay the Bills: Mastering Soft Skills for Workplace Success."
- (3) Half credit. – Equivalent to one course or a semester of study.
- (4) Participant. – An eligible student who is participating in the Program.
- (5) Qualifying third-party entity. – An entity that meets all of the following requirements:
  - a. Did the following in the past five years:
    1. Administered at least three statewide adult high school diploma programs outside of the State.
    2. For any program described in sub-sub-subdivision 1. of this sub-subdivision, maintained a graduation rate of at least fifty percent (50%) based on a two-year cohort beginning with the second cohort of the program.
  - b. Is accredited by an external, regional accrediting agency.
  - c. Offers a course catalog that aligns with curriculum requirements for a high school diploma in the State.

**SECTION #.(c)** Program Requirements. – The Program shall do at least the following:

- (1) Provide one or more courses that help participants obtain a high school diploma and enter or advance within a specific occupation or occupational cluster. Course completion shall be competency-based.
- (2) Assist participants in obtaining employment, including resume development and mock interviews.
- (3) Include at least the following:
  - a. Proactive communication with participants regarding their pace and progress through learning plans.

- b. A plan for courses and credits needed for each participant that integrates graduation requirements and career goals.
- c. Mentoring services.
- d. Milestone tracking.
- e. Academic skill intake assessments and transcript evaluations.
- f. A catalog of courses necessary to meet graduation requirements.
- g. Remediation opportunities in literacy and numeracy.
- h. Employability skills certifications.
- i. Preparation for workforce credentials.
- j. Career advising services.
- k. Access to online tutoring services at any time.

**SECTION #.(d)** Allocation of Funds. – Funds shall be provided to each qualifying third-party entity on a per participant basis, up to seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) per participant, based on the completion of milestones, as follows:

- (1) Two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) for the completion of each half credit.
- (2) Two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) for the completion of an employability skills certification program equivalent to one credit.
- (3) Two hundred seventy-five dollars (\$275.00) for the attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring up to 50 hours of training.
- (4) Five hundred fifty dollars (\$550.00) for the attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring between 51 and 100 hours of training.
- (5) Eight hundred twenty-five dollars (\$825.00) for the attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring more than 100 hours of training.
- (6) One thousand one hundred dollars (\$1,100) for the attainment of a high school diploma.

**SECTION #.(e)** Report. – The State Board of Community Colleges, in consultation with each qualifying third-party entity, shall submit an interim report by August 15, 2026, and a final report by August 15, 2027, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the impact of the Program, including at least the following information:

- (1) The number of participants.
- (2) The number of credits earned by participants.
- (3) The number of employability skills certifications issued to participants.
- (4) The number and type of workforce credentials earned by participants.
- (5) The number of participants who received a high school diploma.
- (6) The average funding provided per participant who received a high school diploma.
- (7) The percentage of participants who received a high school diploma.

**SECTION #.(f)** Follow-Up. – To the extent possible, the North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall attempt to collect data on employment outcomes for students who participated in the Program pursuant to this section. Any data collected shall be submitted to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by July 15 of the year in which the data was collected.

**SECTION #.(g)** Nonreversion. – The nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the North Carolina Community Colleges System Office to establish the Program pursuant to this section shall not revert at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year but shall remain available until the end of the 2026-2027 fiscal year.

**SECTION #.(h)** Administration. – Of the nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to the North Carolina Community Colleges System Office for the

- 1 Program, the System Office shall use up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) to hire one
- 2 full-time equivalent position to administer the Program.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-NCCCS-H6-P

North Carolina Community College System  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***DIGITAL CREDENTIAL PILOT PROGRAM***

**SECTION #.(a)** There is established the Digital Credential Pilot Program (Program) for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium. The purpose of the Program is to evaluate the effectiveness of digital credential vaults for use by community college students. The North Carolina Community Colleges System Office shall contract with a third-party entity to create a secure, interoperable digital vault platform capable of issuing, storing, verifying, and sharing learner credentials, including microcredentials, certifications, transcripts, and verified skill records and credentials. The platform shall provide equitable cross-device access for learners and allow for credential portability across educational institutions and employers, support open standards for interoperability, offer real-time verification, and ensure privacy and security in compliance with applicable laws. The system shall enable learners to manage a comprehensive, lifelong record of achievement that is accessible, verifiable, and shareable with third parties through digital means. Vault data must be user-encrypted to prevent unauthorized access or sale, and all credential and learner data shall be owned and controlled by the student.

**SECTION #.(b)** The System Office shall select six community colleges to participate in the Program. The System Office shall make an application available to all community colleges for participation in the Program no later than 30 days after this section becomes law. Community colleges may submit applications up to 30 days after the application is made available. The System Office shall select community colleges to participate in the Program no later than 30 days after the close of the application window.

**SECTION #.(c)** The System Office shall conduct a study on the efficacy of raising student fees to continue the Program beyond the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium. The System Office shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the results of the study by January 15, 2027.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H21(S7.2)-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**CLARIFY LEARNING.COM FUNDING**

**SECTION 7.2.(a)** Subsection (b) of Section 7.23K of S.L. 2017-57 reads as rewritten:

**"SECTION 7.23K.(b)** The State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction, the Friday Institute, and UNC educator preparation programs, ~~and local boards of education of local school administrative units located within counties determined to be the most economically distressed by the Department of Commerce programs~~ shall collaborate to assess current efforts to provide student digital literacy instruction in kindergarten through eighth grade in ~~those~~ local school administrative units and to develop a plan to strengthen such efforts. Specifications for any products and services that are required to implement digital literacy instruction, including selection of a digital literacy curriculum provider, if necessary, shall be procured through a competitive process. The assessment and plan shall address at least the following:

- (1) Provide opportunity for students to learn essential digital literacy skills, including computer fundamentals, computational thinking, keyboarding, digital citizenship and online safety, Web browsing, e-mail and online communication, visual mapping, word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and presentations.
- (2) Provide teachers with the ability to assess student digital literacy growth.
- (3) Facilitate Project-Based Learning (PBL) and other research-based instructional frameworks to enable educators to integrate instruction on digital literacy into core and supplemental subjects, such as mathematics, English language arts, science, social studies, music, and art.
- (4) Resources that provide teachers with instructional support and supplemental and extension options to address all students, including students with special needs and students who are English language learners.
- (5) Accommodate English language learners with Spanish language instruction."

**SECTION 7.2.(b)** Subsection (c) of Section 7.23K of S.L. 2017-57, as amended by Section 7.7 of S.L. 2018-5 and Section 7.17 of S.L. 2023-134, reads as rewritten:

**"SECTION 7.23K.(c)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction to accelerate implementation of the State's Digital Learning Plan, as set out in S.L. 2016-94, beginning with the 2023-2024 fiscal year, the Department shall use up to four million dollars (\$4,000,000) to continue to contract with Learning.com to implement the requirements of this section. The Department shall take no action to impede public school units from accessing Learning.com."



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H6(S7.3)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

- 1 ***REPEAL PLASMA GAMES PROGRAM***
- 2 **SECTION 7.3.** Section 7.69 of S.L. 2023-134, as amended by Section 2.8F of S.L.
- 3 2024-1, is repealed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H35(S7.5)-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***BEGINNINGS FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WHO ARE DEAF OR HARD OF HEARING***

**SECTION 7.5.(a)** Beginnings for Parents of Children Who are Deaf or Hard of Hearing, Inc., (Beginnings) shall submit reports to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Department of Public Instruction by December 31, 2025, and June 30, 2026, including at least the following information from the prior fiscal year:

- (1) A detailed accounting of how State funds were spent by the program.
- (2) An accounting of any other funding received from other sources.
- (3) Any planned expenditures or future uses of received funds not reflected in the accounting required by subdivision (1) of this subsection.
- (4) The number of students served by the program, including generalized data on the age, grade level, and location of students served.
- (5) A description of how the program evaluates the effectiveness of the program or student success.
- (6) Outcomes achieved by the program.
- (7) Any other information the program deems relevant for the Committee to know.

**SECTION 7.5.(b)** The Department of Public Instruction shall not release funds to Beginnings unless Beginnings provides to the Department the report that was required to be submitted to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee pursuant to Section 7.28(b) of S.L. 2023-134. Upon receipt of the report from Beginnings, the Department shall forward the report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H8(S7.6)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

- 1 ***REPEAL SCHOOLS THAT LEAD PROGRAM***
- 2 **SECTION 7.6.** Section 7.11 of S.L. 2021-180 is repealed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H37(S7.8)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***STREAMLINE LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT ALLOTMENT***

**SECTION 7.8.(a)** The title of Article 32F of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Supplemental School ~~Funding~~-Funding and Other Allotments."

**SECTION 7.8.(b)** Article 32F of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-472.30. Limited English proficient allotment.**

To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the State Board of Education shall allocate funds to local school administrative units, charter schools, regional schools, and laboratory schools operated under Article 29A of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes to provide services to students with limited English proficiency. The State Board shall allocate these funds under a formula that takes into account the average number of students in the units, charters, regional schools, or laboratory schools over the past three years who have limited English proficiency. Local school administrative units shall use funds allocated to them to pay for classroom teachers, teacher assistants, tutors, textbooks, classroom materials/instructional supplies/equipment, transportation costs, and professional development of teachers for students with limited English proficiency. A county in which a local school administrative unit receives funds under this section shall use the funds to supplement local current expense funds and shall not supplant local current expense funds."

**SECTION 7.8.(c)** When making adjustments to allocations to local school administrative units from the limited English proficient allotment for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, no local school administrative unit with an average daily membership of 20,000 or fewer students for the 2025-2026 school year shall receive a negative adjustment in excess of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) when compared to the allocation received during the 2024-2025 fiscal year from that allotment.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H29(S7.9)-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**REPEAL TEXTBOOK COMMISSION**

**SECTION 7.9.(a)** G.S. 115C-86 through G.S. 115C-95 and G.S. 115C-97 are repealed.

**SECTION 7.9.(b)** Part 3 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Part 3. ~~Textbooks.~~Instructional Materials.

"§ 115C-85. ~~Textbook~~Instructional material needs are determined by course of study.

~~When the State Board of Education has adopted, upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, a standard course of study at each instructional level in the elementary school and the secondary school, setting forth what subjects shall be taught at each level, it shall proceed to select and adopt textbooks.~~

As used in this part, "~~textbook~~"-"instructional materials" means systematically organized material comprehensive enough to cover the primary objectives outlined in the standard course of study for a grade or course. Formats for ~~textbooks~~-instructional materials may be print or nonprint, including hardbound books, softbound books, activity-oriented programs, classroom kits, and ~~technology-based programs~~-digital resources that require the use of electronic equipment in order to be used in the learning process.

~~Textbooks adopted in accordance with the provisions of this Part shall be used by the public schools of the State except as provided in G.S. 115C-98(b1).~~

...

"§ 115C-96. Powers and duties of the State Board of Education in regard to ~~textbooks.~~instructional materials.

(a) The children of the public elementary and secondary schools of the State shall be provided with free basic ~~textbooks~~-instructional materials within the appropriation of the General Assembly for that purpose. To implement this directive, the State Board of Education shall evaluate annually the amount of money necessary to provide ~~textbooks~~-instructional materials based on the actual cost and availability of ~~textbooks~~-the instructional materials and shall request sufficient appropriations from the General Assembly.

(b) The State Board of Education shall administer a fund and ~~establish~~-adopt rules and ~~regulations necessary to:~~

- (1) ~~Acquire by contract such basic textbooks as are or may be on the adopted list of the State of North Carolina which the Board finds necessary to meet the needs of the State public school system and to carry out the provisions of this Part.~~
- (2) ~~Provide a system of distribution of these textbooks and distribute the books that are provided without using any depository or warehouse facilities other than those operated by the State Board of Education.~~
- (3) ~~Provide for the free use, with proper care and return, of elementary and secondary basic~~ instructional materials. The title of said ~~books~~-the instructional materials shall be vested in the State.

...

1 **"§ 115C-98. ~~Local boards of education to provide for local operation of the textbook~~**  
2 **~~program, the selection and procurement of other instructional materials, and the~~**  
3 **~~use of nonadopted textbooks.~~ selection of supplementary and instructional**  
4 **materials.**

5 (a) Local boards of education shall adopt ~~rules~~ policies not inconsistent with the ~~policies~~  
6 ~~rules~~ of the State Board of Education concerning the local ~~operation of the textbook~~  
7 ~~program.~~ selection and procurement of instructional materials.

8 (b) Local boards of education shall adopt written policies concerning the procedures to  
9 be followed in their local school administrative units for the selection and procurement of  
10 ~~supplementary textbooks, library books, periodicals, audiovisual materials, and other~~  
11 ~~supplementary~~ and instructional materials needed for instructional purposes in the public schools  
12 of their units.

13 Local boards of education shall have sole authority to select and procure supplementary and  
14 instructional materials, whether or not the materials contain commercial advertising, to determine  
15 if the materials are related to and within the limits of the prescribed curriculum, and to determine  
16 when the materials may be presented to students during the school day. ~~Supplementary materials~~  
17 ~~and contracts for supplementary materials are not subject to approval by the State Board of~~  
18 ~~Education.~~

19 Supplementary ~~books and other instructional materials~~ shall neither displace nor be used to  
20 the exclusion of basic ~~textbooks.~~ instructional materials.

21 (b1) A local board of education may establish a community media advisory committee to  
22 investigate and evaluate challenges from parents, teachers, and members of the public to  
23 ~~textbooks and supplementary~~ and instructional materials on the grounds that they are  
24 educationally unsuitable, pervasively vulgar, or inappropriate to the age, maturity, or grade level  
25 of the students. The State Board of Education shall review its rules and policies concerning these  
26 challenges and shall establish guidelines to be followed by community media advisory  
27 committees.

28 The local board, at all times, has sole authority and discretion to determine whether a  
29 challenge has merit and whether challenged material should be retained or removed.

30 (b2) Local boards of education may:

- 31 (1) Select, procure, and use ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials that have not been  
32 adopted by the State Board of Education for use throughout the local school  
33 administrative unit for selected grade levels and courses; and  
34 (2) Approve school improvement plans developed under G.S. 115C-105.27 that  
35 include provisions for using ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials that have not  
36 been adopted by the State Board of Education for selected grade levels and  
37 courses.

38 All ~~textbook~~ instructional material contracts made under this subsection shall include a clause  
39 granting to the local board of education the license to produce braille, large print, ~~and~~  
40 audiocassette ~~tape~~ tape, and other accessible copies of ~~the textbooks~~ instructional materials for  
41 use in the local school administrative unit.

42 ...

43 **"§ 115C-99. ~~Legal custodians of textbooks~~ instructional materials furnished by State.**

44 Local boards of education are the custodians of all ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials  
45 purchased by the local boards with State funds. They shall provide adequate and safe storage  
46 facilities for the proper care of ~~these textbooks~~ the instructional materials and emphasize to all  
47 students the necessity for proper care of ~~textbooks.~~ instructional materials.

48 **"§ 115C-100. ~~Rental fees for textbooks~~ instructional materials prohibited; damage fees**  
49 **authorized.**

50 No local board of education may charge any pupil a rental fee for the use of ~~textbooks.~~  
51 instructional materials. A pupil's parents or legal guardians may be charged damage fees for

1 abuse or loss of ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials under rules adopted by the State Board of  
2 Education. All money collected from the sale of ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials purchased with  
3 State funds under the provisions of this Part shall be paid annually as collected to the State Board  
4 of Education.

5 **"§ 115C-101. Duties and authority of superintendents of local school administrative units.**

6 The superintendent of each local school administrative unit, as an official agent of the State  
7 Board of Education, shall administer the provisions of this Part and the rules and regulations of  
8 the Board insofar as they apply to ~~his~~ the local school administrative unit. The superintendent of  
9 each local school administrative unit shall have authority to require the cooperation of principals  
10 and teachers so that the children may receive the best possible service, and so that all the ~~books~~  
11 instructional materials and moneys may be accounted for properly. If any principal or teacher  
12 fails to comply with the provisions of this section, ~~his~~ the superintendent shall withhold ~~his~~ the  
13 salary ~~vouchers of the principal~~ until the duties imposed by this section have been performed.

14 If any superintendent fails to comply with the provisions of this section, the State  
15 Superintendent, as secretary to the State Board of Education, shall notify the State Board of  
16 Education and the State Treasurer. The State Board and the State Superintendent shall withhold  
17 the superintendent's ~~salary vouchers, salary,~~ and the State Treasurer shall make no payment until  
18 the State Superintendent ~~notifies him~~ confirms that the provisions of this section have been  
19 complied with.

20 **"§ 115C-102. Right to purchase; disposal of ~~textbooks~~ and instructional materials.**

21 (a) Any parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis may purchase any instructional  
22 material needed for any child in the public schools of the State from the board of education of  
23 the local school administrative unit in which the child is ~~enrolled or, in the case of basic~~  
24 ~~textbooks, from the State Board of Education~~ enrolled.

25 (b) Notwithstanding Article 3A of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, G.S. 143-49(4),  
26 or any other provision of law, the State Board of Education may adopt rules authorizing local  
27 boards of education to dispose of discontinued instructional ~~material, including State-adopted~~  
28 ~~textbooks~~ material."

29 **SECTION 7.9.(c)** G.S. 115C-11(d) reads as rewritten:

30 "(d) Voting. – No voting by proxy shall be permitted. ~~Except in voting on textbook~~  
31 ~~adoptions, a~~ A majority of those present and voting shall be necessary to carry a motion and a  
32 roll call vote shall be had on each motion. A record of all such votes shall be kept in the minute  
33 book."

34 **SECTION 7.9.(d)** G.S. 115C-11(e) is repealed.

35 **SECTION 7.9.(e)** G.S. 115C-12(9)b. is repealed.

36 **SECTION 7.9.(f)** G.S. 115C-12(18)d. reads as rewritten:

37 "d. The State Board of Education shall modify the Uniform Education  
38 Reporting System to provide clear, accurate, and standard information  
39 on the use of funds at the unit and school level. The plan shall provide  
40 information that will enable the General Assembly to determine State,  
41 local, and federal expenditures for personnel at the unit and school  
42 level. The plan also shall allow the tracking of expenditures for  
43 ~~textbooks, instructional materials,~~ educational supplies and  
44 equipment, capital outlay, at-risk students, and other purposes."

45 **SECTION 7.9.(g)** G.S. 115C-47 reads as rewritten:

46 **"§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.**

47 In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of education  
48 shall have the power or duty:

49 ...

50 (6) To Regulate Fees, Charges and Solicitations. – Local boards of education shall  
51 adopt rules and regulations governing solicitations of, sales to, and

1 fund-raising activities conducted by, the students and faculty members in  
2 schools under their jurisdiction, and no fees, charges, or costs shall be  
3 collected from students and school personnel without approval of the board of  
4 education as recorded in the minutes of ~~said~~ the board; provided, this  
5 subdivision shall not apply to such ~~textbooks~~ instructional material fees as are  
6 determined and established by the State Board of Education. The local board  
7 of education shall publish a schedule of fees, charges, and solicitations  
8 approved by the local board on the local school administrative unit's Web site  
9 by October 15 of each school year and, if the schedule is subsequently revised,  
10 within 30 days following the revision.

11 ...

12 (33) To Approve and Use Supplemental Materials. – Local boards of education  
13 shall have sole authority to select and procure supplementary instructional  
14 materials, whether or not the materials contain commercial advertising,  
15 pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 115C-98(b).

16 (33a) ~~To Approve and Use Textbooks Not Adopted by State Board of Education.~~  
17 Instructional Materials. – Local boards of education shall have the authority  
18 to select, procure, and use ~~textbooks not adopted by the State Board of~~  
19 ~~Education~~ instructional materials as provided in  
20 ~~G.S. 115C-98(b1).~~ G.S. 115C-98.

21 ...."

22 **SECTION 7.9.(h)** G.S. 115C-76.55 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 115C-76.55. Age-appropriate instruction for grades kindergarten through fourth grade.**

24 Instruction on gender identity, sexual activity, or sexuality shall not be included in the  
25 curriculum provided in grades kindergarten through fourth grade, regardless of whether the  
26 information is provided by school personnel or third parties. For the purposes of this section,  
27 curriculum includes the standard course of study and support materials, locally developed  
28 curriculum, supplemental instruction, and ~~textbooks and~~ other supplementary materials, but does  
29 not include responses to student-initiated questions."

30 **SECTION 7.9.(i)** G.S. 115C-81.5(b)(3) is repealed.

31 **SECTION 7.9.(j)** G.S. 115C-81.25(b)(3) is repealed.

32 **SECTION 7.9.(k)** G.S. 115C-81.25(d) reads as rewritten:

33 "(d) Parental Review. – The State Board of Education shall make available to all local  
34 school administrative units for review by the parents and legal guardians of students enrolled at  
35 those units any State-developed objectives for instruction, ~~any approved textbooks,~~ the list of  
36 reviewed materials, and any other State-developed or approved materials that pertain to or are  
37 intended to impart information or promote discussion or understanding in regard to the  
38 prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to the avoidance of  
39 out-of-wedlock pregnancy, or to the reproductive health and safety education curriculum. The  
40 review period shall extend for at least 60 days before use."

41 **SECTION 7.9.(l)** G.S. 115C-105.25(b)(12) reads as rewritten:

42 "(12) Funds allotted for ~~textbooks and digital resources~~ instructional materials may  
43 only be used ~~for the purchase of textbooks and digital resources.~~ to acquire  
44 instructional and supplemental materials as identified in Part 3 of Article 8 of  
45 this Chapter and to acquire software necessary for the use of the instructional  
46 or supplemental materials. These funds shall not be transferred out of the  
47 allotment for any other purpose."

48 **SECTION 7.9.(m)** G.S. 115C-242(3) reads as rewritten:

49 "(3) The board of education of any local school administrative unit may operate  
50 the school buses of such unit one day prior to the opening of the regular school  
51 term for the transportation of pupils and employees to and from the school to



1 which such pupils are assigned or in which they are enrolled and such  
2 employees are employed, for the purposes of the registration of students, the  
3 organization of classes, the distribution of ~~textbooks~~, instructional materials,  
4 and such other purposes as will, in the opinion of the superintendent of the  
5 schools of such unit, promote the efficient organization and operation of such  
6 public schools."

7 **SECTION 7.9.(n)** G.S. 115C-271(d)(2) reads as rewritten:

8 "(2) Local funds appropriated for teachers, ~~textbooks~~, instructional materials, or  
9 classroom materials, supplies, and equipment are not transferred or used for  
10 this purpose."

11 **SECTION 7.9.(o)** G.S. 115C-384(c) reads as rewritten:

12 "(c) Rental Fees for ~~Textbooks—Instructional Materials~~ Prohibited; Damage Fees  
13 Authorized. – No rental fees are permitted for the use of textbooks, but damage fees may be  
14 collected pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 115C-100."

15 **SECTION 7.9.(p)** G.S. 115C-390.2(l)(1) reads as rewritten:

16 "(1) The opportunity to take ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials and school-furnished  
17 digital devices home for the duration of the absence."

18 **SECTION 7.9.(q)** G.S. 115C-390.5(c)(1) reads as rewritten:

19 "(1) The opportunity to take ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials home for the  
20 duration of the suspension."

21 **SECTION 7.9.(r)** G.S. 115C-398 reads as rewritten:

22 "**§ 115C-398. Damage to school buildings, furnishings, ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials.**

23 Students and their parents or legal guardians may be liable for damage to school buildings,  
24 furnishings and ~~textbooks~~ instructional materials pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 115C-523,  
25 115C-100 and 14-132."

26 **SECTION 7.9.(s)** G.S. 143A-48 is repealed.

27 **SECTION 7.9.(t)** No further funds shall be allocated into the State Textbook fund.

28 The Department of Public Instruction, in coordination with the Office of State Budget and  
29 Management, shall ensure that the fund is dissolved once all funds are expended.

30 **SECTION 7.9.(u)** Effective July 1, 2025, there is established the Instructional  
31 Materials funding allotment within the State Public School Fund. The State Board of Education  
32 shall establish the purposes for which the funds within the Instructional Materials funding  
33 allotment may be used for the purchase and maintenance of instructional and supplemental  
34 materials as identified in Part 3 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

35 **SECTION 7.9.(v)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2025, and applies  
36 beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H38(S7.10)-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***STABILIZATION OF LOW-WEALTH ALLOTMENT***

**SECTION 7.10.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-472.22, for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, the Department of Public Instruction shall distribute supplemental funds for low-wealth counties in the same amount to each county as was distributed for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H36(S7.11)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENT TO ADMINISTRATIVE LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS**

**SECTION 7.11.(a)** G.S. 115C-270.20(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Administrator Licenses. – The State Board shall establish rules for the issuance of the following classes of administrator licenses, including required levels of preparation for each classification:

(1) Administrator license. – A five-year renewable license issued to an individual who meets all of the following requirements:

- a. Holds a bachelor's degree.
- b. Has successfully completed an approved administrator preparation program.
- c. Has at least four years of experience as a licensed professional educator.
- d. ~~Has~~ For individuals seeking a principal license, has submitted a portfolio to the State Board for approval that meets criteria adopted by the State Board.

...."

**SECTION 7.11.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to applicants for licensure on or after that date.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H39(S7.12)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**VARIOUS EDUCATION REPORT CHANGES**

**SECTION 7.12.(a)** G.S. 115C-12(25) is recodified as G.S. 115C-21(a)(10) and reads as rewritten:

"(10) Duty to Report to Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. – Upon the request of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the ~~State Board~~ Superintendent of Public Instruction shall examine and evaluate issues, programs, policies, and fiscal information, and shall make reports to that Committee. Furthermore, by ~~November 15~~ March 15 of each year, the ~~State Board~~ Superintendent of Public Instruction shall submit reports to that Committee regarding schools identified as low-performing, school improvement plans found to significantly improve student performance, personnel actions taken in low-performing schools, and recommendations for additional legislation to improve student performance and increase local flexibility."

**SECTION 7.12.(b)** Subdivision (4) of subsection (d) of G.S. 115C-81.45 is repealed.

**SECTION 7.12.(c)** Subsection (b) of Section 7.17 of S.L. 2018-5 is repealed.

**SECTION 7.12.(d)** Subsection (d) of Section 7.32 of S.L. 2017-57 is repealed.

**SECTION 7.12.(e)** G.S. 115C-12(48) reads as rewritten:

"(48) Computer Science Reporting. – The State Board of Education shall report annually by ~~November 15~~ March 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, and the House Appropriations Committee on Education on the following data related to computer science participation. For each item, the report shall include (i) statewide data for the current school year, and the four years prior when data is available, to establish trends in computer science instruction and (ii) data for the current school year for each public school unit, disaggregated by school within that unit:  
...."

**SECTION 7.12.(f)** G.S. 115C-316.2 is repealed.

**SECTION 7.12.(g)** G.S. 115C-316.5(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) For the purposes of this section, the term "school health personnel" refers to ~~the same positions listed in G.S. 115C-316.2(a):~~ school psychologists, school counselors, school nurses, and school social workers."

**SECTION 7.12.(h)** G.S. 115C-299.5 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-299.5. Duty to monitor ~~the state of the teaching profession,~~ teacher attrition and mobility.**

...

(b) ~~State of the Teaching Profession~~ Teacher Attrition and Mobility Report. – The State Board of Education shall monitor and compile an annual report to be submitted by the Department of Public Instruction by December 15 ~~February 15~~ annually on the ~~state of the~~ attrition and mobility of teachers in the teaching profession in North Carolina that includes data

1 on the decisions of teachers to leave the teaching profession and vacancies in teaching positions  
2 as provided in subsections (c) and (e) of this section. The State Board shall adopt standard  
3 procedures for each local board of education to use in requesting information required by this  
4 report and shall require each local board of education to report the information to the State Board  
5 in a standard format adopted by the State Board."

6 **SECTION 7.12.(i)** G.S. 115C-12(22), as amended by S.L. 2023-134, reads as  
7 rewritten:

8 "(22) Duty to Monitor the ~~State of the Teaching Attrition and Mobility of Teachers~~  
9 and ~~the State of the School Administration Professions Profession~~ in North  
10 Carolina. – The State Board of Education shall monitor and compile an annual  
11 report on the ~~state of the teaching attrition and mobility of teachers and the~~  
12 ~~state of the school administration professions profession~~ in North Carolina, as  
13 provided in G.S. 115C-289.2 and G.S. 115C-299.5."

14 **SECTION 7.12.(j)** G.S. 115C-289.2(d) reads as rewritten:

15 "(d) Report Consolidation. – The report required by this section shall be consolidated with  
16 the ~~report on the State of the Teaching Profession~~ Teacher Attrition and Mobility Report required  
17 by G.S. 115C-299.5."

18 **SECTION 7.12.(k)** G.S. 115C-269.50 reads as rewritten:

19 **"§ 115C-269.50. EPP report cards.**

20 The State Board shall create an annual report card for each EPP that, at a minimum,  
21 summarizes the information collected in the annual performance reports, as set forth in  
22 G.S. 115C-269.35(b). The report cards shall provide user-friendly access to the public, and shall  
23 provide the ability to easily compare annual report card information between EPPs, including  
24 performance and other data reported by each EPP, as provided in G.S. 115C-269.35(b). The State  
25 Board shall make the report cards available to the public through the State Board's Internet ~~Web~~  
26 ~~site website~~ on an annual basis beginning ~~December 15, 2019, February 15, 2026, and the~~  
27 Department of Public Instruction shall submit the report to the Joint Legislative Education  
28 Oversight Committee annually by that date."

29 **SECTION 7.12.(l)** Subsection (b) of Section 8.30 of S.L. 2015-241, as amended by  
30 Section 3.1(b) of S.L. 2019-165, is repealed.

31 **SECTION 7.12.(m)** G.S. 115C-450(d) reads as rewritten:

32 "(d) No later than ~~May 15, 2022, and every six months thereafter, February 15 of each~~  
33 year, the Department of Public Instruction shall report all the following information to the Joint  
34 Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on  
35 Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal  
36 Research Division:

37 ...."

38 **SECTION 7.12.(n)** G.S. 115C-218.42(e) reads as rewritten:

39 "(e) Reporting. – No later than ~~March-August~~ 15 of each year in which funds are awarded  
40 under the Program, the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
41 Committee, the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee, the Senate  
42 Appropriations/Base Budget Committee, the House Committee on Appropriations, and the Fiscal  
43 Research Division on the administration of the Program, including at least the following  
44 information:

45 ...."

46 **SECTION 7.12.(o)** G.S. 115C-218.110(b) reads as rewritten:

47 "(b) The State Board of Education shall review and evaluate the educational effectiveness  
48 of the charter schools authorized under this Article and the effect of charter schools on the public  
49 schools in the local school administrative unit in which the charter schools are located. The Board  
50 shall report annually no later than ~~June-August~~ 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
51 Committee on the following:

...."

**SECTION 7.12.(p)** G.S. 115C-107.5 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-107.5. Annual reports.**

The State Board shall ~~report~~ send a copy of the annual report submitted as part of the State Performance Plan and Annual Performance Report that is submitted to the United States Department of Education and United States Office of Special Education Programs no later than October 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the implementation of this Article and the educational performance of children with disabilities. The report may be filed electronically. ~~Each annual report shall include the following information:~~

- ~~(1) A copy of the following documents that were submitted, received, or made public during the year:~~
  - ~~a. The most recent State performance plan and any amendments to that plan submitted to the Secretary of Education.~~
  - ~~b. Compliance and monitoring reports submitted to the Secretary of Education.~~
  - ~~c. The annual report submitted to the Secretary of Education on the performance of the State under its performance plan.~~
  - ~~d. Any other information required under IDEA to be made available to the public.~~
- ~~(2) An analysis of the educational performance of children with disabilities in the State and a summary of disputes under Part 1D of this Chapter.~~
- ~~(3) Development and implementation of any policies related to improving outcomes for elementary and secondary school students with disabilities, including any changes related to the directives set forth in Section 8.30 of S.L. 2015-241 as follows:~~
  - ~~a. Reforms related to IEP requirements.~~
  - ~~b. Transition services for students with disabilities from elementary to middle school, middle to high school, and high school to postsecondary education, and for employment opportunities and adult living options.~~
  - ~~c. Increased access to Future Ready Core Course of Study for students with disabilities.~~
  - ~~d. Model programs for use by local school administrative units to improve graduation rates and school performance of students with disabilities."~~

**SECTION 7.12.(q)** G.S. 115C-107.3 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-107.3. Child find.**

(a) The Board shall require an annual census of all children with disabilities residing in the State, subdivided for "identified" and "suspected" children with disabilities, to be taken in each school year. Suspected children are those in the formal process of being evaluated or identified as children with disabilities. The census shall be conducted annually and shall be completed by October 15, submitted to the Governor and General Assembly and made available to the public by January 15 annually. The census submitted to the General Assembly may be a copy of any information or any report submitted to the federal government as part of compliance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1418.

(b) In taking the census, the Board requires the cooperation, participation, and assistance of all local educational agencies. Therefore, each local educational agency shall cooperate and participate with and assist the Board in conducting the census.

(c) The census shall include the number of children identified and suspected with disabilities, their age, the nature of their disability, their county or city of residence, their local school administrative unit residence, whether they are being provided special educational or

1 related services and if so by what local educational agency, the identity of each local educational  
2 agency having children with disabilities in its care, custody, management, jurisdiction, control,  
3 or programs, the number of children with disabilities being served by each local educational  
4 agency, and any other information or data that the Board requires. The census shall be of children  
5 with disabilities between the ages three through 21 but is not required to include children with  
6 disabilities that have graduated from high school."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H40(S7.13)-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOL LITERACY IMPROVEMENT**

**SECTION 7.13.(a)** G.S. 115C-83.6 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-83.6. Facilitating early grade reading proficiency.**

(a) ~~Kindergarten, first, second, and third~~ Kindergarten through fifth grade students shall be assessed with valid, reliable, formative, and diagnostic reading assessments made available to local school administrative units by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(a). Difficulty with reading development identified through administration of formative and diagnostic assessments shall be addressed with literacy interventions outlined in the student's Individual Reading Plan. Parents or guardians of first and second grade students offered a reading camp as a literacy intervention shall be encouraged to enroll their student in the reading camp provided by the local school administrative unit. Parents or guardians of a student identified as demonstrating reading comprehension below grade level shall make the final decision regarding a student's reading camp attendance.

(a1) Kindergarten through ~~third-fifth~~ grade reading assessments shall yield data that can be used with the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) to analyze student data to identify root causes for difficulty with reading development and to determine actions to address them.

(a2) The Department of Public Instruction shall provide for EVAAS analysis all formative and diagnostic assessment data collected pursuant to this section for kindergarten through ~~third~~ fifth grade. The Department shall use a uniform template for all data collected, and the template shall be used each time data is provided. The template shall include clear designations for each data component reported.

(b) Formative and diagnostic assessments and resultant literacy interventions shall address oral language, phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension using developmentally appropriate practices. These assessments may be administered by computer or other electronic device.

(c) Local school administrative units are encouraged to partner with community organizations, businesses, and other groups to provide volunteers, mentors, or tutors to assist with the provision of literacy interventions that enhance reading development and proficiency."

**SECTION 7.13.(b)** G.S. 115C-83.6B(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) shall be developed for any student in kindergarten through ~~third-fifth~~ grade demonstrating difficulty with reading development based on the results of either (i) the first diagnostic or formative assessment of the school year or (ii) the first diagnostic or formative assessment of the second semester of the school year. The IRP shall be continually adjusted based on multiple data sources as prescribed by the Department of Public Instruction, indicating that the student is not progressing toward grade-level standards in one or more major reading areas. Based on the most recently collected data, the IRP shall include the following information, specific to the identified student:

- (1) The specific reading skill deficiencies identified by assessment data.
- (2) Goals and benchmarks for growth.
- (3) The means by which progress will be monitored and evaluated.



- (4) The specific additional literacy interventions the student will receive.
- (5) The Science of Reading-based instructional programming the teacher will implement.
- (6) Any additional services the teacher deems appropriate to accelerate the student's reading skill and development."

**SECTION 7.13.(c)** G.S. 115C-83.9(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Parents or guardians shall be notified in writing, and in a timely manner, that the student shall be retained, unless he or she is exempt from mandatory retention for good cause, if the student is not demonstrating reading proficiency by the end of third grade. Parents or guardians shall receive this notice when a kindergarten, first, second, or third grade student (i) is demonstrating difficulty with reading development; or (ii) is not reading at grade level. Additionally, parents or guardians shall receive notice when a fourth or fifth grade student is demonstrating difficulty with reading development or is not reading on grade level as determined by assessments given pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.6."

**SECTION 7.13.(d)** G.S. 115C-83.10(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Each local board of education shall report annually in writing to the State Board of Education by September 1 of each year the following information on the prior school year:

- (1) A description of all literacy interventions provided to students who have been retained under G.S. 115C-83.7(a).
- (2) The number of first and second grade students attending a reading camp offered by the local board.
- (3) The license area or areas, years of licensed teaching experience, grade level assignment, and any other specific subject-area assignments of each teacher providing instruction at a reading camp.
- (4) The number and percentage of teachers providing instruction at a reading camp who were paid a reading performance bonus during the school year immediately preceding the reading camp and the grade level on which the bonus was based.
- (5) The number of kindergarten through ~~third~~ fifth grade students with an Individual Reading Plan."

**SECTION 7.13.(e)** G.S. 115C-174.11(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Assessment Instruments for ~~Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third Grades.~~ Kindergarten Through Fifth Grade. – The State Board of Education shall develop, adopt, and provide to the local school administrative units developmentally appropriate individualized assessment instruments aligned with the standard course of study and Part 1A of Article 8 of this Chapter for ~~the kindergarten, first, second, and third grades.~~ kindergarten through fifth grade. Local school administrative units shall use these assessment instruments provided to them by the State Board for ~~kindergarten, first, second, and third~~ kindergarten through fifth grade students to assess progress, diagnose difficulties, and inform instruction and remediation needs. Local school administrative units shall not use standardized tests for summative assessment of kindergarten, first, and second grade students except as required as a condition of receiving federal grants."

**SECTION 7.13.(f)** The Department of Public Instruction shall use funds appropriated for this purpose in this act to contract with Lexia Learning Systems, LLC, to provide Lexia Aspire Professional Learning to all English Language Arts, math, science, social studies, teachers of students who are English language learners, and Exceptional Children teachers who teach students in grades six through eight and principals of schools who enroll students in grades six through eight. The Department shall develop a procedure for providing training to half of the teachers referenced in this subsection and all principals referenced in this subsection during the 2025-2026 school year with the remaining teachers and all new teachers teaching the subjects referenced in this subsection receiving training during the 2026-2027 school year. The Department shall develop a procedure for prioritizing participation by teachers whose students

1 would receive the most benefit from the training, such as English Language Arts and Exceptional  
2 Children teachers. Teachers that complete training pursuant to this subsection shall receive  
3 stipends for the school year in which they complete the training. Any remaining funds  
4 appropriated for purposes of this section may be used to provide additional Lexia Aspire  
5 Professional Learning to teachers or other educational personnel at the State or local level.

6 **SECTION 7.13.(g)** The State Board of Education shall develop literacy standards  
7 for grades six through eight to align with the professional learning provided pursuant to  
8 subsection (f) of this section.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H41(S7.14)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND K-12 TECH PLANNING**

**SECTION 7.14.(a)** Part 3A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding new sections to read:

**"§ 115C-102.10. Technology costs considerations.**

The State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring all public school units to evaluate the following when acquiring technology, computer hardware, and software:

- (1) The long-term cost of ownership, including costs of repairing the technology, computer hardware, or software.
- (2) Any flexibility for innovation during the life of the technology, computer hardware, or software.
- (3) Any anticipated resale or salvage value at the end of the target life cycle for the technology, computer hardware, or software based on the average resale or salvage value of similar technology, computer hardware, or software as a percentage of the initial cost of purchase.

**"§ 115C-102.11 Break/fix rate reporting requirement.**

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Break/fix rate. – The percentage obtained by dividing the number of school technology devices reported as malfunctioning or needing repair due to physical damage, hardware failure, or other breakage incidents prior to the stated life cycle period, not covered by insurance or a policy plan period, by the total number of school technology devices in operation during that period.
- (2) School technology device. – Any electronic or computerized equipment provided for educational purposes in a public school unit, including computers, tablets, interactive whiteboards, and similar devices or anything considered a digital device for purposes of the digital learning dashboard pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.9.

(b) Each governing body of a public school unit shall submit a report on the following information to the State Board of Education by August 15 annually:

- (1) The break/fix rate of the school technology devices in the public school unit for the previous school year.
- (2) The total number of school technology devices currently in operation in the public school unit.
- (3) The total number of school technology devices in the public school unit requiring repair that (i) underwent repair or (ii) were no longer in service during the previous school year.
- (4) The total amount of funds spent to repair or replace school technology devices during the previous school year.

(c) The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by November 15 annually on the break/fix rate of school technology devices across all public school units based on the reports submitted by the governing bodies in accordance with

subsection (b) of this section. This report shall include a summary of the data reported by each governing body and recommendations to reduce break/fix rates in the future."

**SECTION 7.14.(b)** The first reports from governing bodies of public school units required by G.S. 115C-102.11(b), as enacted by this section, shall be submitted no later than August 15, 2026, based on data collected during the 2025-2026 school year. The first report from the State Board of Education required by G.S. 115C-102.11(c), as enacted by this section, shall be submitted no later than November 15, 2026.

**SECTION 7.14.(c)** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(50) To Require Evaluation of Technology Costs. – The State Board shall adopt rules governing public school units evaluating technology costs in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.10."

**SECTION 7.14.(d)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding new subdivisions to read:

"(70) To Evaluate Technology Costs. – A local board of education shall adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

(71) To Report on Break/Fix Rate. – A local board of education shall report annually to the State Board of Education on the break/fix rate of school technology devices in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.11."

**SECTION 7.14.(e)** G.S. 115C-150.12C is amended by adding new subdivisions to read:

"(37) Evaluate technology costs. – The board of trustees shall adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

(38) Report on break/fix rate. – The board of trustees shall report annually to the State Board of Education on the break/fix rate of school technology devices used in the school in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.11."

**SECTION 7.14.(f)** Part 2 of Article 14A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-218.33. School technology.**

(a) A charter school shall adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

(b) A charter school shall report annually to the State Board of Education on the break/fix rate of school technology devices used in the school in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.11."

**SECTION 7.14.(g)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding new subdivisions to read:

"(18a) The board of directors shall adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

(18b) The board of directors shall report annually to the State Board of Education on the break/fix rate of technology used in the school in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.11."

**SECTION 7.14.(h)** G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding new subdivisions to read:

"(21a) Evaluate technology costs. – The chancellor shall adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

(21b) Report on break/fix rate. – The chancellor shall report annually to the State Board of Education on the break/fix rate of technology used in the school in accordance with G.S. 115C-120.11."

**SECTION 7.14.(i)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H3(S7.23)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

- 1 ***REPEAL CODING AND MOBILE APP DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM***
- 2 **SECTION 7.23.** Section 7.23 of S.L. 2017-57 is repealed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H2(S7.24)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***MAINTAIN COVERAGE OF COPAYS FOR REDUCED-PRICE SCHOOL MEALS***

**SECTION 7.24.(a)** G.S. 115C-264 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(a1) A local board of education that is operating a school nutrition program shall provide school lunches, and if provided, breakfasts, to students at no cost to the student for students in all grade levels that qualify for reduced-price meals under the federal National School Lunch Program or School Breakfast Program. If funds from alternate sources are insufficient to provide school meals at no costs to students for students that qualify for reduced-price meals, the Department of Public Instruction may use funds appropriated to the State Aid for Public Schools Fund for this purpose."

**SECTION 7.24.(b)** Section 7.58 of S.L. 2023-134 is repealed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

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2025-DPI-H32(S7.25)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**CHARTER SCHOOLS REVIEW BOARD AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 7.25.(a)** G.S. 115C-218 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-218. Purpose of charter schools; role of State Board of Education; establishment of North Carolina Charter Schools Review Board and North Carolina Office of Charter Schools.**

...

(a1) State Board of Education. – The State Board of Education shall have the following duties regarding charter schools:

- (1) Rulemaking. – To ~~establish~~ adopt all rules for the operation and approval of charter schools. Any rule or policy adopted by the State Board regarding charter schools shall first be ~~recommended~~ approved by the Charter Schools Review Board.
- (2) Funding. – To allocate funds to charter schools.
- (3) Appeals. – To hear appeals from decisions of the Charter Schools Review Board under G.S. 115C-218.9.
- (4) Accountability. – To ensure accountability from charter schools for school finances and student performance.
- (5) Review of financial assistance. – The State Board shall assign the Review Board to conduct any hearings pursuant to 20 U.S.C. § 1231b-2, including making findings and recommendations regarding those hearings.

(b) North Carolina Charter Schools Review Board. –

...

(10) Powers and duties. – The Review Board shall have the following duties:

- a. To ~~make recommendations to the State Board of Education on the adoption of~~ propose, recommend, and approve rules and policies regarding all aspects of charter school operation, including time lines, processes, standards, and criteria for acceptance and approval of applications, monitoring of charter schools, and grounds for revocation of charters.

...

e. To conduct hearings and make findings and recommendations pursuant to subdivision (a1)(5) of this section.

f. To contract for and employ legal counsel, including private counsel, to advise, represent, and provide litigation services to the Review Board, without need to obtain permission or approval pursuant to G.S. 114-2.3 or G.S. 147-17.

...

(c) North Carolina Office of Charter Schools. –

...

- (2) Executive Director. – The Executive Director shall report to and serve at the pleasure of the ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction~~ Review Board at a salary

1 established by the ~~Superintendent~~ Review Board within the funds  
2 appropriated for this purpose. The duties of the Executive Director shall  
3 include presenting the recommendations and decisions of the Review Board  
4 at meetings of the State Board.

5 ...."

6 **SECTION 7.25.(b)** G.S. 115C-218.15(c) reads as rewritten:

7 "(c) A charter school shall operate under the written charter signed by the State  
8 Superintendent and the applicant. The terms of the written charter shall be approved by the  
9 Review Board. A charter school is not required to enter into any other contract. The charter shall  
10 incorporate the information provided in the application, as modified during the charter approval  
11 process, and any terms and conditions imposed on the charter school by the Review Board, or if  
12 the approval is granted through an appeal pursuant to G.S. 115C-218.9, any conditions imposed  
13 by the State Board of Education. No other terms may be imposed on the charter school as a  
14 condition for receipt of local funds."

15 **SECTION 7.25.(c)** G.S. 115C-218.85 is amended by adding a new subsection to  
16 read:

17 "(d) Notwithstanding G.S. 116-11(10a) or any other provision of law to the contrary, a  
18 charter school shall not be required to list class rank on a student's official transcript or record."

19 **SECTION 7.25.(d)** G.S. 115C-218.90(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision  
20 to read:

21 "(7) A charter school may develop and use any evaluation for conducting  
22 evaluation of teachers provided that it includes standards and criteria similar  
23 to those used in the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards and  
24 North Carolina Teacher Evaluation Process, or such other evaluation standard  
25 and process required to be used by local school administrative units."

26 **SECTION 7.25.(e)** G.S. 115C-218.94 is amended by adding a new subsection to  
27 read:

28 "(c) The Review Board shall require charter schools that are identified as low-performing  
29 or continually low-performing to prepare and report on plans to improve the performance of the  
30 school. The requirements of G.S. 115C-105.27 shall not apply to charter schools."

31 **SECTION 7.25.(f)** G.S. 115C-218.105 reads as rewritten:

32 "**§ 115C-218.105. State and local funds for a charter school.**

33 ...

34 (a2) The State Board shall withhold or reduce distribution of funds to a charter school if  
35 any of the following applies:

- 36 (1) The change in funding is due to an annual adjustment based on enrollment or  
37 is a general adjustment to allocations that is not specific to the charter or  
38 actions of that charter school.
- 39 (2) The Review Board notifies the State Board that the charter school has  
40 materially violated a term of its charter, has violated a State statute or federal  
41 law, or has had its charter terminated or nonrenewed.
- 42 (3) The ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction~~ Review Board notifies the State  
43 Board that the charter school has failed to meet generally accepted standards  
44 of fiscal management or has violated a State or federal requirement for receipt  
45 of funds.

46 ...

47 (c2) The ~~Superintendent of Public Instruction~~ Review Board shall, in consultation with  
48 charter schools and local school administrative units, create a standardized enrollment  
49 verification and transfer request document that each charter school shall use to request the per  
50 pupil share of the local current expense fund from the local school administrative units. Charter  
51 schools shall only be required to list the name, age, grade, address, date of charter enrollment,



1 date of charter withdrawal, district of residence, and student identification number of each student  
2 as provided to the charter school by the student's parent or guardian in the enrollment verification  
3 and transfer request document that the charter school submits to the local school administrative  
4 units. A charter school, in its discretion, may take further steps to confirm the student's residence  
5 in a particular local school administrative unit.

6 (c3) ~~The Superintendent of Public Instruction-Review Board~~ shall, in consultation with  
7 charter schools and local school administrative units, create a standardized procedure that local  
8 school administrative units shall use when transferring the per pupil share of the local current  
9 expense fund to charter schools. The standardized procedure for transfer of the per pupil share of  
10 the local current expense fund shall require, to the extent practicable, that the local school  
11 administrative units make the transfers by electronic transfer.

12 ...."

13 **SECTION 7.25.(g)** G.S. 115C-218.123 is amended by adding a new subsection to  
14 read:

15 "(c) If a school is operating under a charter that allows for a remote academy as part of the  
16 charter, and the school enrolls or intends to enroll 250 or more students in the remote academy,  
17 the school may request that the Review Board grant the remote academy portion of the school a  
18 separate charter by submitting the information listed under subsection (a) of this section with the  
19 request. Requests submitted pursuant to this section shall be reviewed through an expedited  
20 process to be established by the Review Board. The Review Board shall not require a planning  
21 year for remote academies granted a charter pursuant to this subsection."

22 **SECTION 7.25.(h)** G.S. 115C-218.125 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 115C-218.125. Evaluation.**

24 (a) The State Board of Education shall evaluate the success of remote charter academies  
25 approved under this Part. Success shall be measured by school performance scores and grades,  
26 retention rates, attendance rates, and, for grades nine through 12, high school completion and  
27 dropout rates. The Board shall report by November 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative  
28 Education Oversight Committee on the evaluation of these academies and on any recommended  
29 statutory changes.

30 (b) If a school is operating under a charter that includes in-person instruction and a remote  
31 charter academy, the remote charter academy shall receive a separate school performance grade  
32 and be treated as a separate school for the purposes of assessing the performance of the remote  
33 charter academy pursuant to G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-83.15, 115C-218.94, and 115C-218.95."

34 **SECTION 7.25.(i)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies  
35 beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H42(S7.28)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**1    *FORMALIZE THE DIAPER BANK OF NORTH CAROLINA'S ROLE AS PROVIDER OF***  
**2    *FEMININE HYGIENE PRODUCTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS***

**3    SECTION 7.28. G.S. 115C-377 reads as rewritten:**

**4    "§ 115C-377. Feminine Hygiene Products ~~Grant~~ Program.**

**5    (a) Program; Purpose. –** The Department of Public Instruction shall establish the  
**6    Feminine Hygiene Products ~~Grant~~ Program (Program) to assist public school units participating**  
**7    ~~in the Program in providing~~ provide students with feminine hygiene products at no charge to the**  
**8    student. The Department shall run the Program in accordance with this section in each year in**  
**9    which funds are made available for the purpose.**

**10    (b) Grants. – ~~To the extent funds are made available for the Program, the Department of~~**  
**11    ~~Public Instruction shall award public school units grants of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000)~~**  
**12    ~~on a first come, first served basis, and the Department shall prioritize awarding grants to public~~**  
**13    ~~school units that did not receive an award pursuant to the Program in the previous fiscal year. No~~**  
**14    ~~public school unit shall receive more than one grant per fiscal year.~~**

**15    (b1) Participation. – The Department of Public Instruction shall develop a process through**  
**16    which public school units can elect to participate in the Program for each school year.**

**17    (b2) Contract for Products. – The Department of Public Instruction shall contract with the**  
**18    Diaper Bank of North Carolina to provide feminine hygiene products to all public school units**  
**19    that elect to participate in the Program on a pro rata basis based on the number of female students**  
**20    in grades six through 12 in the participating public school unit.**

**21    (c) Reporting. – ~~No later than March 15, 2023, and every year thereafter that funds are~~**  
**22    ~~made available for 15 of each year of~~ the Program, the Department shall report to the Joint**  
**23    Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the public school units receiving ~~grants~~ products**  
**24    under the Program, the ~~specific~~ number of feminine hygiene products ~~purchased with the grant~~**  
**25    ~~funds, provided through the Program, the number of students served by the Program, and the~~**  
**26    ~~impact of the Program on student health and well-being.~~"**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H63(S7.30)-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***ALLOW CHARTER SCHOOL SATELLITES AND RELOCATION***

**SECTION #.** G.S. 115C-218.8 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-218.8. Nonmaterial revisions of charters.**

It shall not be considered a material revision of a charter and shall not require prior approval of the Review Board for a charter school to do any of the following:

...

- (4) Relocate a charter school, expand the campus of a charter school beyond the school's main location and facilities, or establish a satellite extension of a charter school, so long as the relocation, expansion, or satellite is within a 10-mile radius of the school's main location. The relocation, expansion, or satellite need not be located within the same local school administrative unit as the main location of the charter school.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H43(S7.31)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***NO ALTERNATE SCHOOL MEALS BASED ON STUDENT PAY STATUS***

**SECTION 7.31.(a)** G.S. 115C-264 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(e) Governing bodies of public school units shall offer the same meal selections to all students regardless of student pay status for the nutrition program. For purposes of this section, pay status includes students receiving free or reduced-price lunch or students that have unpaid meal debt. This policy does not require a governing body to provide a student any optional meal items that result in additional charges to the student."

**SECTION 7.31.(b)** G.S. 115C-218.75(n) reads as rewritten:

"(n) Unpaid Meal Debt. School Nutrition Program. – If a charter school ~~participates in the~~ offers a school nutrition program, the charter school shall comply with the following in offering the program:

(1) A charter school may not impose administrative penalties on a student for unpaid school meal debt in accordance with G.S. 115C-264(d).

(2) A charter school shall not provide alternate meals based on student pay status in accordance with G.S. 115C-264(e)."

**SECTION 7.31.(c)** G.S. 115C-218.75(l) is recodified as subdivision (3) of G.S. 115C-218.75(n), as amended by subsection (b) of this section.

**SECTION 7.31.(d)** G.S. 115C-238.66(22) reads as rewritten:

"(22) Unpaid meal debt. School nutrition program. – If a regional school ~~participates in the~~ offers a school nutrition program, the regional school shall comply with the following in offering the program:

a. A regional school may not impose administrative penalties on a student for unpaid school meal debt in accordance with G.S. 115C-264(d).

b. A regional school shall not provide alternate meals based on student pay status in accordance with G.S. 115C-264(e)."

**SECTION 7.31.(e)** G.S. 115C-238.66(20) is recodified as sub-subdivision c. of G.S. 115C-238.66(22), as amended by subsection (d) of this section.

**SECTION 7.31.(f)** This section applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H44(S7.32)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**CEP TIME LINE SHIFT AND CLARIFY BREAKFAST LOCATION**

**SECTION 7.32.** Section 7.59 of S.L. 2023-134 reads as rewritten:

**"SECTION 7.59.(a)** Program; Purpose. – The Department of Public Instruction shall establish the CEP Meal Program Incentive ~~for the 2023–2025 fiscal biennium~~ to expand public school participation in the federal Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program to increase the number of students with access to healthy, cost-free school breakfast and lunch. The incentive program shall be available to public school units for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. In each year where funds are made available for the purpose, the CEP program shall be run subject to the provisions of this section.

...

**"SECTION 7.59.(c)** Application. – By ~~January 15, 2024,~~ April 15 of each year of the program, the Department shall develop the application for the incentive program and make it available to public school units. Public school units or individual schools shall submit their applications by ~~March 1, 2024.~~ June 1 of each year of the program. At a minimum, the application shall include the following information:

- (1) The school or schools that will participate in the CEP program.
- (2) The Identified Student Percentage (ISP) for the school or schools for the ~~2024–~~ 2025-current school year.
- (3) The number of students enrolled in the school or schools for the ~~2024–2025~~ current school year.
- (4) Participation rates in the National School Breakfast and Lunch programs for the 2023-2024 school year for the schools requesting to receive the incentive.

**"SECTION 7.59.(d)** Selection. – By ~~April 30, 2024,~~ July 15 of each year of the program, the Department shall determine whether each applicant is eligible to participate in the incentive program. The Department shall then award grants to all eligible public school units and schools. If there are insufficient funds to award grants to all eligible public school units or schools, the Department shall first prioritize awarding grants to public school units and schools with an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of greater than or equal to fifty-five percent (55%) and then prioritize awarding grants to those schools that will draw the greatest federal match.

**"SECTION 7.59.(e)** Grants. – The Department shall issue State reimbursements to participating public school units and schools to supplement federal reimbursements of school meals. State reimbursement shall equal the difference between the federal free rate and the federal paid rate for the number of meals served at the participating schools equal to a 0.2 multiplier of the ISP for the participating schools. State and federal reimbursements shall not exceed one hundred percent (100%) of the federal free rate of meals served. Schools utilizing the incentive shall ~~offer breakfast after the bell and in the classroom.~~ have an innovative breakfast option available where students have access to breakfast and are allowed to consume breakfast in the classroom.

...

1       **"SECTION 7.59.(g)** Report. – No later than January ~~4, 2025~~, 1 of each year of the program,  
2       the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the  
3       Fiscal Research Division at least the following information:  
4               ...."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H31(S7.34)-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***STUDENT USE OF WIRELESS COMMUNICATION DEVICES***

**SECTION #.(a)** Article 7B of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"Part 7. Classroom Policies.

**"§ 115C-77.1. Cell phone-free education policy.**

(a) Governing bodies of public school units shall adopt a cell phone-free education policy to eliminate or severely restrict student access to cell phones during instructional time.

(b) The cell phone-free education policy shall allow student use of cell phones during instructional time as follows:

(1) If authorized by a teacher for educational purposes. The governing body may establish parameters to be followed by a teacher in granting authorizations.

(2) As required by the student's individualized education program or section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plan.

(3) As required to manage a student's health care, in accordance with a documented medical condition.

(c) At the beginning of each school year, governing bodies of public school units shall notify parents of all students enrolled in the public school unit of the Cell Phone-Free Education Policy adopted under subsection (a) of this section.

(d) The requirements of this section shall not apply to the following:

(1) Remote charter academies as defined in G.S. 115C-218.120.

(2) Remote academies as defined in G.S. 115C-234."

**SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115C-77.1, as enacted by this section, shall not apply to virtual charter schools participating in the pilot program as authorized by Section 8.35 of S.L. 2014-100, as amended by Section 8.13 of S.L. 2016-94, Section 7.13 of S.L. 2018-5, Section 7.13 of S.L. 2022-74, and Section 7.26 of S.L. 2023-134.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H45(S7.35)-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT STABILITY FOR MILITARY STUDENTS***

**SECTION 7.35.** G.S. 115C-366(a9) reads as rewritten:

"(a9) A student who is not a domiciliary of a local school administrative unit shall be permitted to register to enroll in the public schools of that unit by remote means, including electronic means, prior to commencement of the student's residency in the local school administrative unit if all of the following apply:

- (1) A parent or legal guardian is (i) on active military duty and is transferred or pending transfer pursuant to an official military order to a military installation or reservation in the State, State or (ii) will be separating from active military duty within a 12-month period.
- (2) Upon request by the local school administrative unit where the student seeks to register to enroll, a parent or legal guardian provides a copy of (i) the official military order transferring to a military installation or reservation located in the State, State, (ii) the official separation orders, or (iii) an official military document showing the anticipated date of separation or date of projected Permanent Change of Station to the State.
- (3) A parent or legal guardian completes and submits the local school administrative unit's required enrollment forms and documentation, ~~except that other than~~ proof of residency and documentation related to disciplinary actions pursuant to G.S. 115C-366(a4) ~~shall not be required until the student transfers into the local school administrative unit, at which time they shall be required prior to commencing attendance.~~ G.S. 115C-366(a4).
- (4) A parent or legal guardian shall submit proof of residency and documentation related to the disciplinary actions pursuant to G.S. 115C-366(a4) upon the child commencing attendance. If the proof of residency has not yet become available because the parent or legal guardian and child are residing in temporary housing, the local school administrative unit shall do the following:
  - a. Allow the child to enroll and begin attending school in that unit of anticipated domicile for a period of up to one year (i) from the parent or legal guardian's reporting-for-duty date, separation date from active military duty, or anticipated separation date from active military duty or (ii) through the end of the school year before being considered a resident of another local school administrative unit.
  - b. Allow a child who is a high school junior or senior to enroll and begin attending school in that unit of anticipated domicile through high school graduation.

A local school administrative unit shall make available to a student who registers to enroll pursuant to this subsection the same opportunities available to a student enrolled contemporaneously with domicilia, such as requesting or applying for school assignment, registering for courses, and applying for any other programs that require additional request or application. ~~A student enrolled pursuant to this subsection may not attend school in the local~~



1 ~~school administrative unit until proof of residency is provided in accordance with the~~  
2 ~~requirements of the local school administrative unit.~~ Nothing in this subsection shall be construed  
3 to curtail a local school administrative unit's authority pursuant to G.S. 115C-366(a5)."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H46(S7.36)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**EXTENDED LEARNING AND INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS COMPETITIVE  
GRANT PROGRAM**

**SECTION 7.36.** Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"Part 7A. Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Grant Program.

**"§ 115C-238.35. Program; purpose.**

(a) Program; Purpose. – There is established the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Grant Program (Program). Nonprofit corporations and nonprofit corporations working in collaboration with local school administrative units operating relevant programs may apply for the Program. The purpose of the Program is to fund high-quality, independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for at-risk students that raise standards for student academic outcomes by focusing on the following:

- (1) Use of an evidence-based model with a proven track record of success.
- (2) Inclusion of rigorous, quantitative performance measures to confirm effectiveness of the program.
- (3) Deployment of multiple tiered supports in schools to address student barriers to achievement, such as strategies to improve chronic absenteeism, antisocial behaviors, academic growth, and enhancement of parent and family engagement.
- (4) Alignment with State performance measures, student academic goals, and the North Carolina Standard Course of Study.
- (5) Prioritization in programs to integrate clear academic content, in particular, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities or reading development and proficiency instruction.
- (6) Minimization of student class size when providing instruction or instructional supports and interventions.
- (7) Expansion of student access to high-quality learning activities and academic support that strengthen student engagement and leverage community-based resources, which may include organizations that provide mentoring services and private-sector employer involvement.
- (8) Utilization of digital content to expand learning time, when appropriate.

(b) Program Requirements. – In each year in which sufficient funds are available, the Department of Public Instruction shall administer the Program in accordance with this Part.

(c) Program Funding. – The Department shall use up to seven million dollars (\$7,000,000) from the At-Risk Student Services Alternative School Allotment each fiscal year to fund the Program. Of the funds used to fund the Program, the Department may use up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for each fiscal year for expenses of administering the Program.

**"§ 115C-238.36. Awards; eligible uses.**

(a) Eligible Uses. – Grants shall be used to award funds for new or existing eligible programs for at-risk students operated by nonprofit corporations and nonprofit corporations

1 working in collaboration with local school administrative units. Programs should focus on  
2 serving (i) at-risk students not performing at grade level as demonstrated by statewide  
3 assessments, (ii) students at risk of dropout, and (iii) students at risk of school displacement due  
4 to suspension or expulsion as a result of antisocial behaviors. Priority consideration shall be given  
5 to applications demonstrating models that focus services and programs in schools that are  
6 identified as low-performing pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37.

7 (b) Awards; Required Match. – Grant participants are eligible to receive grants for up to  
8 two years in an amount of up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) each year. A grant  
9 participant shall provide certification to the Department of Public Instruction that the grants  
10 received under the Program shall be matched on the basis of three dollars (\$3.00) in grant funds  
11 for every one dollar (\$1.00) in nongrant funds. Matching funds shall not include other State funds.  
12 The Department shall also give priority consideration to an applicant that is a nonprofit  
13 corporation working in partnership with a local school administrative unit resulting in a match  
14 utilizing federal funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
15 1965, as amended, or Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and other federal  
16 or local funds. Matching funds may include in-kind contributions for up to fifty percent (50%)  
17 of the required match.

18 (c) A nonprofit corporation may act as its own fiscal agent for the purposes of this  
19 Program.

20 **"§ 115C-238.37. Reporting requirements.**

21 (a) Recipient Reporting. – No later than July 15 of each year in which a grant recipient  
22 is participating in the Program, the recipient shall report to the Department of Public Instruction  
23 on the expenditure of grant funds and the progress of the Program, including alignment with State  
24 academic standards, data collection for reporting student progress, the source and amount of  
25 matching funds, and other measures, before receiving funding for the next fiscal year. Grant  
26 recipients shall also submit a final report on key performance data, including statewide test  
27 results, attendance rates, graduation rates, and promotion rates, and financial sustainability of the  
28 Program.

29 (b) Department Reporting. – No later than September 15 of each year of the Program, the  
30 Department of Public Instruction shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
31 Committee on the Program, including recommendations regarding effective program models,  
32 standards, and performance measures based on student performance, leveraging of  
33 community-based resources to expand student access to learning activities, academic and  
34 behavioral support services, and potential opportunities for the State to invest in proven models  
35 for future grant programs."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H27(S7.37)i

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**TEACHER APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM**

**SECTION 7.37.(a)** Article 17D of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-269.33. Teacher Apprenticeship Program.**

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions shall apply in this section:

(1) Advanced Teaching Roles unit. – As defined in G.S. 115C-310.3(6).

(2) Apprentice. – A person who is employed as an apprentice by an apprenticeship employer and meets all of the following criteria:

a. Holds a bachelor's degree.

b. Is eligible to hold or holds one of the following:

1. An emergency license.

2. A residency license.

3. A permit to teach issued by the Department in accordance with rules adopted by the State Board of Education.

c. Submitted a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

(3) Apprenticeship employer. – An Advanced Teaching Roles unit that meets all of the following criteria:

a. Has a registered apprenticeship program under requirements established by the United States Department of Labor.

b. Employs apprentices under the Program.

(4) Department. – The Department of Public Instruction.

(5) Program. – The Teacher Apprenticeship Program.

(6) RFP. – Request for proposals.

(b) Program Established; Purpose. – There is established the Teacher Apprenticeship Program as a competitive grant program for the purpose of increasing the number of professionally licensed teachers in the State and improving teacher competency, student outcomes, and teacher retention in the State. The Department of Public Instruction shall administer the Program in collaboration with ApprenticeshipNC as set forth in this section.

(c) Request for Proposals. – No later than November 1 of each year, ApprenticeshipNC shall issue an RFP for the Program. Advanced Teaching Roles units may submit proposals by January 1 of the following calendar year. Proposals shall include at least the following information:

(1) A plan to establish a registered teacher apprenticeship program in collaboration with ApprenticeshipNC, including at least the following information:

a. The number of apprentices the unit intends to employ using grant funds for State-funded salary supplements, State-funded enrollment expenses, or both.

b. Specific subject areas and grade levels in the local school administrative unit with teacher shortages.

- (2) A system of supports that would be provided for apprentices, including qualifications of mentor teachers and a schedule of supervision.
- (3) Alternative sources of funding to support apprenticeships that could be paired with State funds received under the Program, including federal workforce development funds.
- (4) An explanation of how the unit would incorporate its registered teacher apprenticeship program with its advanced teaching roles program to enhance the learning environment for apprentices.
- (5) Strategies to encourage candidates to accept an apprenticeship instead of directly entering the teacher profession on a Residency License, Emergency License, or permit to teach.

(d) Selection of Recipients. – By March 15 of each school year in which proposals are submitted, ApprenticeshipNC shall review the proposals and select local school administrative units to participate in the Program, beginning in the subsequent school year. ApprenticeshipNC shall notify the Department of its selections, and the Department shall allocate funds to the selected Advanced Teaching Roles units in accordance with subsection (e) of this section.

(e) Allocation of State Grant Funds. – To the extent funds are appropriated by the General Assembly for this purpose, the Department shall allocate the funds for grants to apprenticeship employers based on the number of apprentices the unit intends to employ receiving grant funds for State-funded salary supplements, State-funded enrollment expenses, or both, up to a maximum of 10 total apprentices per unit, as follows:

- (1) Up to seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) per apprentice per year, plus any additional funds necessary for benefits, to provide salary supplements for apprentices in accordance subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of this section.
- (2) Up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per apprentice per year for the costs of enrollment of an apprentice in an institution of higher education in accordance with subdivision (5) of subsection (f) of this section.

(f) Program Requirements. – The following minimum requirements shall apply to apprentices and apprenticeship employers under the Program:

- (1) Number of apprentices. – An apprenticeship employer shall employ no more than a maximum of 10 total apprentices who receive grant funds for State-funded salary supplements, State-funded enrollment expenses, or both. An apprenticeship employer may employ additional apprentices receiving funds for salary supplements or education expenses from other sources.
- (2) Funds for positions. – An apprenticeship employer may employ apprentices using State funds allotted for teacher assistant positions, with roles and responsibilities modified to meet the requirements of the Program, or other available funds.
- (3) Salary supplements. – As follows:
  - a. An apprenticeship employer shall provide the following salary supplements:
    1. For each apprentice, up to a maximum of seven thousand five hundred dollars (\$7,500) per apprentice.
    2. For each mentor teacher, up to a maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per mentor teacher.
  - b. An apprenticeship employer may provide a salary supplement for any other teacher employed by the local school administrative unit who agrees to become the teacher of record for additional students to facilitate the operation of the registered apprenticeship program in that unit, up to a maximum of three thousand dollars (\$3,000).

- (4) Mentors. – Each apprentice shall work full time in a classroom with a mentor teacher who is a member of a team of teachers that is led by a teacher with an advanced teaching role. For purposes of this subdivision, a mentor teacher may include a classroom excellence teacher as defined in G.S. 115C-310.3(7).
- (5) Enrollment costs. – An apprentice shall enroll in or remain enrolled in a recognized educator preparation program. An apprenticeship employer may provide up to a maximum of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per apprentice per year for the costs of enrollment in an institution of higher education. These funds shall only be used after the apprentice has exhausted all other scholarships or grants covering the cost of attendance at an institution of higher education, including federal Pell grants.
- (6) Limitations. – An apprentice shall not do any of the following:
- a. Serve as the teacher of record for any students.
  - b. Engage in substitute teaching for more than eight hours per week.
  - c. Work as an apprentice for more than three years.
- (g) Term. – The Department shall award grant funds to selected Advanced Teaching Roles units to serve as apprenticeship employers for one or more terms of three years. Prior to the conclusion of a term, ApprenticeshipNC shall evaluate the success of the Program at the unit and the compliance of the unit with the requirements of this section. At the conclusion of the evaluation, ApprenticeshipNC may, in its discretion, renew the apprenticeship employer for an additional term. Throughout the Program, an apprenticeship employer shall provide any information or access requested by ApprenticeshipNC to evaluate the registered apprenticeship program pursuant to this section.
- (h) Emergency Position Conversion. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-105.25(b), an apprenticeship employer may convert one position allocated to the unit for classroom teachers to its dollar equivalent at the salary on the first step of the "A" Teachers Salary Schedule for every one apprentice employed by the unit who is receiving State grant funds if all of the following are met:
- (1) The apprentice receiving State grant funds would have been eligible to fill the vacant position using a residency license, emergency license, or permit to teach but was instead hired into the apprentice position.
  - (2) The funds are only used for one or more of the following purposes in accordance with the requirements of the Program:
    - a. Salary supplements for apprentices.
    - b. Salary supplements for mentor teachers.
    - c. Costs of enrollment in an institution of higher education.
    - d. Salary supplements for teachers identified in sub-subdivision b. of subdivision (3) of subsection (f) of this section.
- (i) Administration. – Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction for the Program for each fiscal year, the Department shall allocate the greater of fifteen percent (15%) or three hundred thousand dollars (\$300,000) to ApprenticeshipNC to do all of the following in consultation with the Department:
- (1) Outline the duties and responsibilities of apprentices, including on-the-job training requirements.
  - (2) Collaborate with recognized educator preparation programs to establish education requirements for apprentices and revise curriculum requirements for student teaching to include apprenticeships under the Program.
  - (3) Create minimum competencies for apprentices that reflect the progressive acquisition of ability.

- 1           (4)    Create resources that can be used by apprenticeship employers to select and  
2               train mentor teachers, including the responsibilities of a mentor teacher and  
3               background information on teacher apprenticeship programs.  
4           (5)    Develop a process to monitor apprentices in their first years of teaching after  
5               successful completion of the Program to evaluate the qualities of teacher  
6               candidates that correlate to successful outcomes and lower teacher turnover  
7               rates.  
8           (6)    Assist apprenticeship employers with the following:  
9               a.    Combining State and federal funds to maximize the number of  
10               apprentices in the Program.  
11               b.    Complying with applicable State and federal law.  
12           (7)    Develop a training module for mentor teachers that establishes standards for  
13               mentor teachers under the Program and incorporates, where applicable, any  
14               preexisting standards for mentor teachers.  
15       (j)    Report. – No later than March 15 of each year, ApprenticeshipNC shall report to the  
16       Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the Program, including at least the  
17       following information:  
18           (1)    The impact of the Program for each apprenticeship employer on the following:  
19               a.    The number of teachers, disaggregated by licensure type.  
20               b.    Student outcomes.  
21               c.    Teacher retention.  
22           (2)    Successful strategies and best practices used by apprenticeship employers.  
23           (3)    Any barriers to expanding the Program."  
24       **SECTION 7.37.(b)** G.S. 115C-269.32 is repealed.  
25       **SECTION 7.37.(c)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law or a provision of the  
26       Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of S.L. 2023-134 to the contrary, of the one million  
27       dollars (\$1,000,000) in recurring funds allocated for the Teacher Apprentice Grant Program  
28       pursuant to G.S. 115C-269.32, beginning in the 2025-2026 fiscal year, these funds shall instead  
29       be used for the Teacher Apprenticeship Program established pursuant to subsection (a) of this  
30       section.  
31       **SECTION 7.37.(d)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2025. ApprenticeshipNC  
32       shall issue the initial request for proposals pursuant to G.S. 115C-269.33, as enacted by  
33       subsection (a) of this section, by November 1, 2025, for applications from local school  
34       administrative units to establish registered teacher apprenticeship programs beginning in the  
35       2026-2027 school year. Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-269.33(j), as enacted by subsection (a) of  
36       this section, ApprenticeshipNC shall provide its initial report on the impact of the Teacher  
37       Apprenticeship Program by March 15, 2027.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H9-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**CTE MODERNIZATION**

**SECTION #.** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction in this act, up to two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium shall be used to create a grant program for modernization of Career and Technical Education (CTE) programming, materials, training, and professional development for courses conducted in grades six through 12. The Department shall establish a grant program for each school year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium to which a public school unit or regional partnership of more than one public school unit may apply to receive funds if a school within the unit or partnership has an existing CTE program. Grant recipients shall use the funds distributed to them under this section to procure and implement an online digital CTE learning platform containing comprehensive courses with lesson plans, media-rich content and activities, and interactive assessments that align with the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Standards. The platform shall have modules that assist teachers in preparing students for high-wage, high-growth career areas. By October 1, 2025, the Department shall select approved providers to guarantee consistency throughout the State. Any selected digital CTE learning platform shall include at least all of the following components:

- (1) Instructional strategies and guided lesson plans to assist teachers with classroom implementation and instructional differentiation.
- (2) Media-based instructional content for providing demonstrations and instruction on skills required for applicable career areas.
- (3) Multiple methods of delivery of instruction, including at least face-to-face, self-paced, and distance or hybrid learning.
- (4) Guided projects and activities to incorporate hands-on application of skills.
- (5) A focus on mastery-based learning.
- (6) Reporting features to provide data on student progress.
- (7) Guidance for students to obtain industry-recognized certifications.
- (8) Career connections to provide examples of career opportunities following graduation from high school.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H13-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***K-5 PERFORMING AND VISUAL ARTS REQUIREMENT***

**SECTION #.(a)** Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new sections to read:

**"§ 115C-81.95. Elementary performing arts education.**

Each local school administrative unit shall provide all students in kindergarten through grade five instruction in music, dance, or theatre arts that aligns with the Standard Course of Study. The instruction shall meet at least the following criteria:

- (1) Occur during at least one instructional day out of every five instructional days.
- (2) Be taught by at least one licensed music, dance, or theatre arts education instructor.
- (3) Instructional sessions shall last at least 30 consecutive minutes.
- (4) Instructional sessions shall be given to classes no larger than the maximum classroom size per instructional session for each grade, as provided in G.S. 115C-301.

**"§ 115C-81.96. Elementary visual arts education.**

Each local school administrative unit shall provide all students in kindergarten through grade five instruction in the visual arts that aligns with the Standard Course of Study. The instruction shall meet at least the following criteria:

- (1) Occur during at least one instructional day out of every five instructional days.
- (2) Be taught by at least one licensed visual arts education instructor.
- (3) Instructional sessions shall last at least 30 consecutive minutes.
- (4) Instructional sessions shall be given to classes no larger than the maximum classroom size per instructional session for each grade, as provided in G.S. 115C-301."

**SECTION #.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H47-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM/DYSLEXIA**

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-83.4B(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) As part of the Early Literacy Program, the Department of Public Instruction shall focus on at least the following components:

- (1) Provide a training program to educators and administrators working with children in the NC Pre-K program to ensure developmentally appropriate instruction grounded in the Science of Reading and outcomes promoting reading achievement in students. The Department of Public Instruction shall utilize a third-party independent teacher training program to deliver professional development that demonstrates evidence-based success with educators and administrators in establishing deep knowledge of literacy instruction.
- (2) Provide integration of age-appropriate resources, including digital and technological resources, in the NC Pre-K program for children to meet reading achievement goals.
- (3) Ensure administration of a formative assessment to children at the conclusion of their participation in the NC Pre-K program to determine their kindergarten readiness and the alignment of their literacy instruction with the Science of Reading. The Department shall also ensure that the results of each child's formative assessment are shared with the child's kindergarten teacher at the beginning of the next school year.
- (4) Ensure administration of a dyslexia screening instrument to every student participating in the NC Pre-K program. The Department shall ensure that the results of each child's screening are shared with the child's kindergarten teacher at the beginning of the next school year.
- (5) Provide training to educators and administrators working with children in the NC Pre-K program to ensure appropriate instruction and intervention strategies are used with students who exhibit potential indicators of dyslexia."

**SECTION #.(b)** This section applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H49-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**MODIFY CTE GRANTS FOR HOMEBUILDING PROGRAMS**

**SECTION #.(a)** Article 10 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Part to read:

"Part 6. Grants for CTE Homebuilding Programs.

**"§ 115C-173.20. Grant program established; purpose; use of funds.**

There is established the CTE Homebuilding Grant Program to provide grants to assist public school units with curriculum costs associated with CTE programs related to the U.S. Department of Labor approved Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT) program developed by the Home Builders Institute. The Department of Public Instruction shall permit high schools within public school units to use the PACT program as an approved curriculum for CTE programs. A public school unit or a regional partnership of more than one public school unit may apply to receive funds. When awarding grants under this Part, the Department shall prioritize public school units (i) located, in whole or in part, in a county with at least one local school administrative unit that received low-wealth supplemental funding in the previous fiscal year and (ii) that have a high population of at-risk students or students with disabilities.

**"§ 115C-173.21. Application.**

The Department shall create and make available to all public school units an application for grants under this Part no later than July 15 of each year that funds are made available for this purpose. Applicants shall submit their application to receive grant funds to the Department no later than 60 days after the application is made available. The Department shall approve or deny each application within 30 days of receipt by the Department.

**"§ 115C-173.24. Reporting.**

All recipients of grants under this Part shall submit a report to the Department on the outcomes of any programs funded by grants received pursuant to this Part no later than October 15 of each year that funds are received, including data collection methods for reporting on student outcomes, impacts of the program, and use of State funds. The Department shall then submit a report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the overall outcomes of the grant programs no later than December 15 of each year that funds are made available for this purpose."

**SECTION #.(b)** Section 7.19 of S.L. 2023-134 is repealed.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H50-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***USE OF LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT MAINTAINED PROPERTIES FOR  
PUBLIC HEARINGS***

**SECTION #.(a)** Article 7 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 143B-279.21. Use of schools and other public buildings for public hearings.**

**(a)** The governing authority having control over (i) public buildings or (ii) schools governed by a local board of education which have facilities for group meetings is hereby authorized and directed to permit the use of such buildings without charge, except custodial and utility fees, by the Department for public hearings. Provided, that the use of such buildings or schools by the Department for public hearings shall not be permitted at times during the school day or which would interfere with normal school activities or functions normally carried on in such school buildings, and such use shall be subject to reasonable rules and regulations of the governing body of the public school unit and other governing authorities.

**(b)** The Department of Environmental Quality shall be entitled to use any school governed by a local board of education or other State, county, or municipal building, or a part thereof, or any other building, or a part thereof, which is supported or maintained, in whole or in part, by or through tax revenues; provided, however, that this section shall not be construed to permit the Department to use any tax-exempt church property for such purposes without the express consent of the individual church involved for the purpose of conducting public hearings."

**SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

**"(70) To Provide Access to School Facilities to the Department of Environmental Quality. – A local board of education shall adopt policies to allow the Department of Environmental Quality to have access to facilities that can facilitate group meetings on school property of a school governed by the local school board pursuant to G.S. 143B-279.21(a)."**

**SECTION #.(c)** This section is effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H52-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**RESIDENCY LICENSES FOR NONPUBLIC EC TEACHERS**

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-270.20(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) Teacher Licenses. – The State Board shall adopt rules for the issuance of the following classes of teacher licenses, including required levels of preparation for each classification:

...

(5) Residency License or RL. – A one-year license, renewable twice, that meets both of the following requirements:

a. ~~Is requested by the governing body of a public school unit and accompanied by a certification of supervision from the recognized educator preparation program in which the individual is enrolled.~~ any of the following entities and is accompanied by a certification of supervision from the recognized educator preparation program in which the individual is enrolled:

1. The governing body of a public school unit.

2. A nonpublic school that meets the requirements of Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of this Chapter.

3. A nonpublic school approved and monitored by the Department of Public Instruction that provides services for students with extraordinary costs. For the purposes of this subsection, extraordinary costs shall include costs directly attributable to providing the special education services on the student's IEP.

b. The individual for whom the license is requested meets all of the following requirements:

1. Holds at least one of the following:

I. A bachelor's degree.

II. An advanced degree.

2. Has either completed coursework relevant to the requested licensure area or passed the content area examination relevant to the requested licensure area that has been approved by the State Board.

3. Is enrolled in a recognized educator preparation program.

4. Meets all other requirements established by the State Board, including completing preservice requirements prior to teaching.

...."

**SECTION #.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to applications for residency licenses occurring on or after that date.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H53-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***SOCIAL MEDIA LITERACY IN SCHOOLS***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

**"(70)** To Adopt an Internet Safety Policy. – Local boards of education shall adopt policies for student access to the internet provided by the local school administrative unit. The policies shall do at least the following:

- a. Limit access by students to only age-appropriate subject matter and materials.
- b. Protect the safety and security of students when accessing email, chat rooms, and other forms of electronic communication.
- c. Prohibit access by students to data or information maintained by the local school administrative unit, including by "hacking" and other unlawful online activities.
- d. Prevent access to websites, web applications, or software that does not protect against the disclosure, use, or dissemination of a student's personal information.
- e. Prohibit and prevent students from accessing social media platforms through the use of internet access provided by the local school administrative unit, except when expressly directed by a teacher solely for educational purposes."

**SECTION #.(b)** Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-81.26. Social media and mental health.**

Each local board of education shall provide instruction on social media and its effects on health, including social, emotional, and physical effects. Instruction shall be provided once during elementary school, once during middle school, and twice during high school. Instruction may be included as part of the mental and emotional health instruction provided pursuant to G.S. 115C-81.25. Instruction on this topic shall include at least the following:

- (1) Negative effects of social media on mental health, including addiction.
- (2) The distribution of misinformation on social media.
- (3) Methods of manipulating behavior using social media.
- (4) The permanency of information shared online.
- (5) How to maintain personal security.
- (6) How to identify cyberbullying, predatory behavior, and human trafficking on the internet.
- (7) How to report suspicious behavior encountered on the internet.
- (8) Personal and interpersonal skills or character education that enhances individual level protective factors and mitigates or reduces risk-taking or harmful behavior."

**SECTION #.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H55-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**CAREER DEVELOPMENT ADJUSTMENT**

**SECTION #.(a)** Pilot Program Established; Purpose. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall create an Annual Career Development Plan Pilot Program (Program) for students entering the seventh grade at select schools during the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years and continuing through the students' graduation from high school. The purpose of the Program shall be to evaluate the efficacy of reviewing Career Development Plans (Plans) annually to better align students for on-time graduation and achievement of college and career goals and to ensure that all students graduate from high school college or career ready.

**SECTION #.(b)** Definitions. – The following definitions apply to this section:

- (1) Career Development Plan. – An individual plan created by each student that establishes the student's plan throughout middle and high school for graduation and career development pursuant to G.S. 115C-158.10.
- (2) Local board of education. – A local board of education governing a partnered school.
- (3) Parent. – Defined in G.S. 115C-76.1.
- (4) Partnered school. – A middle school and high school governed by a local board of education where at least half of the student population of the middle school is assigned to attend the associated high school.

**SECTION #.(c)** Partnered Schools. – The Superintendent shall select 12 partnered schools that are proportionally representative of the population size and geographic distribution of public high schools in the State. The Superintendent shall provide a process for schools to apply to participate in the Program as partnered schools. The Superintendent shall be responsible for the final selection of partnered schools. In the event that there are fewer than 12 applicants, the Superintendent shall collaborate with local superintendents to select schools to be partnered schools. Partnered schools shall have each student entering the seventh grade during the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 school years complete an annual review of Plans.

**SECTION #.(d)** Local Board of Education and IEP Support. – The local board of education shall ensure that students in partnered schools are provided assistance by a school counselor and planning time during the instructional day each school year to update their Plans. For students with disabilities, the student's IEP team, if applicable, may assist the student in completing and updating the Plan. Updates to Plans shall be made prior to student scheduling of courses for the next school year.

**SECTION #.(e)** Parental Involvement. – Partnered schools shall encourage parents to participate in development of Plans with their students and to sign a form provided by the school acknowledging the annual revisions of the Plans. Local boards of education shall ensure that Plans are easily accessible to students and parents and shall provide parents annual written notice of the creation or revision of a Plan, information on how to access the Plan, a listing of course offerings for the next school year with a description of the content of each course, and high school graduation requirements where appropriate. Prior to creating or updating a student's Plan, a school counselor shall attempt to meet with the student's parent, either in person or

1 virtually, to explain the possible effects that the Plan might have on the student's graduation  
2 requirements and career development planning. Beginning in the tenth grade and continuing  
3 throughout the student's high school enrollment, a school counselor shall provide each student  
4 and parent information regarding State and federal need-based and merit-based financial aid  
5 programs to support postsecondary education and training using information provided by the  
6 State Education Assistance Authority and College Foundation of North Carolina. The school  
7 counselor shall also provide information on the free application for federal student aid (FAFSA),  
8 its use, and notify the parent that information included in the FAFSA is confidential and not  
9 accessible by the school.

10 **SECTION #.(f) Initial Career Development Plans.** – Students in seventh grade in  
11 partnered schools shall develop an initial career development plan which will provide guidance  
12 as students develop Plans.

13 **SECTION #.(g) Annual Career Development Plan Updates.** – In partnered schools,  
14 Plans shall be updated annually in addition to the following information being provided to  
15 students:

- 16 (1) For eighth grade students, by the end of the school year, a list of the required  
17 core courses to be taken in ninth and tenth grades.
- 18 (2) For tenth grade students, an identification of the graduation requirements  
19 relevant to the student's chosen postsecondary goals based on the student's  
20 career development planning.
- 21 (3) For eleventh grade students not meeting the career and college readiness  
22 standards established by the State Board of Community Colleges, a plan for  
23 enrolling in remedial coursework for his or her senior year.
- 24 (4) Any other minimum requirements established by the Superintendent.

25 **SECTION #.(h) Reporting Requirement.** – The Superintendent or a local board of  
26 education shall develop reporting requirements for partnered schools participating in the Program  
27 to provide information on the effectiveness of the annual review of the Plans. The Superintendent  
28 shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by August 15, 2026, and  
29 each year thereafter on the progress of the Program, including any logistical issues that have  
30 arisen with the Program.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H61-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***FAILURE FREE READING***

**SECTION #.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-83.12, 115C-150.12C(3a), 115C-218.85(5), 115C-269.20(a)(2), or 116-239.8, of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction, one million two hundred thousand dollars (\$1,200,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year shall be used to contract with JFL Enterprises, Inc., for a Failure Free Reading Program (Program) to improve middle school literacy. The Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by September 15, 2026, on the number of public school units that participated in the Program and comparing outcomes of students in public school units that participated in the Program against those public school units that did not. The report shall include any recommendations by the Department on changes to the Program.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H62-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

*STUDY HVAC SOLUTIONS FOR WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM  
PROPERTY*

**SECTION #.** Of the funds appropriated in this act to the Department of Public Instruction, the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2026-2027 fiscal year shall be used to conduct a study to identify high-efficiency, next generation heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems (HVAC) and chiller solutions for property owned by the Wake County Public School System. The Department shall consult with the Wake County Board of Education and may consult with other boards of education in the State in conducting the study. Not later than February 15, 2027, the Department shall report the findings of the study, including any recommendations for legislation, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Wake County Board of Education and shall post the findings and recommendations on its website so that they may be accessed by all local boards of education in the State and other interested stakeholders.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H64-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***INTERSTATE COMPACT FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS***

**SECTION #.(a)** Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 17F.

"School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.

**"§ 115C-270.40. Purpose.**

The purpose of this Compact is to facilitate the interstate practice of School Psychology in educational or school settings, and in so doing to improve the availability of School Psychological Services to the public. This Compact is intended to establish a pathway to allow School Psychologists to obtain equivalent licenses to provide School Psychological Services in any Member State. In this way, this Compact shall enable the Member States to ensure that safe and effective School Psychological Services are available and delivered by appropriately qualified professionals in their educational settings. To facilitate the objectives described above, this Compact does the following:

- (1) Enables School Psychologists who qualify for receipt of an Equivalent License to practice in other Member States without first satisfying burdensome and duplicative requirements.
- (2) Promotes the mobility of School Psychologists between and among the Member States in order to address workforce shortages and to ensure that safe and reliable School Psychological Services are available in each Member State.
- (3) Enhances the public accessibility of School Psychological Services by increasing the availability of qualified, licensed School Psychologists through the establishment of an efficient and streamlined pathway for Licensees to practice in other Member States.
- (4) Preserves and respects the authority of each Member State to protect the health and safety of its residents by ensuring that only qualified, licensed professionals are authorized to provide School Psychological Services within that state.
- (5) Requires School Psychologists practicing within a Member State to comply with the Scope of Practice laws present in the state where the School Psychological Services are being provided.
- (6) Promotes cooperation between the Member States in regulating the practice of School Psychology within those states.
- (7) Facilitates the relocation of military members and their spouses who are licensed to provide School Psychological Services.

**"§ 115C-270.41. Definitions.**

The following definitions shall apply in this Article:

- (1) Active Military Member. – Any person with full-time duty status in the Armed Forces of the United States, including members of the National Guard and Reserve.
- (2) Adverse Action. – Disciplinary action or encumbrance imposed on a License by a State Licensing Authority.
- (3) Alternative Program. – A nondisciplinary, prosecutorial diversion, monitoring, or practice remediation process entered into in lieu of an Adverse Action which is applicable to a School Psychologist and approved by the State Licensing Authority of a Member State in which the participating School Psychologist is licensed. This includes, but is not limited to, programs to which Licensees with substance abuse or addiction issues may be referred in lieu of an Adverse Action.
- (4) Commissioner. – The individual appointed by a Member State to serve as the representative to the Commission for that Member State.
- (5) Compact. – This School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact.
- (6) Continuing Professional Education. – A requirement, imposed by a Member State as a condition of License renewal to provide evidence of successful participation in professional educational activities relevant to the provision of School Psychological Services.
- (7) Criminal Background Check. – The submission of fingerprints or other biometric information for a License applicant for the purpose of obtaining that applicant's criminal history record information, as defined in 28 C.F.R. § 20.3(d), and the state's criminal history record repository, as defined in 28 C.F.R. § 20.3(f).
- (8) Doctoral Level Degree. – A graduate degree program that consists of at least 90 graduate semester hours in the field of School Psychology, including a supervised internship.
- (9) Encumbered License. – A License that a State Licensing Authority has limited in any way other than through an Alternative Program, including temporary or provisional licenses.
- (10) Executive Committee. – The Commission's Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer and any other Commissioners as may be determined by Commission Rule or bylaw.
- (11) Equivalent License. – A License to practice School Psychology which a Member State has identified as a License which may be provided to School Psychologists from other Member States pursuant to this Compact.
- (12) Home State. – The Member State that issued the Home State License to the Licensee and is the Licensee's primary state of practice.
- (13) Home State License. – The License that is not an Encumbered License issued by the Home State to provide School Psychological Services.
- (14) License. – A current license, certification, or other authorization granted by a Member State's Licensing Authority that permits an individual to provide School Psychological Services.
- (15) Licensee. – An individual who holds a License from a Member State to provide School Psychological Services.
- (16) Member State. – A state that has enacted the Compact and been admitted to the Commission in accordance with the provisions herein and Commission Rules.
- (17) Model Compact. – The model language for the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact on file with the Council of State Governments or other entity as designated by the Commission.

- (18) Practice of School Psychology. – The delivery of School Psychological Services.
- (19) Qualifying National Exam. – A national licensing examination endorsed by the National Association of School Psychologists and any other exam as approved by the Rules of the Commission.
- (20) Qualifying School Psychologist Education Program. – An education program which awards a Specialist-Level or Doctoral-Level degree or equivalent upon completion and is approved by the Rules of the Commission as meeting the necessary minimum educational standards to ensure that its graduates are ready, qualified, and able to engage in the Practice of School Psychology.
- (21) Remote State. – A Member State other than the Home State where a Licensee holds a License through the Compact.
- (22) Rule. – A regulation promulgated by an entity, including, but not limited to, the Commission and the State Licensing Authority of each Member State, that has the force of law.
- (23) School Psychological Services. – Academic, mental, and behavioral health services, including assessment, prevention, consultation and collaboration, intervention, and evaluation provided by a School Psychologist in a school, as outlined in applicable professional standards as determined by Commission Rule.
- (24) School Psychologist. – An individual who has met the requirements to obtain a Home State License that legally conveys the professional title of School Psychologist, or its equivalent, as determined by the Rules of the Commission.
- (25) School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact Commission (Commission). – The joint government agency established by this Compact whose membership consists of representatives from each Member State that has enacted the Compact, and as further described in G.S. 115C-270.46.
- (26) Scope of Practice. – The procedures, actions, and processes a School Psychologist licensed in a state is permitted to undertake in that state and the circumstances under which that Licensee is permitted to undertake those procedures, actions, and processes. Such procedures, actions, and processes, and the circumstances under which they may be undertaken, may be established through means, including, but not limited to, statute, regulations, case law, and other processes available to the State Licensing Authority or other government agency.
- (27) Specialist-Level Degree. – A degree program that requires at least 60 graduate semester hours or equivalent in the field of School Psychology, including a supervised internship.
- (28) State. – Any state, commonwealth, district, or territory of the United States of America.
- (29) State Licensing Authority. – A Member State's regulatory body responsible for issuing Licenses or otherwise overseeing the Practice of School Psychology.
- (30) State Specific Requirement. – A requirement for licensure covered in coursework or examination that includes content of unique interest to the state.
- (31) Unencumbered License. – A License that authorizes a Licensee to engage in the full and unrestricted Practice of School Psychology.

**"§ 115C-270.42. State participation in the Compact.**

(a) To be eligible to join this Compact, and to maintain eligibility as a Member State, a state must do the following:

- (1) Enact a Compact statute that is not materially different from the Model Compact as defined in the Commission's Rules.
- (2) Participate in the sharing of information with other Member States as reasonably necessary to accomplish the objectives of this Compact, and as further defined in G.S. 115C-270.47.
- (3) Identify and maintain with the Commission a list of Equivalent Licenses available to Licensees who hold a Home State License under this Compact.
- (4) Have a mechanism in place for receiving and investigating complaints about Licensees.
- (5) Notify the Commission, in compliance with the terms of the Compact and the Commission's Rules, of any Adverse Action taken against a Licensee, or of the availability of investigative information which relates to a Licensee or applicant for licensure.
- (6) Require that applicants for a Home State License have done the following:
- a. Taken and passed a Qualifying National Exam as defined by the Rules of the Commission.
  - b. Completed a minimum of 1200 hours of supervised internship, of which at least 600 must have been completed in a School, prior to being approved for licensure.
  - c. Graduated from a Qualifying School Psychologist Education Program.
- (7) Comply with the terms of this Compact and the Rules of the Commission.
- (b) Each Member State shall grant an Equivalent License to practice School Psychology in that state upon application by a Licensee who satisfies the criteria of G.S. 115C-270.43(a). Each Member State shall grant renewal of the Equivalent License to a Licensee who satisfies the criteria of G.S. 115C-270.43(b).
- (c) Member States may set and collect a fee for granting an Equivalent License.
- "§ 115C-270.43. School psychologist participation in the Compact.**
- (a) To obtain and maintain an Equivalent License from a Remote State under this Compact, a Licensee must satisfy the following:
- (1) Hold and maintain an active Home State License.
  - (2) Satisfy any applicable State Specific Requirements established by the Member State after an Equivalent License is granted.
  - (3) Complete any administrative or application requirements which the Commission may establish by Rule and pay any associated fees.
  - (4) Complete any requirements for renewal in the Home State, including applicable Continuing Professional Education requirements.
  - (5) Upon their application to receive a license under this Compact, undergo a criminal background check in the Member State in which the Equivalent License is sought in accordance with the laws and regulations of such Member State.
- (b) To renew an Equivalent License in a Member State other than the Home State, a Licensee must only apply for renewal, complete a background check, and pay renewal fees as determined by the Licensing Authority.
- "§ 115C-270.44. Active Military Members or their spouses.**
- A Licensee who is an Active Military Member or is the spouse of an Active Military Member shall be deemed to hold a Home State License in any of the following locations:
- (1) The Licensee's permanent residence.
  - (2) A Member State that is the Licensee's primary state of practice.
  - (3) A Member State where the Licensee has relocated pursuant to a Permanent Change of Station (PCS).
- "§ 115C-270.45. Discipline/adverse actions.**

1       (a)     Nothing in this Compact shall be deemed or construed to limit the authority of a  
2 Member State to investigate or impose disciplinary measures on Licensees according to the State  
3 Practice Laws thereof.

4       (b)     Member States shall be authorized to receive, and shall provide, files and information  
5 regarding the investigation and discipline, if any, of Licensees in other Member States upon  
6 request. Any Member State receiving such information or files shall protect and maintain the  
7 security and confidentiality thereof, in at least the same manner that it maintains its own  
8 investigatory or disciplinary files and information. Prior to disclosing any disciplinary or  
9 investigatory information received from another Member State, the disclosing state shall  
10 communicate its intention and purpose for such disclosure to the Member State which originally  
11 provided that information.

12 **"§ 115C-270.46. Establishment of the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact**  
13 **Commission.**

14       (a)     The Member States hereby create and establish a joint government agency whose  
15 membership consists of all Member States that have enacted the Compact, and this agency shall  
16 be known as the School Psychologist Interstate Licensure Compact Commission. The  
17 Commission is an instrumentality of the Member States acting jointly and not an instrumentality  
18 of any one state. The Commission shall come into existence on or after the effective date of the  
19 Compact as set forth in G.S. 115C-270.50.

20       (b)     Membership, Voting, and Meetings.

21           (1)   Each Member State shall have and be limited to one delegate selected by that  
22 Member State's State Licensing Authority.

23           (2)   The delegate shall be the primary administrative officer of the Member State  
24 Licensing Authority or their designee who is an employee of the Member  
25 State Licensing Authority.

26           (3)   The Commission shall by Rule or bylaw establish a term of office for  
27 delegates and may by Rule or bylaw establish term limits.

28           (4)   The Commission may recommend removal or suspension of any delegate  
29 from office.

30           (5)   A Member State's Licensing Authority shall fill any vacancy of its delegate  
31 occurring on the Commission within 60 days of the vacancy.

32           (6)   Each delegate shall be entitled to one vote on all matters before the  
33 Commission requiring a vote by Commission delegates.

34           (7)   A delegate shall vote in person or by such other means as provided in the  
35 bylaws. The bylaws may provide for delegates to meet by telecommunication,  
36 videoconference, or other means of communication.

37           (8)   The Commission shall meet at least once during each calendar year.  
38 Additional meetings may be held as set forth in the bylaws. The Commission  
39 may meet by telecommunication, video conference, or other similar electronic  
40 means.

41       (c)     The Commission shall have the following powers:

42           (1)   Establish the fiscal year of the Commission.

43           (2)   Establish code of conduct and conflict of interest policies.

44           (3)   Establish and amend Rules and bylaws.

45           (4)   Establish the procedure through which a Licensee may change their Home  
46 State.

47           (5)   Maintain its financial records in accordance with the bylaws.

48           (6)   Meet and take such actions as are consistent with the provisions of this  
49 Compact, the Commission's Rules, and the bylaws.

- (7) Initiate and conclude legal proceedings or actions in the name of the Commission, provided that the standing of any Member State Licensing Authority to sue or be sued under applicable law shall not be affected.
- (8) Maintain and certify records and information provided to a Member State as the authenticated business records of the Commission and designate an agent to do so on the Commission's behalf.
- (9) Purchase and maintain insurance and bonds.
- (10) Borrow, accept, or contract for services of personnel, including, but not limited to, employees of a Member State.
- (11) Conduct an annual financial review.
- (12) Hire employees, elect or appoint officers, fix compensation, define duties, grant such individuals appropriate authority to carry out the purposes of the Compact, and establish the Commission's personnel policies and programs relating to conflicts of interest, qualifications of personnel, and other related personnel matters.
- (13) Assess and collect fees.
- (14) Accept any and all appropriate gifts, donations, grants of money, other sources of revenue, equipment, supplies, materials, and services and receive, utilize, and dispose of the same; provided that at all times the Commission shall avoid any appearance of impropriety and/or conflict of interest.
- (15) Lease, purchase, retain, own, hold, improve, or use any property, real, personal, or mixed, or any undivided interest therein.
- (16) Sell, convey, mortgage, pledge, lease, exchange, abandon, or otherwise dispose of any property real, personal, or mixed.
- (17) Establish a budget and make expenditures.
- (18) Borrow money.
- (19) Appoint committees, including standing committees, composed of members, state regulators, state legislators or their representatives, and consumer representatives, and such other interested persons as may be designated in this Compact and the bylaws.
- (20) Provide and receive information from, and cooperate with, law enforcement agencies.
- (21) Establish and elect an Executive Committee, including a Chair and a Vice-Chair.
- (22) Determine whether a state's adopted language is materially different from the Model Compact language such that the state would not qualify for participation in the Compact.
- (23) Perform such other functions as may be necessary or appropriate to achieve the purposes of this Compact.
- (d) The Executive Committee.

  - (1) The Executive Committee shall have the power to act on behalf of the Commission according to the terms of this Compact. The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the Executive Committee shall include the following:

    - a. Oversee the day-to-day activities of the administration of the Compact, including enforcement and compliance with the provisions of the Compact, its Rules and bylaws, and other such duties as deemed necessary.
    - b. Recommend to the Commission changes to the Rules or bylaws, changes to this Compact legislation, fees charged to Member States, fees charged to Licensees, and other fees.



- 1 c. Ensure Compact administration services are appropriately provided,  
2 including by contract.
- 3 d. Prepare and recommend the budget.
- 4 e. Maintain financial records on behalf of the Commission.
- 5 f. Monitor Compact compliance of Member States and provide  
6 compliance reports to the Commission.
- 7 g. Establish additional committees as necessary.
- 8 h. Exercise the powers and duties of the Commission during the interim  
9 between Commission meetings, except for adopting or amending  
10 Rules, adopting or amending bylaws, and exercising any other powers  
11 and duties expressly reserved to the Commission by Rule or bylaw.
- 12 i. Other duties as provided in the Rules or bylaws of the Commission.
- 13 (2) The Executive Committee shall be composed of up to seven members as  
14 follows:
- 15 a. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission shall be voting members  
16 of the Executive Committee.
- 17 b. The Commission shall elect five voting members from the current  
18 membership of the Commission.
- 19 (3) The Commission may remove any member of the Executive Committee as  
20 provided in the Commission's bylaws.
- 21 (4) The Executive Committee shall meet at least annually as follows:
- 22 a. Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the public, except that  
23 the Executive Committee may meet in a closed, nonpublic meeting as  
24 provided in subdivision (2) of subsection (f) of this section.
- 25 b. The Executive Committee shall give 30 days' notice of its meetings,  
26 posted on its website and as determined to provide notice to persons  
27 with an interest in the business of the Commission.
- 28 c. The Executive Committee may hold a special meeting in accordance  
29 with sub-subdivision b. of subdivision (1) of subsection (f) of this  
30 section.
- 31 (e) The Commission shall adopt and provide to the Member States an annual report.
- 32 (f) Meetings of the Commission.
- 33 (1) All meetings shall be open to the public as follows, except that the  
34 Commission may meet in a closed, nonpublic meeting as provided in  
35 subdivision (2) of this subsection.
- 36 a. Public notice for all meetings of the full Commission shall be given in  
37 the same manner as required under the Rulemaking provisions in  
38 G.S. 115C-270.48, except that the Commission may hold a special  
39 meeting as provided in sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision.
- 40 b. The Commission may hold a special meeting when it must meet to  
41 conduct emergency business by giving 48 hours' notice to all  
42 commissioners, on the Commission's website, and other means as  
43 provided in the Commission's Rules. The Commission's legal counsel  
44 shall certify that the Commission's need to meet qualifies as an  
45 emergency.
- 46 (2) The Commission or the Executive Committee or other committees of the  
47 Commission may convene in a closed, nonpublic meeting for the Commission  
48 or Executive Committee or other committees of the Commission to receive  
49 legal advice or to discuss the following:
- 50 a. Noncompliance of a Member State with its obligations under the  
51 Compact.

- 1                    b. The employment, compensation, discipline, or other matters,  
2                    practices, or procedures related to specific employees.  
3                    c. Current or threatened discipline of a Licensee by the Commission or  
4                    by a Member State's Licensing Authority.  
5                    d. Current, threatened, or reasonably anticipated litigation.  
6                    e. Negotiation of contracts for the purchase, lease, or sale of goods,  
7                    services, or real estate.  
8                    f. Accusing any person of a crime or formally censuring any person.  
9                    g. Trade secrets or commercial or financial information that is privileged  
10                   or confidential.  
11                   h. Information of a personal nature where disclosure would constitute a  
12                   clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.  
13                   i. Investigative records compiled for law enforcement purposes.  
14                   j. Information related to any investigative reports prepared by or on  
15                   behalf of or for use of the Commission or other committee charged  
16                   with responsibility of investigation or determination of compliance  
17                   issues pursuant to the Compact.  
18                   k. Matters specifically exempted from disclosure by federal or Member  
19                   State law.  
20                   l. Other matters as promulgated by the Commission by Rule.  
21                   (3) If a meeting, or portion of a meeting, is closed, the presiding officer shall state  
22                   that the meeting will be closed and reference each relevant exempting  
23                   provision, and such reference shall be recorded in the minutes.  
24                   (4) The Commission shall keep minutes that fully and clearly describe all matters  
25                   discussed in a meeting and shall provide a full and accurate summary of  
26                   actions taken, and the reasons therefore, including a description of the views  
27                   expressed. All documents considered in connection with an action shall be  
28                   identified in such minutes. All minutes and documents of a closed meeting  
29                   shall remain under seal, subject to release only by a majority vote of the  
30                   Commission or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.  
31                   (g) Financing of the Commission.  
32                   (1) The Commission shall pay, or provide for the payment of, the reasonable  
33                   expenses of its establishment, organization, and ongoing activities.  
34                   (2) The Commission may accept any and all appropriate revenue sources as  
35                   provided in subdivision (13) of subsection (c) of this section.  
36                   (3) The Commission may levy on and collect an annual assessment from each  
37                   Member State and impose fees on Licensees practicing in the Member States  
38                   under an Equivalent License to cover the cost of the operations and activities  
39                   of the Commission and its staff, which must be in a total amount sufficient to  
40                   cover its annual budget as approved each year for which revenue is not  
41                   provided by other sources. The aggregate annual assessment amount for  
42                   Member States shall be allocated based upon a formula that the Commission  
43                   shall promulgate by Rule.  
44                   (4) The Commission shall not incur obligations of any kind prior to securing the  
45                   funds adequate to meet the same, nor shall the Commission pledge the credit  
46                   of any of the Member States, except by and with the authority of the Member  
47                   State.  
48                   (5) The Commission shall keep accurate accounts of all receipts and  
49                   disbursements. The receipts and disbursements of the Commission shall be  
50                   subject to the financial review and accounting procedures established under  
51                   its bylaws. However, all receipts and disbursements of funds handled by the

Commission shall be subject to an annual financial review by a certified or licensed public accountant, and the report of the financial review shall be included in and become part of the annual report of the Commission.

(h) Qualified Immunity, Defense, and Indemnification.

(1) The members, officers, executive director, employees, and representatives of the Commission shall be immune from suit and liability, both personally and in their official capacity, for any claim for damage to or loss of property or personal injury or other civil liability caused by or arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred, or that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to protect any such person from suit or liability for any damage, loss, injury, or liability caused by the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person. The procurement of insurance of any type by the Commission shall not in any way compromise or limit the immunity granted hereunder.

(2) The Commission shall defend any member, officer, executive director, employee, and representative of the Commission in any civil action seeking to impose liability arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or as determined by the Commission that the person against whom the claim is made had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities; provided that nothing herein shall be construed to prohibit that person from retaining their own counsel at their own expense; and provided further, that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from that person's intentional or willful or wanton misconduct.

(3) The Commission shall indemnify and hold harmless any member, officer, executive director, employee, and representative of the Commission for the amount of any settlement or judgment obtained against that person arising out of any actual or alleged act, error, or omission that occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, or that such person had a reasonable basis for believing occurred within the scope of Commission employment, duties, or responsibilities, provided that the actual or alleged act, error, or omission did not result from the intentional or willful or wanton misconduct of that person.

(4) Nothing herein shall be construed as a limitation on the liability of any licensee for professional malpractice or misconduct, which shall be governed solely by any other applicable state laws.

(5) Nothing in this Compact shall be interpreted to waive or otherwise abrogate a Member State's state action immunity or state action affirmative defense with respect to antitrust claims under the Sherman Act, Clayton Act, or any other state or federal antitrust or anticompetitive law or regulation.

(6) Nothing in this Compact shall be construed to be a waiver of sovereign immunity by the Member States or by the Commission.

**"§ 115C-270.47. Facilitating information exchange.**

(a) The Commission shall provide for facilitating the exchange of information to administer and implement the provisions of this Compact in accordance with the Rules of the Commission, consistent with generally accepted data protection principles.

1       (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of state law to the contrary, a Member State shall  
2 agree to provide for the facilitation of the following Licensee information as required by the  
3 Rules of the Commission, including:

4           (1) Identifying information.

5           (2) Licensure data.

6           (3) Adverse Actions against a Licensee and information related thereto.

7           (4) Nonconfidential information related to Alternative Program participation, the  
8 beginning and ending dates of such participation, and other information  
9 related to such participation not made confidential under Member State law.

10          (5) Any denial of application for licensure, and the reason(s) for such denial.

11          (6) The presence of investigative information.

12          (7) Other information that may facilitate the administration of this Compact or the  
13 protection of the public, as determined by the Rules of the Commission.

14       (c) Nothing in this Compact shall be deemed or construed to alter, limit, or inhibit the  
15 power of a Member State to control and maintain ownership of its Licensee information or alter,  
16 limit, or inhibit the laws or regulations governing Licensee information in the Member State.

17 **"§ 115C-270.48. Rulemaking.**

18       (a) The Commission shall exercise its Rulemaking powers pursuant to the criteria set  
19 forth in this interstate compact and the Rules adopted thereunder. Rules and amendments shall  
20 become binding as of the date specified in each Rule or amendment.

21       (b) The Commission shall promulgate reasonable Rules to achieve the intent and purpose  
22 of this interstate compact. In the event the Commission exercises its Rulemaking authority in a  
23 manner that is beyond the purpose and intent of this interstate compact, or the powers granted  
24 hereunder, then such an action by the Commission shall be invalid and have no force and effect  
25 of law in the Member States.

26       (c) If a majority of the legislatures of the Member States reject a Rule, by enactment of a  
27 statute or resolution in the same manner used to adopt the Compact within four years of the date  
28 of adoption of the Rule, then such Rule shall have no further force and effect in any Member  
29 State.

30       (d) Rules or amendments to the Rules shall be adopted or ratified at a regular or special  
31 meeting of the Commission in accordance with Commission Rules and bylaws.

32       (e) Prior to promulgation and adoption of a final Rule or Rules by the Commission, and  
33 at least 30 days in advance of the meeting at which the Rule will be considered and voted upon,  
34 the Commission shall file a notice of proposed Rulemaking:

35           (1) On the website of the Commission or other publicly accessible platform; and

36           (2) On the website of each Member State Licensing Authority or other publicly  
37 accessible platform or the publication in which each state would otherwise  
38 publish proposed Rules.

39       (f) Upon determination that an emergency exists, the Commission may consider and  
40 adopt an emergency Rule with 48 hours' notice, with opportunity to comment, provided that the  
41 usual Rulemaking procedures shall be retroactively applied to the Rule as soon as reasonably  
42 possible, in no event later than 90 days after the effective date of the Rule. For the purposes of  
43 this provision, an emergency Rule is one that must be adopted immediately in order to accomplish  
44 the following:

45           (1) Meet an imminent threat to public health, safety, or welfare.

46           (2) Prevent a loss of Commission or Member State funds.

47           (3) Meet a deadline for the promulgation of an administrative Rule that is  
48 established by federal law or Rule.

49           (4) Protect public health and safety.

50 **"§ 115C-270.49. Oversight, dispute resolution, and enforcement.**

51       (a) Oversight.

- (1) The executive and judicial branches of the state government in each Member State shall enforce this Compact and take all actions necessary and appropriate to implement the Compact.
- (2) Venue is proper and judicial proceedings by or against the Commission shall be brought solely and exclusively in a court of competent jurisdiction where the principal office of the Commission is located. The Commission may waive venue and jurisdictional defenses to the extent it adopts or consents to participate in alternative dispute resolution proceedings. Nothing herein shall affect or limit the selection or propriety of venue in any action against a Licensee for professional malpractice, misconduct, or any such similar matter.
- (3) The Commission shall be entitled to receive service of process in any proceeding regarding the enforcement or interpretation of the Compact and shall have standing to intervene in such a proceeding for all purposes. Failure to provide the Commission service of process shall render a judgment or order void as to the Commission, this Compact, or promulgated Rules.
- (b) Default, Technical Assistance, and Termination.
- (1) If the Commission determines that a Member State has defaulted in the performance of its obligations or responsibilities under this Compact or the promulgated Rules, the Commission shall provide written notice to the defaulting state. The notice of default shall describe the default, the proposed means of curing the default, and any other action that the Commission may take and shall offer training and specific technical assistance regarding the default.
- (2) The Commission shall provide a copy of the notice of default to the other Member States.
- (c) If a state in default fails to cure the default, the defaulting state may be terminated from the Compact upon an affirmative vote of a supermajority of the delegates of the Member States, and all rights, privileges, and benefits conferred on that state by this Compact may be terminated on the effective date of termination. A cure of the default does not relieve the offending state of obligations or liabilities incurred during the period of default.
- (d) Termination of membership in the Compact shall be imposed only after all other means of securing compliance have been exhausted. Notice of intent to suspend or terminate shall be given by the Commission to the governor, the majority and minority leaders of the defaulting state's legislature, the defaulting State's Licensing Authority, and each of the Member States' Licensing Authorities.
- (e) A state that has been terminated is responsible for all assessments, obligations, and liabilities incurred through the effective date of termination, including obligations that extend beyond the effective date of termination.
- (f) Upon the termination of a state's membership from this Compact, that state shall immediately provide notice to all Licensees within that state of such termination. The terminated state shall continue to recognize all Licenses granted pursuant to this Compact for a minimum of six months after the date of said notice of termination.
- (g) The Commission shall not bear any costs related to a state that is found to be in default or that has been terminated from the Compact, unless agreed upon in writing between the Commission and the defaulting state.
- (h) The defaulting state may appeal the action of the Commission by petitioning the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its principal offices. The prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including reasonable attorneys' fees.
- (i) Dispute Resolution.

- 1           (1)   Upon request by a Member State, the Commission shall attempt to resolve  
2           disputes related to the Compact that arise among Member States and between  
3           Member and non-Member States.  
4           (2)   The Commission shall promulgate a Rule providing for both mediation and  
5           binding dispute resolution for disputes as appropriate.  
6       (j)   Enforcement.  
7           (1)   By majority vote as provided by Rule, the Commission may initiate legal  
8           action against a Member State in default in the U.S. District Court for the  
9           District of Columbia or the federal district where the Commission has its  
10          principal offices to enforce compliance with the provisions of the Compact  
11          and its promulgated Rules. The relief sought may include both injunctive  
12          relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement is necessary, the  
13          prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation, including  
14          reasonable attorneys' fees. The remedies herein shall not be the exclusive  
15          remedies of the Commission. The Commission may pursue any other  
16          remedies available under federal or the defaulting Member State's law.  
17          (2)   A Member State may initiate legal action against the Commission in the U.S.  
18          District Court for the District of Columbia or the federal district where the  
19          Commission has its principal offices to enforce compliance with the  
20          provisions of the Compact and its promulgated Rules. The relief sought may  
21          include both injunctive relief and damages. In the event judicial enforcement  
22          is necessary, the prevailing party shall be awarded all costs of such litigation,  
23          including reasonable attorneys' fees.  
24          (3)   No person other than a Member State shall enforce this Compact against the  
25          Commission.

26   **"§ 115C-270.50. Effective date, withdrawal, and amendment.**

- 27       (a)   The Compact shall come into effect on the date on which the Compact statute is  
28       enacted into law in the seventh Member State.  
29           (1)   On or after the effective date of the Compact indicated above, the Commission  
30           shall convene and review the enactment of each of the Charter Member States  
31           to determine if the statute enacted by each such Charter Member State is  
32           materially different than the model Compact statute.  
33               a.   A Charter Member State whose enactment is found to be materially  
34               different from the model Compact statute shall be entitled to the  
35               default process set forth in G.S. 115C-270.49.  
36               b.   If any Member State is later found to be in default, or is terminated or  
37               withdraws from the Compact, the Commission shall remain in  
38               existence and the Compact shall remain in effect even if the number  
39               of Member States should be less than seven.  
40           (2)   Member States enacting the Compact subsequent to the Charter Member  
41           States shall be subject to the process set forth in subdivision (22) of subsection  
42           (c) of G.S. 115C-470.46 to determine if their enactments are materially  
43           different from the model Compact statute and whether they qualify for  
44           participation in the Compact.  
45           (3)   All actions taken for the benefit of the Commission or in furtherance of the  
46           purposes of the administration of the Compact prior to the effective date of  
47           the Compact or the Commission coming into existence shall be considered to  
48           be actions of the Commission unless specifically repudiated by the  
49           Commission.  
50               a.   Any state that joins the Compact subsequent to the Commission's  
51               initial adoption of the Rules and bylaws shall be subject to the Rules

1 and bylaws as they exist on the date on which the Compact becomes  
2 law in that state. Any Rule that has been previously adopted by the  
3 Commission shall have the full force and effect of law on the day the  
4 Compact becomes law in that state.

5 b. Any Member State may withdraw from this Compact by enacting a  
6 statute repealing the same.

7 (b) A Member State's withdrawal shall not take effect until 180 days after enactment of  
8 the repealing statute.

9 (c) Withdrawal shall not affect the continuing requirement of the withdrawing State's  
10 Licensing Authority to comply with the investigative and Adverse Action reporting requirements  
11 of this Compact prior to the effective date of withdrawal.

12 (d) Upon the enactment of a statute withdrawing from this Compact, a state shall  
13 immediately provide notice of such withdrawal to all Licensees within that state.  
14 Notwithstanding any subsequent statutory enactment to the contrary, such withdrawing state  
15 shall continue to recognize all Licenses granted pursuant to this Compact for a minimum of six  
16 months after the date of such notice of withdrawal.

17 (1) Nothing contained in this Compact shall be construed to invalidate or prevent  
18 any licensure agreement or other cooperative arrangement between a Member  
19 State and a non-Member State that does not conflict with the provisions of this  
20 Compact.

21 (2) This Compact may be amended by the Member States. No amendment to this  
22 Compact shall become effective and binding upon any Member State until it  
23 is enacted into the laws of all Member States.

24 **"§ 115C-270.51. Construction and severability.**

25 (a) This Compact and the Commission's Rulemaking authority shall be liberally  
26 construed so as to effectuate the purposes and the implementation and administration of the  
27 Compact. Provisions of the Compact expressly authorizing or requiring the promulgation of  
28 Rules shall not be construed to limit the Commission's Rulemaking authority solely for those  
29 purposes.

30 (b) The provisions of this Compact shall be severable and if any phrase, clause, sentence,  
31 or provision of this Compact is held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be contrary to the  
32 constitution of any Member State, a state seeking participation in the Compact, or of the United  
33 States, or the applicability thereof to any government, agency, person, or circumstance is held to  
34 be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, the validity of the remainder of this  
35 Compact and the applicability thereof to any other government, agency, person, or circumstance  
36 shall not be affected thereby.

37 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (b) of this section, the Commission may deny a state's  
38 participation in the Compact or, in accordance with the requirements of subsection (b) of  
39 G.S. 115C-270.49, terminate a Member State's participation in the Compact, if it determines that  
40 a constitutional requirement of a Member State is a material departure from the Compact.  
41 Otherwise, if this Compact shall be held to be contrary to the constitution of any Member State,  
42 the Compact shall remain in full force and effect as to the remaining Member States and in full  
43 force and effect as to the Member State affected as to all severable matters.

44 **"§ 115C-270.52. Consistent effect and conflict with other state laws.**

45 (a) Nothing herein shall prevent or inhibit the enforcement of any other law of a Member  
46 State that is not inconsistent with the Compact.

47 (b) Any laws, statutes, regulations, or other legal requirements in a Member State in  
48 conflict with the Compact are superseded to the extent of the conflict. All permissible agreements  
49 between the Commission and the Member States are binding in accordance with their terms."

50 **SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

1           "(50) Duty to Fulfill Requirements Related to School Psychologist Interstate  
2           Licensure Compact. – The State Board of Education shall be the State  
3           Licensing Authority or Licensing Authority for purposes of Article 17F of this  
4           Chapter and shall fulfill any requirements, duties, or obligations of the State  
5           Licensing Authority or Licensing Authority pursuant to that Article."

6           **SECTION #.(c)** The section is effective when it becomes law.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H65-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***INCREASE TO EC FUNDING CAP***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-111.05 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-111.05. Funding for children with disabilities.**

To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the State Board shall allocate funds for children with disabilities to each local school administrative unit on a per child basis. Each local school administrative unit shall receive funds for the lesser of (i) all children who are identified as children with disabilities or (ii) thirteen and one-quarter percent (13.25%) of its allotted average daily membership in the local school administrative unit for the current school year."

**SECTION #.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with funding allocated for the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H1-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**CLASS SIZE EXEMPTIONS FOR GROWING COUNTIES**

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-301 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-301. Allocation of teachers; class size.**

...

(c) Maximum Class Size for Kindergarten Through Third Grade. – The ~~average~~ class size for kindergarten through third grade in a local school administrative unit shall be as follows:

(1) Growing local school administrative units. – If a local school administrative unit has an increase in student population of one-half percent (0.5%) of the average daily membership of the local school administrative unit for two consecutive years, then the unit shall be considered a growing local school administrative unit for the two years immediately following the second year of student population increase. Growing local school administrative units may exceed the allotment ratios listed in subdivision (2) of this subsection by up to three students.

(2) All other local school administrative units. – For any local school administrative unit not qualifying as growing under subdivision (1) of this subsection, the average class size for kindergarten through third grade in the local school administrative unit shall at no time exceed the funded allotment ratio of teachers to students in kindergarten through third grade. At the end of the second school month and for the remainder of the school year, the size of an individual class in kindergarten through third grade shall not exceed the allotment ratio by more than three students. The funded class size allotment ratio for kindergarten through third grade shall be as follows:

~~(1)~~a. For kindergarten, one teacher per 18 students.

~~(2)~~b. For first grade, one teacher per 16 students.

~~(3)~~c. For second grade, one teacher per 17 students.

~~(4)~~d. For third grade, one teacher per 17 students.

In grades four through 12, local school administrative units shall have the maximum flexibility to use allotted teacher positions to maximize student achievement.

...

(g) Waivers and Allotment Adjustments. – Local boards of education shall report exceptions to the class size requirements set out for kindergarten through third grade and significant increases in class size at other grade levels to the State Board and shall request allotment adjustments at any grade level, waivers from the requirements for kindergarten through third grade, or both. Within 45 days of receipt of reports, the State Board of Education, within funds available, may allot additional positions at any grade level. The State Board shall not grant waivers for excess class size in kindergarten through third grade, except under the following circumstances:

(1) Emergencies or acts of God that impact the availability of classroom space or facilities.

- 1 (2) An unanticipated increase in student population of an individual school in  
2 excess of two percent (2%) of the average daily membership of that school.  
3 The State Board of Education shall allow waivers in consecutive years for  
4 schools located in growing local school administrative units that continue to  
5 qualify for a waiver under this subdivision.  
6 (3) Organizational problems in geographically isolated local school  
7 administrative units in which the average daily membership is less than one  
8 and one-half per square mile.  
9 (4) Classes organized for a solitary curricular area.  
10 (5) A charter school closure.  
11 (6) The performance grade of the school under G.S. 115C-12(9)(c1) and  
12 G.S. 115C-83.15 is a B or better and the school is located in a growing local  
13 school administrative unit. Waivers granted pursuant to this subsection shall  
14 be for an additional five students per class.

15 The State Board shall report on all waivers to the Joint Legislative Commission on  
16 Governmental Operations within 30 days of the grant of the waiver. The report shall include the  
17 local school administrative unit, school, and class or classes for which the waiver was granted,  
18 the statutory grounds for the waiver, and the terms of the waiver. A waiver for excess class size  
19 in kindergarten through third grade shall not become effective until the State Board submits the  
20 report to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

21 Upon notification from the State Board that the reported exception does not qualify for an  
22 allotment adjustment or a waiver, the local board of education shall take action to correct the  
23 exception within 30 days. Within 60 days of notification by the State Board, the Superintendent  
24 of Public Instruction shall request an updated report from the local board of education on the size  
25 of each class in kindergarten through third grade for each school within the local school  
26 administrative unit. If the Superintendent of Public Instruction finds that a local board of  
27 education is continuing to exceed class size requirements, the State Board may impose the  
28 penalty set forth in subsection (j) of this section until such time the schools in the unit meet the  
29 class size requirements for kindergarten through third grade.

30 ...."

31 **SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115C-301.7(a) reads as rewritten:

32 "(a) Class Size Flexibility. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-301, with the approval of the  
33 State Board of Education, ATR schools may exceed the maximum class size requirements for  
34 kindergarten through third grade during any term of up to three years in which State funds are  
35 awarded to the ATR unit where the school is located. At the conclusion of the term, any class  
36 size flexibility approved for an ATR school pursuant to this subsection shall expire grade."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H14-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**AFTER SCHOOL ROBOTICS GRANT PROGRAM**

**SECTION #.(a)** Program; Purpose. – To the extent funds are made available for the purpose, there is established the Educational and Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Program (Program). The purpose of the Program shall be to (i) promote evidence-based, after-school programs for robotics education and competition and (ii) motivate students to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while building critical life and work-related skills.

**SECTION #.(b)** Eligibility. – Any public school unit is eligible to apply to the Department of Public Instruction for a grant to develop an educational and competitive after-school robotics program with a robotics partner. As used in this subsection, the term "robotics partner" shall refer to a third-party entity, such as a nonprofit organization or institution of higher education, approved by the Department of Public Instruction that is able to provide adequate support for an after-school robotics program. In order to provide adequate support, a robotics partner must meet at least all of the following criteria:

- (1) Have a national presence in robotics education and competition.
- (2) Provide adequate instruction and programming for students and adult volunteers in (i) robotics education, (ii) project-based learning, and (iii) competitive robotics.
- (3) Promote a safe and equitable social environment.

**SECTION #.(c)** Applications; Criteria and Guidelines. – No later than August 1 of each year that funds are made available for the Program, the Department shall develop and publish criteria and guidelines for the application process for the Program in the upcoming school year, including any documentation required to be submitted by the applicants. The Department shall accept applications until September 30 of each school year. Applications shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

- (1) Evidence that the applicant has or will be able to establish a relationship with a robotics partner.
- (2) A proposed budget for the educational and competitive after-school robotics program.

**SECTION #.(d)** Award and Use of Funds. – From funds made available for the Program, the Department shall award grants to the selected applicants by October 31. Funds may be used for any of the following purposes:

- (1) Establishing a relationship with a robotics partner.
- (2) Purchasing robotics kits.
- (3) Providing stipends for coaches.
- (4) Making payments associated with participation in a robotics league or robotics competition.
- (5) Paying fees incurred as part of the administration of a robotics team.

**SECTION #.(e)** Reporting. – No later than October 15 of each year in which funds are made available for the Program, the Department shall report the following information from

1 the prior school year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal  
2 Research Division:

- 3 (1) Number and amounts of grants awarded.
- 4 (2) Identities of the public school units receiving grants.
- 5 (3) Identities of public school units that applied for grants but did not receive one.
- 6 (4) The extent to which students participating in after-school robotics programs
- 7 funded by the Program experienced measurable improvement in academic
- 8 performance, if any.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H19-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***FUNDS FOR ALL PRO DAD***

**SECTION #.** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction in this act, the Department shall allocate the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year as a directed grant to Family First, Inc., the nonprofit corporation registered in the state of Florida, to expand its All Pro Dad fatherhood program in this State, provided that (i) the nonprofit registers as an entity with the Secretary of State to conduct business in the State and (ii) the nonprofit allocates the funds appropriated in this act to expand its All Pro Dad program in North Carolina, including increasing All Pro Dad chapters in schools, holding events that encourage father-child engagement and foster improved communication between children and fathers, and distributing resources to help fathers enhance their parenting skills and become more involved in their children's lives.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

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2025-DPI-H20-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**RESPONSIBLE FATHERHOOD NORTH CAROLINA ACT**

**SECTION #.(a)** The General Assembly recognizes that families are stronger when both parents act responsibly in caring for their children. It is the intent of the General Assembly to recognize and support the important and unique role that fathers play in ensuring the physical, emotional, and economic well-being of their children and families.

**SECTION #.(b)** The Department shall contract for the development and implementation of the Responsible Fatherhood North Carolina program. The program shall provide an opportunity for every father in the State to be able to obtain information and inspiration that will motivate and enable him to enhance his abilities as a father, recognizing that some fathers have greater challenges than others and would benefit from greater support. The entity the Department contracts with to develop, implement, and manage the program, "Program Manager," shall be a nonprofit organization that satisfies all of the following criteria:

- (1) Has a history of focusing on responsible fatherhood, including providing online resources to fathers, and engaging fathers, father figures, and children through community-based and school-based events to encourage responsible fatherhood.
- (2) Has the organizational capacity to manage a statewide initiative and successfully carry out the requirements of this section.

**SECTION #.(c)** The Program Manager shall be solely responsible for developing, implementing, and managing the program which shall include at least the following:

- (1) A statewide media campaign that increases the awareness and importance of fathers being involved in their children's lives.
- (2) Resources and information for fathers and father figures to increase engagement and involvement in their children's lives.
- (3) Promotion of related fatherhood programs that are provided by the Department of Public Instruction, the Community College System, or The University of North Carolina System.

**SECTION #.(d)** To most effectively use the funds appropriated to this program, the Program Manager shall identify and use other existing media assets, content, and online resources it deems appropriate, including any existing media assets, content, and online resources it has available, to implement and execute the items required by this section.

**SECTION #.(e)** The Program Manager shall administer a grant program to award grants to nonprofit community-based organizations that address the needs of fathers in accordance with the following:

- (1) The Program Manager shall award the following types of grants:
  - a. Grants that comprehensively address the needs of fathers, such as assisting them in finding employment, managing child support obligations, transitioning from a period of incarceration, accessing health care, understanding child development, and enhancing parenting skills. Services provided shall be tailored to the needs of the

- 1 father being served. Case management services shall be provided to  
2 the fathers who are served by the grants under this subdivision.
- 3 b. Grants that provide evidence-based parenting education specifically  
4 for fathers. The grants under this subdivision do not require case  
5 management services.
- 6 (2) The Program Manager shall prioritize awarding grants according to the  
7 following:
- 8 a. Need in a geographic area and the population to be served by the grant  
9 as indicated by, at a minimum, all of the following:
- 10 1. Unemployment rates.  
11 2. Incarceration rates.  
12 3. Housing instability.  
13 4. The number of single-parent households.  
14 5. The number of public benefit recipients.  
15 6. Graduation rates.  
16 7. Levels of academic achievement.
- 17 b. If an applicant has a primary mission of, or a history of a significant  
18 focus on and effective work toward, addressing the needs of men in  
19 their role as fathers.
- 20 c. Applicant current and historical involvement in the community being  
21 served.
- 22 d. Applicant commitment and capability to employ competent staff who  
23 can effectively engage with the fathers being served, including, at a  
24 minimum, those individuals who share a similar background as the  
25 fathers being served.
- 26 e. The number of individuals the applicant plans to serve through the  
27 grant and the projected costs for the program.
- 28 f. Applicant organizational capacity to effectively meet the requirements  
29 of the grant and to deliver the programs proposed by the applicant. The  
30 Program Manager may offer technical assistance to applicants and  
31 grant recipients that have lower organizational capacity as long as such  
32 organizations have, or the organization's leadership has, significant  
33 experience serving fathers.
- 34 (3) Grant recipients shall submit reports to the Department in a format and at  
35 intervals prescribed by the Department.

36 **SECTION #.(f)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction  
37 in this act for the Responsible Fatherhood North Carolina program, the Department shall use up  
38 to two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to  
39 contract for the Program Manager as required in subsection (b) of this section. The remainder of  
40 the funds shall be used for the grants authorized in subsection (e) of this section.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H24-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**COMPETITIVE SPEECH AND DEBATE GRANT PILOT**

**SECTION #.(a)** Program; Purpose. – To the extent funds are made available for the purpose, there is established the Competitive Speech and Debate Team Grant Pilot Program (Program). The purpose of the Program is to allow each public school serving students in grades nine through 12 in North Carolina to form a speech and debate team and to allow the team to participate in speech and debate competitions. The Program shall begin in the 2025-2026 school year and conclude at the end of the 2028-2029 school year.

**SECTION #.(b)** Eligibility. – Any public school unit that includes a school that serves students in grades nine through 12 is eligible to apply to the Department of Public Instruction for a grant to develop, maintain, or expand an educational and competitive speech and debate team.

**SECTION #.(c)** Applications; Criteria and Guidelines. – No later than August 1 of each year that funds are made available for the Program, the Department shall develop and publish criteria and guidelines for the application process for the Program in the upcoming school year. The Department shall accept applications until September 30 of each school year. Applications shall include, at a minimum, a proposed budget for the speech and debate team.

**SECTION #.(d)** Award; Use of Funds. – The Department shall award grants to selected applicants by October 31 of each year that funds are made available for the Program. The Department shall determine the amount of each award up to a maximum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per team per school year and may only include two stipends, one lead team coach stipend of up to two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) and one assistant team coach stipend of one thousand five hundred dollars (\$1,500). Funds may be used for any of the following purposes:

- (1) Provide stipends for coaches.
- (2) Make payments associated with participation in a speech and debate league or competition.
- (3) Travel to and from speech and debate competitions.

**SECTION #.(e)** Speech and debate teams receiving funds through the Program shall participate in the Tarheel Forensic League and the National Speech and Debate Association.

**SECTION #.(f)** Student Participation. – If a student is enrolled in a school that does not offer a speech and debate team, the student is eligible to participate on the speech and debate team at the school located geographically closest to where the student resides that does have a team. A student joining a team under the authority of this section shall be responsible for transportation to and from the school where the team meets. Nothing in this section prohibits a school from enforcing guidelines for student participation in extracurricular activities, such as academic performance requirements, nor does it prohibit a speech and debate team from conducting a selection process for the team, so long as the student is able to participate in the selection process as if the student were enrolled in that school.

1                   **SECTION #.(g)** Reporting. – No later than February 15 of each school year in which  
2 funds are made available for the Program, the Department shall report the following information  
3 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division:

- 4                   (1)     The public school units receiving grants and the amount of the grant.
- 5                   (2)     A description of how the grants were used.
- 6                   (3)     The public school units that applied for grants but did not receive one.
- 7                   (4)     The extent to which students participating in speech and debate programs  
8                   funded by the Program experienced measurable improvement in academic  
9                   performance.

10                  **SECTION #.(h)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction  
11 in this act, the Department shall use the sum of five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) in  
12 recurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to establish and administer the Competitive Speech  
13 and Debate Team Grant Pilot Program, as established by this section. At the conclusion of the  
14 Program, when creating the base budget for the 2029-2031 fiscal biennium, the Director of the  
15 Budget shall not include these funds for the 2029-2030 fiscal year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***NORTHEAST REGIONAL SCHOOL OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND AGRISCIENCE***

**SECTION #.(a)** Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 15A.

"Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience.

**"§ 115C-229.5. Purpose.**

(a) The purpose of this Article is to establish the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience as a school of choice that will expand student opportunities for educational success through high quality instructional programming in the northeastern region of the State. The Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience may partner with other education partners, including local boards of education, institutions of higher education, or private businesses or organizations, and shall foster, encourage, and promote the development of knowledge and skills in career clusters of critical importance to the region.

(b) The Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience is a political subdivision of the State and shall operate as a public school unit with a board of directors as the governing body.

(c) Except as otherwise provided in this Article and Article 7B of this Chapter, the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience is exempt from statutes and rules applicable to a local board of education or local school administrative unit.

**"§ 115C-229.10. Definitions.**

The following definitions apply in this Part:

(1) Regional school. – The Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience.

(2) Regional school board of directors or board of directors. – The governing board of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience.

(3) Regional school service area. – The counties of Beaufort, Bertie, Camden, Currituck, Dare, Edenton, Edgecombe, Gates, Halifax, Hertford, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Pitt, Tyrrell, and Washington.

**"§ 115C-229.15. Board of directors; appointment; terms of office.**

(a) The board of directors of the regional school shall consist of the following members:

(1) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint three members who are either a local board of education member or superintendent of a local school administrative unit in a county where at least five percent (5%) of the students enrolled in the regional school reside.

(2) The State Board of Education shall appoint five members as representatives of the business community, upon the recommendation of the North Carolina Economic Developers Association, who reside in a county where at least five percent (5%) of the students enrolled in the regional school reside. At least one of the appointees shall be a resident of the county in which the regional school is located.

(3) The Parent Advisory Council established by G.S. 115C-229.20 shall appoint one member to the board of directors from among the Council membership. The seat shall be declared vacant if the child of the appointed parent no longer attends the regional school.

(4) Any institution of higher education partner may appoint a representative of the institution of higher education to serve as an ex officio member of the board of directors.

(b) Members shall serve four-year terms of office. Appointed members of the board of directors shall be selected for their interest in and commitment to the importance of public education to regional economic development and to the purposes of the regional school.

(c) Whenever an appointed member of the board of directors ceases to meet the qualifications for appointment or for any reason other than ill health or service in the interest of the State or nation to be present at three successive regular meetings of the board of directors, his or her place as a member of the board of directors shall be deemed vacant. Any member of the board of directors may be removed from office by the appointing authority for misfeasance, malfeasance, or nonfeasance in office. All vacancies shall be filled by the appointing authority for the remainder of the term of office by an individual meeting the qualifications for the vacated seat.

**"§ 115C-229.20. Parent Advisory Council; purpose; appointments.**

(a) Purpose. – There shall be a Parent Advisory Council to serve as a resource and provide input to the board of directors as to the operation of the regional school. The board of directors shall consult the Parent Advisory Council when considering changes to the regional school's operations that may significantly impact students attending the regional school.

(b) Appointment. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall appoint one member from each county where at least five percent (5%) of the students enrolled in the regional school reside to the Parent Advisory Council for a term of four years or until the member's child no longer attends the regional school. Appointees shall be parents or guardians of students attending the regional school and shall, to the extent possible, reflect the demographic composition of the regional school.

**"§ 115C-229.25. Board of directors; meetings; rules of procedure; officers.**

(a) The board of directors shall meet at least four times a year and may hold special meetings at any time at the call of the chair or upon petition addressed to the chair by a majority of the members of the board of directors. All meetings of the board of directors shall be subject to the requirements of Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes.

(b) The board of directors shall elect a chair and a vice-chair from among its members, who shall serve a two-year term.

(c) All members of the board of directors shall be voting members except for the chair, who may vote only on matters to break a tie.

(d) The board of directors shall determine its own rules of procedure and may delegate to such committees as it may create such of its powers as it deems appropriate.

(e) Members of the board of directors shall receive such per diem compensation and necessary travel and subsistence expenses while engaged in the discharge of their official duties as is provided by law for members of State boards and commissions.

**"§ 115C-229.30. Board of directors; corporate powers.**

(a) The board of directors of the regional school shall be known and distinguished by the name of "The Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience Board of Directors" and shall continue as a body politic and corporate and by that name shall have perpetual succession and a common seal. It shall be able and capable in law to take, demand, receive, and possess all moneys, goods, and chattels that shall be given for the use of the regional school, and to apply to same according to the will of the donors; and by gift, purchase, or devise to receive, possess, enjoy, and retain forever any and all real and personal estate and funds, of whatsoever

1 kind, nature, or quality the same may be, in special trust and confidence that the same, or the  
2 profits thereof, shall be applied to and for the use and purpose of establishing and endowing the  
3 regional school, and shall have power to receive donations from any source whatsoever, to be  
4 devoted exclusively to the purposes of the maintenance of the regional school, or according to  
5 the terms of the donation.

6 (b) The board of directors shall be able and capable in law to bargain, sell, grant, alien,  
7 or dispose of and convey and assure to the purchasers any and all such real and personal estate  
8 and funds as it may lawfully acquire when the condition of the grant to it or the will of the deviser  
9 does not forbid it; and shall be able and capable in law to sue and be sued in all courts whatsoever;  
10 and shall have power to open and receive subscriptions; and in general may do all such things as  
11 are usually done by bodies corporate and politic, or such as may be necessary for the promotion  
12 of learning and virtue.

13 **"§ 115C-229.35. Board of directors; powers and duties.**

14 The board of directors shall have the following powers and duties:

15 (1) The board of directors shall establish the regional school's academic program  
16 in accordance with the following:

17 a. The board of directors shall establish the standard course of study for  
18 the regional school. This course of study shall set forth the subjects to  
19 be taught in each grade and the texts and other educational materials  
20 on each subject to be used in each grade. The board of directors shall  
21 design its programs to meet at least the student performance standards  
22 adopted by the State Board of Education and the student performance  
23 standards contained in this Chapter.

24 b. The board of directors shall conduct student assessments required by  
25 the State Board of Education.

26 c. The board of directors shall provide the opportunity to earn or obtain  
27 credit toward degrees from a community college subject to Chapter  
28 115D of the General Statutes or a constituent institution of The  
29 University of North Carolina.

30 d. The board of directors shall adopt a school calendar consisting of a  
31 minimum of 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction covering at least  
32 nine calendar months.

33 e. The board of directors shall ensure that financial literacy instruction is  
34 provided as required by the State Board of Education pursuant to  
35 G.S. 115C-81.65, including required professional development for  
36 teachers of the EPF course.

37 (2) The board of directors shall establish policies and standards for academic  
38 performance, attendance, and conduct for students of the regional school. The  
39 policies of the board of directors shall comply with Article 27 of this Chapter.

40 (3) Every parent, guardian, or other person in this State having charge or control  
41 of a child who is enrolled in the regional school and who is less than 16 years  
42 of age shall cause the child to attend school continuously for a period equal to  
43 the time that the regional school shall be in session. No person shall  
44 encourage, entice, or counsel any child to be unlawfully absent from the  
45 regional school. Any person who aids or abets a student's unlawful absence  
46 from the regional school shall, upon conviction, be guilty of a Class 1  
47 misdemeanor. The principal shall be responsible for implementing such  
48 additional policies concerning compulsory attendance as shall be adopted by  
49 the board of directors, including regulations concerning lawful and unlawful  
50 absences, permissible excuses for temporary absences, maintenance of  
51 attendance records, and attendance counseling.

- (4) The board of directors shall comply with the reporting requirements established by the State Board of Education in the Uniform Education Reporting System.
- (5) The board of directors shall require compliance with laws and policies relating to the education of children with disabilities. The school is subject to and shall comply with Article 9 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes and The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvements Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq., (2004), as amended.
- (6) The board of directors shall require that the regional school meet the same health and safety standards required of a local school administrative unit.
- (7) The board of directors shall require the regional school to comply with G.S. 115C-375.2A and shall provide the school with a supply of emergency epinephrine auto-injectors necessary to carry out the provisions of that section.
- (8) The regional school shall comply with the requirements for public school units in Part 2 of Article 8C of this Chapter.
- (9) The regional school shall implement the rule addressing student awareness of child abuse and neglect, including sexual abuse, adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(47).
- (10) The board of directors shall apply the rules and policies established by the State Board of Education for issuance of driving eligibility certificates.
- (11) The regional school shall comply with G.S. 115C-407.40 regarding cultural expression at all graduation ceremonies.
- (12) The regional school shall strive to ensure that one hundred percent (100%) muscadine grape juice is made available to students as a part of the school's nutrition program or through the operation of the school's vending facilities.
- (13) If the regional school organizes athletic teams for middle or high school students to participate in interscholastic or intramural athletic activities, those teams shall be organized in accordance with G.S. 115C-12(23).
- (14) The board of directors shall comply with the purchasing and contract statutes and regulations applicable to local school administrative units.
- (15) The board of directors shall be exempt from Chapter 150B of the General Statutes, except final decisions of the board of directors in a contested case shall be subject to judicial review in accordance with Article 4 of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes.
- (16) The regional school shall ensure that the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A regional school shall ensure that the overall school performance score and grade earned by the regional school for the current and previous four school years is prominently displayed on the school website. If a regional school earned an overall school performance grade of D or F, the regional school shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that school.
- (17) The board of directors is encouraged to adopt a policy against bullying or harassing behavior, including cyber-bullying, for the regional school that is consistent with the provisions of Article 29C of this Chapter. If the board of directors adopts a policy to prohibit bullying and harassing behavior, the regional school shall, at the beginning of each school year, provide the policy to staff, students, and parents as defined in G.S. 115C-390.1(b)(8).
- (18) The regional school is encouraged to facilitate access for students to participate in activities provided by any youth group listed in Title 36 of the United States Code as a patriotic society, such as the Boy Scouts of America,

1 and its affiliated North Carolina groups and councils, and the Girl Scouts of  
2 the United States of America, and its affiliated North Carolina groups and  
3 councils. Student participation in any activities offered by these organizations  
4 shall not interfere with instructional time during the school day for the  
5 purposes of encouraging civic education.

6 (19) The board of directors shall comply with the requirements of G.S. 115C-523.1  
7 and G.S. 115C-523.2 for any regional school building owned by the board of  
8 directors.

9 (20) The board of directors shall adopt and implement a child sexual abuse and sex  
10 trafficking training program in accordance with G.S. 115C-375.20.

11 (21) The regional school shall adopt a school-based mental health plan, including  
12 a mental health training program and suicide risk referral protocol, in  
13 accordance with G.S. 115C-376.5.

14 (22) The regional school shall annually report the information required by  
15 G.S. 115C-12(48) to the State Board of Education, the Senate Appropriations  
16 Committee on Education/Higher Education, and the House Appropriations  
17 Committee on Education no later than September 15.

18 (23) The regional school shall annually update information to the digital learning  
19 dashboard, as required by G.S. 115C-102.9.

20 (24) The board of directors shall develop a plan to provide transportation to the  
21 students enrolled in the regional school, which may include entering into  
22 interlocal agreements with local school administrative units.

23 (25) The board of directors, to the extent practicable, shall provide school food  
24 services to the regional school. School food services may be provided by  
25 entering into an interlocal agreement with a local school administrative unit.  
26 For purposes of federal funding through the National School Lunch Program  
27 or other federally supported food service programs, a local school  
28 administrative unit that has entered into an interlocal agreement with the  
29 regional school for the purpose of providing school food services shall be  
30 permitted to include eligible students enrolled in the regional school.

31 **"§ 115C-229.40. Student admissions and assignment.**

32 (a) The regional school may serve grades seven through 12.

33 (b) A student domiciled in a county within the regional school service area is eligible to  
34 attend the regional school. A student's eligibility to remain enrolled in the regional school shall  
35 terminate at the end of any school year during which a student ceases to satisfy the residency  
36 requirements.

37 (c) The board of directors shall establish criteria, standards, and procedures for admission  
38 of students. The admission criteria may give priority to students with no parent that has completed  
39 a two- or four-year degree and shall include the following:

40 (1) Demonstrated academic achievement.

41 (2) Demonstrated student interest in attendance.

42 (3) Documented parental support for student attendance.

43 (d) If the number of eligible students meeting the board of directors' admission criteria  
44 exceeds the seats available, students shall be accepted by lot.

45 **"§ 115C-229.45. Employees.**

46 The board of directors shall appoint all certified and noncertified staff.

47 (1) The board of directors shall employ and contract with a principal for a term  
48 not to exceed three years. The principal shall meet the requirements for  
49 certification set out in G.S. 115C-284, unless waived by the State Board of  
50 Education upon submission of a request by the board of directors. The

principal shall be responsible for school operations and shall exercise those duties and powers delegated by the board of directors.

(2) The board of directors shall employ and contract with necessary teachers to perform the particular service for which they are employed in the school. At least fifty percent (50%) of teachers employed by the board of directors shall hold teacher licensure, unless waived by the State Board of Education upon submission of a request by the board of directors.

(3) If a teacher employed by a local school administrative unit makes a written request for a leave of absence to teach at the regional school, the local school administrative unit shall grant the leave for one year. For the initial year of the regional school's operation, the local school administrative unit may require that the request for a leave of absence be made up to 45 days before the teacher would otherwise have to report for duty. After the initial year of the regional school's operation, the local school administrative unit may require that the request for a leave of absence be made up to 90 days before the teacher would otherwise have to report for duty. A local board of education is not required to grant a request for a leave of absence or a request to extend or renew a leave of absence for a teacher who previously has received a leave of absence from that school board under this subdivision. A teacher who has received a leave of absence to teach at a regional school may return to a public school in the local school administrative unit at the end of the leave of absence or upon the end of employment at the regional school if an appropriate position is available. If a teacher has career status under G.S. 115C-325 prior to receiving a leave of absence to teach at the regional school, the teacher may return to a public school in the local school administrative unit with career status at the end of the leave of absence or upon the end of employment at the regional school if an appropriate position is available. If an appropriate position is unavailable, the teacher's name shall be placed on a list of available teachers in accordance with G.S. 115C-325(e)(2).

(4) The board of directors also may employ necessary employees who are not required to hold teacher licensure to perform duties other than teaching and may contract for other services.

(5) An employee of the board of directors is not an employee of the local school administrative unit in which the regional school is located. The board of directors may discharge certified and noncertified employees according to the terms of the employment contract.

(6) Employees of the board of directors shall participate in the Teachers' and State Employees' Retirement System and the State Health Plan on the same terms as employees employed by local boards of education.

(7) Employees of the board of directors shall be exempt from Chapter 126 of the General Statutes, except for Articles 6 and 7 and G.S. 126-8.6.

(8) Teachers employed by the board of directors shall be eligible for paid parental leave as provided in G.S. 126-8.6. The board of directors shall be eligible to receive funds as provided in G.S. 115C-336.1(b).

**"§ 115C-229.50. Criminal history record checks.**

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Criminal history" means a county, state, or federal criminal history of conviction of a crime, whether a misdemeanor or a felony, that indicates an individual (i) poses a threat to the physical safety of students or personnel or (ii) has demonstrated that he or she does not have the integrity or honesty to fulfill his or her duties as school personnel. These crimes include the following



1 North Carolina crimes contained in any of the following Articles of Chapter  
2 14 of the General Statutes: Article 5A, Endangering Executive and  
3 Legislative, and Court Officers; Article 6, Homicide; Article 7B, Rape and  
4 Other Sex Offenses; Article 8, Assaults; Article 10, Kidnapping and  
5 Abduction; Article 13, Malicious Injury or Damage by Use of Explosive or  
6 Incendiary Device or Material; Article 14, Burglary and Other  
7 Housebreakings; Article 15, Arson and Other Burnings; Article 16, Larceny;  
8 Article 17, Robbery; Article 18, Embezzlement; Article 19, False Pretense and  
9 Cheats; Article 19A, Obtaining Property or Services by False or Fraudulent  
10 Use of Credit Device or Other Means; Article 20, Frauds; Article 21, Forgery;  
11 Article 26, Offenses Against Public Morality and Decency; Article 26A, Adult  
12 Establishments; Article 27, Prostitution; Article 28, Perjury; Article 29,  
13 Bribery; Article 31, Misconduct in Public Office; Article 35, Offenses Against  
14 the Public Peace; Article 36A, Riots and Civil Disorders; Article 39,  
15 Protection of Minors; and Article 60, Computer-Related Crime. These crimes  
16 also include possession or sale of drugs in violation of the North Carolina  
17 Controlled Substances Act, Article 5 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes,  
18 and alcohol-related offenses such as sale to underage persons in violation of  
19 G.S. 18B-302 or driving while impaired in violation of G.S. 20-138.1 through  
20 G.S. 20-138.5. In addition to the North Carolina crimes listed in this  
21 subdivision, such crimes also include similar crimes under federal law or  
22 under the laws of other states.

23 (2) "School personnel" means any of the following:

- 24 a. Member of the board of directors.  
25 b. Employee of the regional school.  
26 c. Independent contractor or employee of an independent contractor of  
27 the regional school if the independent contractor carries out duties  
28 customarily performed by school personnel, whether paid with federal,  
29 State, local, or other funds, who has significant access to students or  
30 who has responsibility for the fiscal management of the regional  
31 school.

32 (b) The board of directors shall adopt a policy on whether and under what circumstances  
33 school personnel shall be required to be checked for a criminal history. The board of directors  
34 shall apply its policy uniformly in requiring school personnel to be checked for a criminal history.  
35 The board of directors may grant conditional approval of an application while the board of  
36 directors is checking a person's criminal history and making a decision based on the results of  
37 the check. The board of directors shall not require school personnel to pay for the criminal history  
38 record check authorized under this section.

39 (c) The board of directors shall require the person to be checked by the Department of  
40 Public Safety (i) to be fingerprinted and to provide any additional information required by the  
41 Department of Public Safety to a person designated by the board of directors or to the local sheriff  
42 or the municipal police, whichever is more convenient for the person, and (ii) to sign a form  
43 consenting to the check of the criminal record and to the use of fingerprints and other identifying  
44 information required by the repositories. The board of directors shall consider refusal to consent  
45 when making employment decisions and decisions with regard to independent contractors. The  
46 fingerprints of the individual shall be forwarded to the State Bureau of Investigation for a search  
47 of the State criminal history record file, and the State Bureau of Investigation shall forward a set  
48 of fingerprints to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for a national criminal history record check.  
49 The Department of Public Safety shall provide to the board of directors the criminal history from  
50 the State and National Repositories of Criminal Histories of any school personnel for which the

1 board of directors requires a criminal history record check. The board of directors shall not  
2 require school personnel to pay for the fingerprints authorized under this section.

3 (d) The board of directors shall review the criminal history it receives on an individual.  
4 The board of directors shall determine whether the results of the review indicate that the  
5 individual (i) poses a threat to the physical safety of students or personnel or (ii) has demonstrated  
6 that he or she does not have the integrity or honesty to fulfill his or her duties as school personnel  
7 and shall use the information when making employment decisions and decisions with regard to  
8 independent contractors. The board of directors shall make written findings with regard to how  
9 it used the information when making employment decisions and decisions with regard to  
10 independent contractors. The board of directors may delegate any of the duties in this subsection  
11 to the principal.

12 (e) The board of directors, or the principal if designated by the board of directors, shall  
13 provide to the State Board of Education the criminal history it receives on a person who is  
14 certificated, certified, or licensed by the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education  
15 shall review the criminal history and determine whether the person's certificate or license should  
16 be revoked in accordance with State laws and rules regarding revocation.

17 (f) All the information received by the board of directors through the checking of the  
18 criminal history or by the State Board of Education in accordance with this section is privileged  
19 information and is not a public record but is for the exclusive use of the board of directors or the  
20 State Board of Education. The board of directors or the State Board of Education may destroy  
21 the information after it is used for the purposes authorized by this section after one calendar year.

22 (g) There shall be no liability for negligence on the part of the board of directors, or its  
23 employees, or the State Board of Education, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, or any of  
24 their members or employees, individually or collectively, arising from any act taken or omission  
25 by any of them in carrying out the provisions of this section. The immunity established by this  
26 subsection shall not extend to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing that  
27 would otherwise be actionable. The immunity established by this subsection shall be deemed to  
28 have been waived to the extent of indemnification by insurance, indemnification under Articles  
29 31A and 31B of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, and to the extent sovereign immunity is  
30 waived under the Tort Claims Act, as set forth in Article 31 of Chapter 143 of the General  
31 Statutes.

32 (h) Any applicant for employment who willfully furnishes, supplies, or otherwise gives  
33 false information on an employment application that is the basis for a criminal history record  
34 check under this section shall be guilty of a Class A1 misdemeanor.

35 (i) The board of directors may adopt a policy providing for uniform periodic checks of  
36 criminal history of employees. Boards of directors shall not require employees to pay for the  
37 criminal history check authorized under this subsection. A board of directors shall indicate, upon  
38 inquiry by any other local board of education, charter school, or regional school in the State as  
39 to the reason for an employee's resignation or dismissal. If a teacher's criminal history is relevant  
40 to a teacher's resignation, the board of directors shall report to the State Board of Education the  
41 reason for an employee's resignation.

42 **"§ 115C-229.55. Finance and budget.**

43 (a) The board of directors shall have all the rights, duties, and obligations for receipt,  
44 accounting, and dispersing of funds for the school, including all the rights, duties, and obligations  
45 specified in Article 31 of this Chapter. The board may contract with a local school administrative  
46 unit to serve as the finance agent for the board and shall provide reasonable compensation to the  
47 local school administrative unit for this service. Upon such agreement, that local school  
48 administrative unit shall act as agent for the board in all receipt, accounting, and dispersing  
49 functions, but the board shall retain liability for compliance with Article 31 of this Chapter.

50 (b) A regional school may request appropriations directly from a city, as authorized by  
51 G.S. 160A-700.

1       (c)     With respect to the receipt, deposit, and disbursement of moneys (i) required by law  
2 to be deposited with the State Treasurer or (ii) made available for expenditure by warrants drawn  
3 on the State Treasurer, regional schools are subject to Article 6A of Chapter 147 of the General  
4 Statutes.

5       (d)     The State Board of Education shall allocate to the regional school:

- 6           (1)   An amount equal to the average per pupil allocation for average daily  
7 membership from the local school administrative unit allotments in which the  
8 regional school is located for each child attending the regional school except  
9 for the allocation for children with disabilities and for the allocation for  
10 children with limited English proficiency.
- 11          (2)   An additional amount for each child attending the regional school who is a  
12 child with disabilities. In the event a child with disabilities leaves the regional  
13 school and enrolls in a local school administrative unit during the first 60  
14 school days in the school year, the regional school shall return a pro rata  
15 amount of funds allocated for that child to the State Board, and the State Board  
16 shall reallocate those funds to the local school administrative unit in which the  
17 public school is located. In the event a child with disabilities enrolls in a  
18 regional school during the first 60 school days in the school year, the State  
19 Board shall allocate to the regional school the pro rata amount of additional  
20 funds for children with disabilities.
- 21          (3)   An additional amount for children with limited English proficiency attending  
22 the regional school, based on a formula adopted by the State Board.
- 23          (4)   An additional amount equal to the average per pupil share of the local current  
24 expense fund of all of the local school administrative units in the regional  
25 school service area for the prior fiscal year."

26       **SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 14-458.2(a) reads as rewritten:

27       "(a)    The following definitions apply in this section:

- 28           (1)   School employee. – The term means any of the following:
- 29               a.     An employee of a local board of education, a charter school authorized
- 30               under G.S. 115C-218.5, ~~a regional school created under~~
- 31               ~~G.S. 115C-238.62,~~ the regional school established by
- 32               G.S. 115C-229.5, a laboratory school created under G.S. 116-239.7,
- 33               or a nonpublic school which has filed intent to operate under Part 1 or
- 34               Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
- 35               b.     An independent contractor or an employee of an independent
- 36               contractor of a local board of education, a charter school authorized
- 37               under G.S. 115C-218.5, ~~a regional school created under~~
- 38               ~~G.S. 115C-238.62,~~ the regional school established by
- 39               G.S. 115C-229.5, a laboratory school created under G.S. 116-239.7,
- 40               or a nonpublic school which has filed intent to operate under Part 1 or
- 41               Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, if the
- 42               independent contractor carries out duties customarily performed by
- 43               employees of the school.
- 44           (2)   Student. – A person who has been assigned to a school by a local board of
- 45               education as provided in G.S. 115C-366 or has enrolled in a charter school
- 46               authorized under G.S. 115C-218.5, ~~a regional school created under~~
- 47               ~~G.S. 115C-238.62,~~ the regional school established by G.S. 115C-229.5, a
- 48               laboratory school created under G.S. 116-239.7, or a nonpublic school which
- 49               has filed intent to operate under Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C
- 50               of the General Statutes, or a person who has been suspended or expelled from
- 51               any of those schools within the last year."

1           **SECTION #.(c)** G.S. 58-31A-1(2) reads as rewritten:

2           "(2)   Public education board. – A local board of education of a local school  
3           administrative unit, as defined in G.S. 115C-5(5), ~~a board of trustees of a~~  
4           ~~regional school, as defined in G.S. 115C-238.63,~~ the board of directors of the  
5           regional school established by G.S. 115C-229.5, or a board of trustees of a  
6           community college, as defined in G.S. 115D-12."

7           **SECTION #.(d)** G.S. 115B-2(a)(6) reads as rewritten:

8           "(6)   Any child enrolled in a regional school established pursuant to ~~Part 10 of~~  
9           ~~Article 16~~ Article 15A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes who enrolls  
10          in classes at a constituent institution or community college which has a written  
11          agreement with the regional school."

12          **SECTION #.(e)** G.S. 115C-238.50A(1a)c. reads as rewritten:

13          "c.     It is located on the campus of the partner institution of higher  
14          education, unless the governing Board or the local board of trustees  
15          for a private North Carolina college specifically waives the  
16          requirement through adoption of a formal resolution. This criterion  
17          shall not apply to a regional school established as provided in ~~Part 10~~  
18          ~~of this Article.~~ Article 15A of this Chapter."

19          **SECTION #.(f)** Part 10 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is  
20          repealed.

21          **SECTION #.(g)** G.S. 126-5(c1)(8a) reads as rewritten:

22          "(8a)   Employees of a regional school established pursuant to ~~Part 10 of Article 16~~  
23          Article 15A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes."

24          **SECTION #.(h)** G.S. 143B-931(b) reads as rewritten:

25          "(b)    The Department of Public Safety may provide a criminal history record check to the  
26          board of directors of a regional school of a person who is employed at ~~a the~~ regional school or of  
27          a person who has applied for employment at ~~a the~~ regional school if the employee or applicant  
28          consents to the record check. ~~The~~ In accordance with G.S. 115C-229.50, the Department may  
29          also provide a criminal history record check of school personnel ~~as defined in G.S. 115C-238.73~~  
30          by fingerprint card to the board of directors of the regional school from the National Repositories  
31          of Criminal Histories, ~~in accordance with G.S. 115C-238.73.~~ The and the information shall be  
32          kept confidential by the board of directors of the regional school ~~as provided in~~  
33          ~~G.S. 115C-238.73.school.~~"

34          **SECTION #.(i)** G.S. 160A-700(d)(5) reads as rewritten:

35          "(5)    A regional school ~~created under Part 10 of Article 16~~ established by Article  
36          15A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes."

37          **SECTION #.(j)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-229.15, as enacted by this section, the  
38          terms of members serving on the board of directors as of the date this act becomes law shall  
39          terminate on June 30, 2026. Initial appointments to the board of directors in accordance with  
40          G.S. 115C-229.15 shall be made for terms beginning July 1, 2026. The Superintendent of Public  
41          Instruction shall appoint two members to two-year terms and one member to a four-year term  
42          beginning July 1, 2026. The State Board of Education shall appoint two members to two-year  
43          terms and three members to four-year terms beginning July 1, 2026. Thereafter, all appointees  
44          shall serve four-year terms.

45          **SECTION #.(k)** The title to and ownership of all property of the Northeast Regional  
46          School of Biotechnology and Agriscience, established as provided in Part 10 of Article 16 of  
47          Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, both real and personal of every kind and description, shall  
48          be vested in the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and Agriscience as established by  
49          Article 15A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, as enacted by this act, by July 1, 2025. All  
50          claims and demands of every kind related to the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology  
51          and Agriscience, established as provided in Part 10 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General

1 Statutes, shall pass and be transferred to the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and  
2 Agriscience as established by Article 15A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, as enacted  
3 by this act by July 1, 2025, and the board of directors of the Northeast Regional School of  
4 Biotechnology and Agriscience shall have the same powers and authority to enforce said claims  
5 and demands. Any obligations and liabilities related to the Northeast Regional School of  
6 Biotechnology and Agriscience, established as provided in Part 10 of Article 16 of Chapter 115C  
7 of the General Statutes, shall become the obligations of the Northeast Regional School of  
8 Biotechnology and Agriscience as established by Article 15A of Chapter 115C of the General  
9 Statutes, as enacted by this act by July 1, 2025, and such obligations and liabilities may be  
10 enforced against the board of directors of the Northeast Regional School of Biotechnology and  
11 Agriscience thereafter to the same extent that they might have otherwise been enforced.

12 **SECTION #.(I)** Subsections (a) through (i) of this section are effective July 1, 2025.  
13 The remainder of this section is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H26-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***HIGH-INTENSITY TUTORING PROGRAM***

**SECTION #.** No later than April 1, 2026, Union County Public Schools, with assistance from the Department of Public Instruction, shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on Union County Public Schools' high-intensity tutoring program. At a minimum, the report shall include the following:

- (1) A detailed description of the tutoring plan, including the number of students that participate in each tutoring session and the frequency of tutoring sessions.
- (2) An overview of the cost of the high-intensity tutoring program, including identifying all funding sources.
- (3) A detailed description on the impacts of the high-intensity tutoring program on student performance.
- (4) Lessons Union County Public Schools has learned or challenges overcome in developing the high-intensity tutoring program.
- (5) Recommendations on how the high-intensity tutoring program could be replicated in other districts.
- (6) Any other information Union County Public Schools or the Department deems relevant related to high-intensity tutoring programs.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H48-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**DIABETES EDUCATION FOR PARENTS**

SECTION #. G.S. 115C-375.3 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-375.3. Guidelines to support and assist students with diabetes.

(a) ~~Local boards of education and boards of directors of charter schools~~ Governing bodies of public school units shall ensure that the guidelines adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(31) are implemented in schools in which students with diabetes are enrolled. In particular, the boards shall require the implementation of the procedures set forth in those guidelines for the development and implementation of individual diabetes care plans. The boards also shall make available necessary information and staff development to teachers and school personnel in order to appropriately support and assist students with diabetes in accordance with their individual diabetes care plans.

(b) Governing bodies of public school units shall ensure that each school provides parents and legal guardians with information about type 1 and type 2 diabetes at the beginning of every school year. This information shall include all of the following:

- (1) A description of type 1 and type 2 diabetes.
- (2) A description of the risk factors and warning signs associated with type 1 and type 2 diabetes.
- (3) A recommendation that if a student is displaying warning signs associated with diabetes, the parent or guardian of the student consult with the primary care provider of the student to determine if immediate screening for diabetes is appropriate.
- (4) A description of the screening process for and stages of diabetes.
- (5) A recommendation that if a student receives a diabetes diagnosis, the parent or guardian of the student consult with the primary care provider of the student to develop an appropriate treatment plan.
- (6) Notification that the school is required to assist students with diabetes in accordance with the rules adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-12(31)."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H56-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**MEDICAL CONDITION ACTION PLANS**

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding the following new subdivisions to read:

"(50) Medical Condition Action Plan. – The State Board of Education shall adopt a rule establishing a medical condition action plan as provided in G.S. 115C-375.1 to be implemented by each public school unit for each student at risk for a medical emergency as diagnosed by a doctor.

(51) Medical Emergency Plan. – The State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Public Instruction and the Department of Health and Human Services, shall adopt a rule establishing the required response of public school unit employees when a student has a medical emergency not otherwise covered by a medical condition action plan implemented in accordance with G.S. 115C-375.1. The Department of Public Instruction shall provide each public school unit with a copy of the rule, and each public school unit shall implement the rule."

**SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115C-375.1 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-375.1. To provide some medical care to ~~students~~ students and implement medical condition action plans.**

(a) Notwithstanding G.S. 90-21.10B, it is within the scope of duty of teachers, including substitute teachers, teacher assistants, student teachers, or any other public school employee when authorized by the ~~board of education~~ governing body of a public school unit or its designee, (i) to administer any drugs or medication prescribed by a doctor upon written request of the parents, or as described in the medical condition action plan required by subsection (b) of this section, (ii) to give emergency health care when reasonably apparent circumstances indicate that any delay would seriously worsen the physical condition or endanger the life of the ~~pupil, student,~~ and (iii) to perform any other first aid or lifesaving techniques in which the employee has been trained in a program approved by the State Board of Education. At least one public school unit employee per school shall be trained in first aid and lifesaving techniques, including seizure recognition. No public school unit employee, however, other than a school administrator, shall be required to administer drugs or medication or attend lifesaving techniques programs.

(b) Each governing body of a public school unit shall implement the medical condition action plan adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-12(50) for each student at risk of a medical emergency as diagnosed by a doctor. The medical condition action plan adopted by the State Board of Education shall include all of the following:

(1) A standard medical condition action plan form.

(2) Detailed instructions in the medical condition action plan form to ensure that all individuals designated by the principal, or, if there is no principal, the staff member with the highest decision-making authority, to provide medical care for a student at risk for a medical emergency as diagnosed by a doctor, know how to address the medical emergency.



(3) Information detailing the method by which and by whom any medical emergency will be handled when the student is at a school-sponsored activity that is not on the campus of the public school unit, including field trips and interscholastic athletic activities.

(c) Any public school unit employee, authorized by the ~~board of education governing body of a public school unit~~ or its designee to act under (i), (ii), or (iii) above, ~~subsections (a) and (b) of this section,~~ shall not be liable in civil damages for any authorized act or for any omission relating to that act unless the act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing. Any person, serving in a voluntary position at the request of or with the permission or consent of the ~~board of education governing body of a public school unit~~ or its designee, who has been given the authority by the ~~board of education governing body of a public school unit~~ or its designee to ~~act under (ii) above~~ give emergency health care when reasonably apparent circumstances indicate that any delay would seriously worsen the physical condition or endanger the life of the student shall not be liable in civil damages for any authorized act or for any omission relating to the act unless the act amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

(d) At the commencement of each school year, but before the beginning of classes, and thereafter as circumstances require, the principal of each ~~school~~ school, or, if there is no principal, the staff member with the highest decision-making authority, shall determine which persons will participate in the medical care program."

**SECTION #.(c)** The State Board of Education may adopt temporary rules to implement this section.

**SECTION #.(d)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding the following new subdivisions to read:

"(70) To Implement a Medical Condition Action Plan. – Local boards of education shall implement the medical condition action plan adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(50) and as provided in G.S. 115C-375.1.

(71) To Implement a Medical Emergency Plan. – Local boards of education shall implement the medical emergency plan adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(51)."

**SECTION #.(e)** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding the following new subdivisions to read:

"(e3) Medical Condition Action Plan. – A charter school shall implement the medical condition action plan adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(50) and as provided in G.S. 115C-375.1.

(e4) Medical Emergency Plan. – A charter school shall implement the medical emergency plan adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(51)."

**SECTION #.(f)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding the following new subdivisions to read:

"(7h) Medical condition action plan. – A regional school shall implement the medical condition action plan adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(50) and as provided in G.S. 115C-375.1.

(7i) Medical emergency plan. – A regional school shall implement the medical emergency plan adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(51)."

**SECTION #.(g)** G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding the following new subdivisions to read:

"(26) Medical condition action plan. – A laboratory school shall implement the medical condition action plan adopted by the State Board of Education under G.S. 115C-12(50) and as provided in G.S. 115C-375.1.

1           (27)   Medical emergency plan. – A laboratory school shall implement the medical  
2                   emergency plan adopted by the State Board of Education under  
3                   G.S. 115C-12(51)."

4           **SECTION #.(h)** Subdivision (2) of Section 6(d) of S.L. 2018-32 is amended by  
5 adding the following new sub-subdivisions to read:

6                   "p.   (70) [To Implement a Medical Condition Action Plan].

7                   q.   (71) [To Implement a Medical Emergency Plan]."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H57-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***NORTH CAROLINA STUDENT LIFELINE INFORMATION***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding the following new subdivision to read:

"(70) To Provide Students the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Phone Number and the NC Peer Warmline Phone Number. – A local board of education shall adopt a policy to ensure all schools in the local school administrative unit provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The board shall verify that the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate annually. If either phone number has changed, schools shall use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the schools shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988 or text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the following places:

- a. On any new student identification (student ID) issued to a student in grades six through 12. The text shall be in a conspicuous location on the student ID. The text may be printed on the ID or affixed by sticker. Nothing in this subdivision requires a school to issue a student ID.
- b. On the school website.
- c. On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.
- d. On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.
- e. On a document during any suicide awareness activity.
- f. On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

**SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115C-150.12C is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(37) To provide students the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone number and the NC Peer Warmline phone number. – The board of trustees shall provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The board shall verify that the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate annually. If either phone number has changed, the board shall use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the board shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988 or text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the following places:

- a. On any new student identification (student ID) issued to a student in grades six through 12. The text shall be in a conspicuous location on the student ID. The text may be printed on the ID or affixed by sticker. Nothing in this subdivision requires a school to issue a student ID.
- b. On the school website.
- c. On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.
- d. On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.

- e. On a document during any suicide awareness activity.
- f. On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

**SECTION #.(c)** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

**"(p)** To Provide Students the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline Phone Number and the NC Peer Warmline Phone Number. – A charter school shall provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The school shall verify that the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate annually. If either phone number has changed, the school shall use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the school shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988 or text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the following places:

- (1)** On any new student identification (student ID) issued to a student in grades six through 12. The text shall be in a conspicuous location on the student ID. The text may be printed on the ID or affixed by sticker. Nothing in this subsection requires a school to issue a student ID.
- (2)** On the school website.
- (3)** On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.
- (4)** On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.
- (5)** On a document during any suicide awareness activity.
- (6)** On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

**SECTION #.(d)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

**"(23)** To provide students the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone number and the NC Peer Warmline phone number. – A regional school shall provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The school shall verify that the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate annually. If either phone number has changed, the school shall use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the school shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988 or text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the following places:

- a.** On any new student identification (student ID) issued to a student in grades six through 12. The text shall be in a conspicuous location on the student ID. The text may be printed on the ID or affixed by sticker. Nothing in this subdivision requires a school to issue a student ID.
- b.** On the school website.
- c.** On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.
- d.** On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.
- e.** On a document during any suicide awareness activity.
- f.** On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

**SECTION #.(e)** G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

**"(26)** To provide students the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone number and the NC Peer Warmline phone number. – A laboratory school shall provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The school shall verify that the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate annually. If either phone number has changed, the school shall use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the school shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988 or text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the following places:

- a.** On any new student identification (student ID) issued to a student in grades six through 12. The text shall be in a conspicuous location on

the student ID. The text may be printed on the ID or affixed by sticker.  
Nothing in this subdivision requires a school to issue a student ID.  
b. On the school website.  
c. On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.  
d. On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.  
e. On a document during any suicide awareness activity.  
f. On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

SECTION #.(f) Part 1 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-550.2. Provide students the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone number and the NC Peer Warmline phone number.**

Each private church school or school of religious charter shall provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The school shall verify that the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate annually. If either phone number has changed, the school shall use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the school shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988 or text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the following places:

- (1) On any new student identification (student ID) issued to a student in grades six through 12. The text shall be in a conspicuous location on the student ID. The text may be printed on the ID or affixed by sticker. Nothing in this section requires a school to issue a student ID.
- (2) On the school website.
- (3) On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.
- (4) On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.
- (5) On a document during any suicide awareness activity.
- (6) On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

SECTION #.(g) Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-558.2. Provide students the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline phone number and the NC Peer Warmline phone number.**

Each qualified nonpublic school shall provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The school shall verify that the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate annually. If either phone number has changed, the school shall use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the school shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988 or text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the following places:

- (1) On any new student identification (student ID) issued to a student in grades six through 12. The text shall be in a conspicuous location on the student ID. The text may be printed on the ID or affixed by sticker. Nothing in this section requires a school to issue a student ID.
- (2) On the school website.
- (3) On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.
- (4) On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.
- (5) On a document during any suicide awareness activity.
- (6) On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

SECTION #.(h) G.S. 115D-5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(aa) The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy requiring all community colleges to provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The State Board shall verify that the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate annually. If either phone number has changed, the community

1 colleges shall use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the  
2 community colleges shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline, call 988 or  
3 text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the  
4 following places:

5 (1) On any new student identification (student ID) issued. The text shall be in a  
6 conspicuous location on the student ID. The text may be printed on the ID or  
7 affixed by sticker. Nothing in this subsection requires a school to issue a  
8 student ID.

9 (2) On the school website.

10 (3) On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.

11 (4) On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.

12 (5) On a document during any suicide awareness activity.

13 (6) On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

14 **SECTION #.(i)** G.S. 116-11 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

15 "(3d) The Board of Governors shall adopt a policy requiring all constituent  
16 institutions to provide students the phone numbers for the Suicide and Crisis  
17 Lifeline and the NC Peer Warmline. The Board of Governors shall verify that  
18 the phone numbers for the Lifeline and the Warmline are current and accurate  
19 annually. If either phone number has changed, the constituent institutions shall  
20 use the updated phone number. Unless an updated phone number exists, the  
21 constituent institutions shall have the phrases "To reach the Suicide and Crisis  
22 Lifeline, call 988 or text HOME to 741741" and "To reach the NC Peer  
23 Warmline, call 855-733-7762" in the following places:

24 a. On any new student identification (student ID) issued. The text shall  
25 be in a conspicuous location on the student ID. The text may be printed  
26 on the ID or affixed by sticker. Nothing in this subdivision requires a  
27 school to issue a student ID.

28 b. On the school website.

29 c. On the home screen of any electronic device issued to students.

30 d. On any school agenda or calendar, whether digital or printed.

31 e. On a document during any suicide awareness activity.

32 f. On a document when the student registers to attend the school."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H58-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

*DPI TO CONTINUE PROVIDING FINANCIAL DATA REPORTING PLATFORM TO  
CHARTERS FOR INITIAL YEAR OF OPERATION*

**SECTION #.** Part 4 of Article 14A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-218.106. Initial financial data reporting expenses.**

**The Department of Public Instruction shall provide a charter school access to any required financial data reporting platforms during the charter school's first year of operation at no cost to the charter school."**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H60-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***SCHOOLS FOR THE DEAF AND BLIND AMENDMENTS***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-150.11(c), as enacted by Section 3J.1(a) of S.L. 2024-57, reads as rewritten:

"(c) Administrative Support. – The Department of Administration shall provide support to each school in matters related to finance, human resources, and procurement, ~~including~~ excluding support for information technology. Each school shall enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Department of Administration with regard to this support. No civil liability shall attach to the Department of Administration, or to any of its employees, individually or collectively, for any acts or omissions of a school."

**SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 115C-150.11 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-150.11. Establishment of the schools for the deaf and blind.**

(a) Establishment. – The following are created as separate State agencies governed respectively by boards of trustees:

- (1) The Governor Morehead School for the Blind of the Department of Public Instruction for the function, purpose, and duty of serving students who are blind or visually impaired from birth to age 22. The Governor Morehead School for the Blind shall include the Governor Morehead ~~Preschool~~ Preschool and the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Vision.
- (2) The Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf of the Department of Public Instruction for the function, purpose, and duty of serving students who are deaf or hard of ~~hearing~~ hearing from birth to age 22. The Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf shall include the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing.
- (3) The North Carolina School for the Deaf of the Department of Public Instruction for the function, purpose, and duty of serving students who are deaf or hard of ~~hearing~~ hearing from birth to age 22. The North Carolina School for the Deaf shall include the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing.

...."

**SECTION #.(c)** Effective December 1, 2025, the Governor Morehead Preschool and the Early Learning Sensory Program for Vision is transferred from the Department of Instruction to the Governor Morehead School for the Blind.

**SECTION #.(d)** Effective December 1, 2025, the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing is transferred from the Department of Public Instruction to the North Carolina School for the Deaf and the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf. Upon transfer, the North Carolina School of the Deaf and the Eastern North Carolina School for the Deaf shall agree on a geographical boundary to divide the administrative responsibility for the Early Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing between the two schools.



1           **SECTION #.(e)** The transfers made in this section shall have all of the elements of  
2 a Type I transfer, as defined in G.S. 143A-6. Upon transfer, teachers and instructional support  
3 personnel in the Preschool and the Early Learning Sensory Program for Vision and the Early  
4 Learning Sensory Support Program for Hearing shall receive a salary, including any supplement,  
5 equivalent to those teachers and instructional support personnel that work on the campus of their  
6 respective residential schools. Nothing in this section shall be construed to result in the loss of  
7 salary by any employee in the Preschool or Early Learning Sensory Support Programs.

8           **SECTION #.(f)** G.S. 115C-150.12A(f) reads as rewritten:

9           "(f) Meetings. – A board of trustees shall meet at least four times a year and also at such  
10 other times as it may deem necessary. A majority of the voting members of the board shall  
11 constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. All meetings shall be subject to Article 33C  
12 of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. A board of trustees may conduct remote meetings in  
13 accordance with Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes, so long as the board of  
14 trustees complies with the provisions of G.S. 166A-19.24, except that a declaration of emergency  
15 is not needed. The members shall receive per diem compensation and necessary travel and  
16 subsistence expenses while engaged in the discharge of their official duties, in accordance with  
17 the provisions of G.S. 138-5."

18           **SECTION #.(g)** G.S. 115C-150.12B(a) reads as rewritten:

19           "(a) Superintendent. – Each board of trustees of a school shall appoint a superintendent  
20 for that school who meets the requirements of G.S. 115C-271 for employment. The  
21 superintendent shall act as secretary to the board of trustees in accordance with  
22 G.S. 115C-150.12A. All acts of the boards of trustees, not in conflict with State law, shall be  
23 binding on the superintendent, and the superintendent shall carry out all rules and regulations of  
24 the board and other duties as prescribed by the board of trustees. For purposes of application to  
25 other statutes in this Chapter, the superintendent shall be the equivalent of a superintendent of a  
26 local school administrative unit and shall fulfill the duties of a superintendent as provided in  
27 Article 18 of this Chapter. Unless otherwise required by the board of trustees, the superintendent  
28 shall not be required to reside in the county in which the residential school is located."

29           **SECTION #.(h)** Subsections (b) and (c) of Section 8 of S.L. 2023-10 read as  
30 rewritten:

31           **"SECTION 8.(b)** Notwithstanding current employment classifications of administrators for  
32 the schools for the deaf and blind and G.S. 115C-150.12B, as enacted by this act, those employed  
33 as administrators of each school for the deaf and blind shall remain in employment, subject to  
34 dismissal for cause as provided in Article 8 of Chapter 126 of the General Statutes, until June 30,  
35 2025.—2025, at which point the administrator's employment shall terminate unless the  
36 administrator has already been separated from employment prior to that date or is appointed  
37 superintendent or employed in some other capacity by the respective board of trustees pursuant  
38 to G.S. 115C-150.12B. Notwithstanding Article 18 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, the  
39 State Board of Education shall waive superintendent licensure requirements for those employed  
40 as administrators of each school for the deaf and blind until June 30, 2025.

41           **"SECTION 8.(c)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-150.12B, as enacted by this act, Chapter 126  
42 of the General Statutes shall apply to any employee of the schools for the deaf and blind employed  
43 on June 30, 2024, for as long as that employee remains employed at that ~~school~~school, except  
44 those employed on that date as an administrator of the school."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H5-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***REPEAL ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPPORT PROGRAM AND ESTABLISH ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED CHARTER SCHOOLS SUPPORT PROGRAM***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-105.34 is repealed.

**SECTION #.(b)** Article 14A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-218.108. Economically disadvantaged charter school support funds.**

**(a) For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:**

**(1) Curriculum. – Materials or programs related to courses offered by an economically disadvantaged charter school.**

**(2) Economically disadvantaged charter school. – A charter school with a student population that is composed of at least eighty percent (80%) of students identified by the Department of Public Instruction as economically disadvantaged students.**

**(3) Eligible employee. – Any full-time or part-time employee of a qualifying economically disadvantaged charter school.**

**(4) Qualifying economically disadvantaged charter school. – An economically disadvantaged charter school that met or exceeded expected growth in the prior school year, as determined by the State Board of Education pursuant to Part 1B of Article 8 of this Chapter.**

**(b) The Department of Public Instruction shall establish the Economically Disadvantaged Charter Schools Support Program (Program) to provide funds to support the efforts of qualifying economically disadvantaged charter schools to continue to meet or exceed growth in subsequent school years. To the extent funds are provided to the Department for this purpose, the Department shall allocate these funds annually to each governing body of an economically disadvantaged charter school based on the relative proportion of students in each qualifying economically disadvantaged charter school governed by that body. The governing body shall allocate those funds to each qualifying economically disadvantaged charter school based on the relative proportion of students in each school. The funds shall be used for curriculum, activities necessary to support students and instructional support personnel, and bonuses and retention programs for eligible employees in the discretion of the governing body of the charter school, as appropriate.**

**(c) It is the intent of the General Assembly that funds provided pursuant to this section will supplement and not supplant local funds."**

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-DPI-H54-P

Department of Public Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***REQUIRE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO PUBLISH TOTAL COMPENSATION  
AND POSITION INFORMATION FOR CENTRAL OFFICE EMPLOYEES***

**SECTION #.(a) G.S. 115C-320 reads as rewritten:**

**"§ 115C-320. ~~Certain records open to inspection.~~ Publication and inspection of certain records.**

(a) Each local board of education shall maintain a record of each of its employees, showing the following information with respect to each employee:

- (1) Name.
- (2) Age.
- (3) Date of original employment or appointment.
- (4) The terms of any contract by which the employee is employed whether written or oral, past and current, to the extent that the board has the written contract or a record of the oral contract in its possession.
- (5) Current position.
- (6) Title.
- (7) Current salary-total compensation, as defined in sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (1) of subsection (b1) of this section.
- (8) Date and amount of each increase or decrease in salary-total compensation, as defined in sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (1) of subsection (b1) of this section, with that local board of education.
- (9) Date and type of each promotion, demotion, transfer, suspension, separation, or other change in position classification with that local board of education.
- (10) Date and general description of the reasons for each promotion with that local board of education.
- (11) Date and type of each dismissal, suspension, or demotion for disciplinary reasons taken by the local board of education. If the disciplinary action was a dismissal, a copy of the written notice of the final decision of the local board education setting forth the specific acts or omissions that are the basis of the dismissal.
- (12) The office or station to which the employee is currently assigned.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "central office employees" refers to superintendents, assistant superintendents, associate superintendents, directors/coordinators, supervisors, finance officers, all personnel categorized as central office employees by the Department of Public Instruction or the local school administrative unit, and any permanent employee of the local school administrative unit or employee of a third-party contractor with the local school administrative unit that is not assigned to a school campus. The term "salary" includes pay, benefits, incentives, supplements, bonuses, and deferred and all other forms of compensation paid by the employing entity.

(b1) No later than August 15, 2025, and annually thereafter, each local board of education shall publish and maintain on its website all of the following information:



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H10(S8.1)-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***UNC/ESCHEAT FUND FOR STUDENT FINANCIAL AID PROGRAMS***

**SECTION 8.1.(a)** The funds appropriated by this act from the Escheat Fund for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium for student financial aid shall be allocated in accordance with G.S. 116B-7. Notwithstanding any other provision of Chapter 116B of the General Statutes, if the interest income generated from the Escheat Fund is less than the amounts referenced in this act, the difference may be taken from the Escheat Fund principal to reach the appropriations referenced in this act; however, under no circumstances shall the Escheat Fund principal be reduced below the sum required in G.S. 116B-6(f). If any funds appropriated from the Escheat Fund by this act for student financial aid remain uncommitted as of the end of a fiscal year, the funds shall be returned to the Escheat Fund, but only to the extent the funds exceed the amount of the Escheat Fund income for that fiscal year.

**SECTION 8.1.(b)** The State Education Assistance Authority (Authority) shall conduct periodic evaluations of expenditures of the student financial aid programs administered by the Authority to determine if allocations are utilized to ensure access to institutions of higher education and to meet the goals of the respective programs. The Authority may make recommendations for redistribution of funds to the President of The University of North Carolina and the President of the Community College System regarding their respective student financial aid programs, who then may authorize redistribution of unutilized funds for a particular fiscal year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H34(S8.2)i

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**ESTABLISH SCHOOL OF CIVIC LIFE AND LEADERSHIP**

**SECTION 8.2.(a)** Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new Article to read:

"Article 31B.

"The School of Civic Life and Leadership.

**"§ 116-258.1. The School of Civic Life and Leadership established.**

(a) For purposes of this Article, the term "the School" refers to the School of Civic Life and Leadership established pursuant to subsection (b) of this section.

(b) The Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, in consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the Provost of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and faculty and administration officials at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, shall establish the School of Civic Life and Leadership as a separate reporting unit of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

**"§ 116-258.2. Scope.**

The School shall do at least the following:

- (1) Provide course opportunities for students. Courses may focus on the development of democratic competencies informed by American history, the American political tradition, and the study of the great texts and traditions of Western civilization that form the foundation of the American republic. The purpose of these courses is to foster public discourse and civil engagement necessary to promote democracy and benefit society.
- (2) Develop programming to address the topics identified in subdivision (1) of this section and provide resources to students, faculty, and the general public, as needed.

**"§ 116-258.3. Faculty.**

(a) The Dean of the School shall be appointed by the Chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with the consent of the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Neither the Chancellor nor the Board of Trustees shall delegate this responsibility to another party.

(b) All faculty hired by or appointed to the School shall be subject to the approval of the Dean of the School.

(c) Faculty members may hold joint or courtesy appointments with other reporting units of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. All joint and courtesy appointments shall be made at the discretion of the Dean of the School."

**SECTION 8.2.(b)** For the 2025-2026 academic year, the following shall occur:

- (1) The School of Civic Life and Leadership (the School) shall employ at least 20 faculty members hired from outside the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. These faculty members shall be hired with permanent tenure or be eligible to receive permanent tenure in accordance with policies adopted by The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

- 1           (2)    The School shall not employ any additional faculty by joint or courtesy  
2                    appointment with other reporting units of the University of North Carolina at  
3                    Chapel Hill unless the school has employed at least 20 faculty members hired  
4                    from outside the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in accordance  
5                    with this subsection.

6           **SECTION 8.2.(c)** Notwithstanding G.S. 116-30.2, the recurring funds allocated to  
7   the School of Civic Life and Leadership (the School) by this section beginning in the 2025-2026  
8   fiscal year shall be used only to support the School and shall not be redirected for any other  
9   purpose. In addition, these funds shall be used to supplement and not supplant any funds the  
10   School would otherwise receive, including funds received by the School based on enrollment.

11           **SECTION 8.2.(d)** No later than November 15, 2026, the Board of Trustees of the  
12   University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shall report to the Joint Legislative Education  
13   Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the progress made toward establishing  
14   the School of Civic Life and Leadership (the School), including at least the following  
15   information:

- 16           (1)    Courses and other programming provided by the School.  
17           (2)    Faculty hired by the School, including the number of faculty members hired  
18                    from outside the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.  
19           (3)    Uses of funds appropriated to the School pursuant to this section.  
20           (4)    Any other matter the Board deems relevant to the progress of establishing the  
21                    School.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H4(S8.4)i

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

- 1 ***REPEAL FUTURE TEACHERS OF NORTH CAROLINA PROGRAM***
- 2 **SECTION 8.4.** Part 4B of Article 1 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is
- 3 repealed.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H12(S8.6)i

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***ESTABLISH STANDARDS FOR AGREEMENTS BETWEEN CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AND LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS FOR THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF LABORATORY SCHOOLS***

**SECTION 8.6.** G.S. 116-239.8(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The chancellor shall be the administrative head of a laboratory school approved by the Subcommittee and shall provide general direction for the establishment and operation of a laboratory school. The chancellor, with advice and input from the advisory board established in subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall adopt policies, operating procedures, and the courses of study to govern the operation of the laboratory school. The chancellor may designate the duties required by this Article to other personnel as necessary. The chancellor shall also have the following powers and duties:

...  
(4) ~~Operation and maintenance of laboratory schools. Cost standards for laboratory schools.~~ – The Board of Governors and the State Board of Education shall jointly determine standards for establishing the costs to local school administrative units for providing the facilities and services identified in ~~this subdivision~~ subdivision (4b) of this subsection for the operation and maintenance of a laboratory school. The standards shall include at least the lease amount by square foot for facility leases, which shall incorporate the cost of the outstanding debt service for the facility.

(4a) Memorandum of understanding. – The chancellor and the local school administrative unit shall adopt a memorandum of understanding for the operation and maintenance of the laboratory school that includes the facilities and services identified in subdivision (4b) of this subsection. The chancellor and the local school administrative unit shall review and update the memorandum at least every three years and any updated memorandum shall take effect no earlier than the next school year. For any proposal to amend a term of the memorandum regarding facilities, services, or operations of the laboratory school, the proposing party shall provide at least six months' notice, and the amendment shall take effect no earlier than the next school year.

(4b) Facilities and services. – A local school administrative unit shall provide, at the laboratory school's request, any of the following facilities and services to the laboratory school, ~~but the costs of those facilities and services charged to the laboratory school shall not exceed the established standards for determination of costs. The following shall be determined in a memorandum of understanding between the chancellor and the local school administrative unit for the operation and maintenance of the laboratory school as needed:~~ school:

a. Facilities and leases. – Upon request, the local school administrative unit in which the laboratory school is located shall lease adequate

1 facilities to the constituent institution for use as a laboratory school.  
2 Unless the laboratory school requests not to include any of the  
3 following, the lease shall include use of or access to any existing  
4 buildings, parking areas, playgrounds, driveways required for ingress  
5 and egress, furniture, classroom space, a cafeteria or multipurpose  
6 room, moveable equipment, appliances, playground materials,  
7 including a library collection, instructional materials, and classroom  
8 and other technology equipment necessary to operate the laboratory  
9 school. The lease term shall be terminated if the laboratory school  
10 ceases operation. Upon request, the local school administrative unit  
11 shall maintain the facilities and premises of the laboratory school and  
12 keep them in good repair and tenantable condition by providing all  
13 routine custodial services and routine facilities maintenance services,  
14 including routine indoor maintenance, routine mowing, trimming, and  
15 maintenance of exterior landscaping and snow removal, and timely  
16 repair of the facilities and premises. The chancellor is authorized to  
17 execute the lease agreement and memoranda of agreement for the  
18 operation of a laboratory school.

19 b. Transportation services. – Upon request, the local school  
20 administrative unit in which the laboratory school is located shall  
21 provide transportation to students who reside in the local school  
22 administrative unit and attend the laboratory school, including any  
23 students who are homeless and require assistance pursuant to 42  
24 U.S.C. § 11301, et seq., the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance  
25 Act. The requirement to provide transportation to students residing in  
26 the local school administrative unit shall (i) apply regardless of where  
27 a laboratory school student resides in the unit or how the unit's  
28 transportation policies and practices are applied to other students and  
29 (ii) upon request, include providing transportation of students and  
30 personnel for laboratory school extracurricular activities and  
31 educational trips in the same manner as other schools in the unit for  
32 that school year.

33 c. Food services. – ~~The laboratory school shall strive to ensure that one~~  
34 ~~hundred percent (100%) muscadine grape juice is made available to~~  
35 ~~students as a part of the school's nutrition program or through the~~  
36 ~~operation of the school's vending facilities. Upon request, Food~~  
37 ~~services shall be provided to students of the laboratory school as~~  
38 follows:

39 1. Unless the laboratory school agrees in the memorandum of  
40 understanding to administer the National School Lunch  
41 Program as the school food authority for its own students, the  
42 local school administrative unit in which the laboratory school  
43 is located shall administer the National School Lunch Program  
44 as the school food authority for the laboratory school in  
45 accordance with G.S. 115C-264. As part of that process, the  
46 local school administrative unit shall do at least the following:

47 I. Purchase, prepare, deliver, and serve food and drink for  
48 students in the laboratory school.

49 II. Engage in any contracts or other actions necessary to  
50 provide these services, including procuring federal  
51 reimbursement funds.

2. The laboratory school shall strive to ensure that one hundred percent (100%) muscadine grape juice is made available to students as part of the school's nutrition program or through the operation of the school's vending facilities.
- d. Student support services. – Upon request, the local school administrative unit in which the laboratory school is located shall provide any of the following student support services for the operation of the laboratory school, including:
1. Services required by the Department of Public Instruction for children with disabilities.
  2. Children and family support services, including social worker and school nurse services.
  3. Other health services, including dental screenings, vision screenings, and similar health services that apply to other students enrolled in the local school administrative unit.
  4. Parent involvement coordinator services.
  5. School counselor services.
- (4c) Costs of services; reimbursement. – The local school administrative unit may charge the costs of the facilities and services provided pursuant to subdivision (4b) of this subsection to the laboratory school. These charges shall not exceed the standards for determination of costs established pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection. If a local school administrative unit fails to provide any of the services listed in subdivision (4b) of this subsection, the laboratory school may provide those services without the support of the local school administrative unit. In the event a laboratory school provides its own services pursuant to this subdivision, the laboratory school may charge the local school administrative unit for the actual costs of those services, even if those services exceed the standards for determination of costs established pursuant to subdivision (4) of this subsection, and the local school administrative unit shall reimburse the laboratory school for those services from non-State funds.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H5(S8.7)-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**BROADEN TEACHING FELLOWS AWARD PARAMETERS**

**SECTION 8.7.(a)** G.S. 116-209.60 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 116-209.60. Definitions.**

The following definitions apply in this Part:

- (1) Commission. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Commission.
- (2) Director. – The Director of the North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.
- (3) Forgivable loan. – A forgivable loan made under the Program.
- (4) Program. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program.
- (5) Public school. – An elementary or secondary school located in North Carolina that is governed by a local board of education, charter school board of directors, regional school board of directors, or University of North Carolina laboratory school board of trustees.
- (5a) Qualifying licensure area. – A teacher licensure area in one of the following subjects:
  - a. Either of the following, as identified pursuant to G.S. 116-209.62(h):
    1. Special education.
    2. ~~Stem~~.STEM.
    3. Career and technical education.
  - b. Elementary education (K-6).
  - c. Middle Grades Language Arts.
  - d. English (9-12).
- (5b) Qualifying special education teacher. – A qualifying teacher who is licensed in special education and spends at least eighty percent (80%) of his or her work time on activities related to special education.
- ~~(5b)~~(5c) Qualifying teacher. – A teacher in a North Carolina public school who meets the following criteria:
  - a. Received a forgivable loan under the Program.
  - b. Graduated within 10 years from an educator preparation program leading to teacher licensure, excluding any authorized deferment for extenuating circumstances.
  - c. Serves as a teacher in a qualifying licensure area.
- (6) STEM. – Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
- (7) Trust Fund. – The North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program Trust Fund."

**SECTION 8.7.(b)** G.S. 116-209.62 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 116-209.62. North Carolina Teaching Fellows Program established; administration.**

...

- (g) Awards of Forgivable Loans. – The Program shall provide forgivable loans to selected students to be used at up to 10 selected institutions for completion of a program leading to initial teacher licensure as follows:

- (1) North Carolina high school seniors. – Forgivable loans of up to ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to eight semesters~~ ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year for up to four academic years.
- (2) Students applying for transfer to a selected educator preparation program at an institution of higher education. – Forgivable loans of up to ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to six semesters~~ ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year for up to four academic years.
- (3) Individuals currently holding a bachelor's degree seeking preparation for teacher licensure. – Forgivable loans of up to ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to four semesters~~ ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year for up to two academic years.
- (4) Students matriculating at institutions of higher education who are changing to an approved program of study at a selected educator preparation program. – Forgivable loans of up to ~~five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester for up to four semesters~~ ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) per academic year for up to four academic years.

Forgivable loans may be used for ~~tuition, fees, the cost of books, and expenses related to obtaining licensure~~ all expenses related to enrollment in an approved educator preparation program and obtaining licensure, including tuition, fees, and the cost of books.

(h) ~~Identification of STEM and Special Education Certain Qualifying Licensure Areas; Report on Need.~~ – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall identify and provide to the Commission and the Authority a list of ~~STEM and special education~~ STEM, special education, and career and technical education licensure areas and shall annually provide to the Commission the number of available positions in ~~each qualifying licensure area~~ all qualifying licensure areas relative to the number of current and anticipated teachers in ~~that each~~ each area of licensure. The Commission shall make the list of ~~STEM and special education~~ STEM, special education, and career and technical education licensure areas readily available to applicants.

...."

**SECTION 8.7.(c)** G.S. 116-209.63 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 116-209.63. Terms of forgivable loans; receipt and disbursement of funds.**

...

(b) Forgiveness. – ~~For~~ The Authority shall forgive the loan amount provided pursuant to this Part as follows:

- (1) Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, for every year a qualifying teacher remains a qualifying teacher, the Authority shall forgive the loan amount received over one year of enrollment in an educator preparation program and any interest accrued on that amount.
- (2) For every six months that a qualifying special education teacher remains a qualifying special education teacher, the Authority shall forgive the loan amount received over one year of enrollment in an educator preparation program and any interest accrued on that amount.
- (3) The Authority shall also forgive the loan if it finds that it is impossible for the recipient to work for up to eight years, within 10 years after completion of the program leading to teacher licensure, at a North Carolina public school because of the death or permanent disability of the recipient. If the recipient repays the forgivable loan by cash payments, all indebtedness shall be repaid within 10 years after completion of the program leading to teacher licensure supported by the forgivable loan. If the recipient completes a program leading to teacher licensure, payment of principal and interest shall begin no later than the first day of September after the completion of the program. Should a

1                   recipient present extenuating circumstances, the Authority may extend the  
2                   period to repay the loan in cash to no more than a total of 12 years."  
3               **SECTION 8.7.(d)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2025, and applies  
4   beginning in the 2025-2026 academic year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H13(S8.8)-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***REQUIRE UNC TO INCORPORATE POSITION INFORMATION INTO BEACON/HR  
PAYROLL SYSTEM***

**SECTION 8.8.** No later than April 15, 2026, the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, in collaboration with the Office of State Controller and the State Chief Information Officer, shall incorporate all position and salary information for employees of constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina, The University of North Carolina System Office, the State Education Assistance Authority, and any other entity under the purview of the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina into the Building Enterprise Access for North Carolina's Core Operation Needs (BEACON) human resources payroll system. The Board of Governors shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the results of this process by May 15, 2026.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H14(S8.10)i

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

1 *PERMIT CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH*  
2 *CAROLINA TO PROVIDE DISCOUNTED TUITION TO PERSONS RECEIVING*  
3 *MILITARY TUITION ASSISTANCE OR PERSONS ENROLLED IN AN*  
4 *EMPLOYER-SPONSORED FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM*

5 SECTION 8.10.(a) G.S. 116-143 reads as rewritten:

6 "§ 116-143. State-supported institutions of higher education required to charge tuition and  
7 fees.

8 ...

9 (c) Inasmuch as the giving of tuition and fee waivers, or especially reduced rates,  
10 represent in effect a variety of scholarship awards, the said practice is hereby prohibited except  
11 when expressly authorized by statute.

12 ~~(d) Notwithstanding the above provision relating to the abolition of free tuition, the Board~~  
13 ~~of Governors of The University of North Carolina may, in its discretion, provide regulations~~  
14 ~~under which personnel may during the period of normal employment enroll in The University of~~  
15 ~~North Carolina free of charge for tuition and fees, provided such enrollment does not interfere~~  
16 ~~with normal employment obligations and further provided that such enrollments are not counted~~  
17 ~~for the purpose of receiving General Fund appropriations as follows:~~

18 (1) ~~Except as provided in subdivision (2) of this subsection, a full time faculty~~  
19 ~~member of the rank of full time instructor or above and any full time staff~~  
20 ~~member of The University of North Carolina may enroll in not more than three~~  
21 ~~courses per year.~~

22 (2) ~~A full time or part time campus law enforcement officer may enroll in the~~  
23 ~~number of courses per year determined by regulation.~~

24 (d1) Notwithstanding subsection (c) of this section, the Board of Governors of The  
25 University of North Carolina may do any of the following:

26 (1) Personnel. – Provide regulations under which personnel may enroll in The  
27 University of North Carolina free of charge for tuition and fees during the  
28 period of normal employment if the (i) enrollment does not interfere with  
29 normal employment obligations and (ii) enrollments are not counted for the  
30 purpose of receiving General Fund appropriations. Personnel may enroll free  
31 of charge for tuition and fees as follows:

32 a. A full-time faculty member of the rank of full-time instructor or above  
33 of The University of North Carolina may enroll in not more than three  
34 courses per year.

35 b. A full-time staff member of The University of North Carolina may  
36 enroll in more than three courses per year.

37 c. A full-time or part-time campus law enforcement officer may enroll in  
38 the number of courses per year determined by regulation.

39 (2) Military students. – Allow constituent institutions, in their discretion, to  
40 discount tuition to qualifying military students by an amount of up to the  
41 difference in the maximum amount of military tuition assistance funds the



1 student receives and the applicable tuition. For purposes of this subdivision, a  
2 qualifying military student is a student who meets the following criteria:

- 3 a. Is a resident for tuition purposes under G.S. 116-143.1.  
4 b. Receives either (i) federal military tuition assistance funds or (ii)  
5 military tuition assistance funds for members of the North Carolina  
6 National Guard under Article 15 of Chapter 127A of the General  
7 Statutes.

- 8 (3) Employer sponsorships. – Allow constituent institutions, in their discretion,  
9 to discount tuition to students who are enrolled in an employer-sponsored  
10 financial support program which has been approved by the Board of  
11 Governors of The University of North Carolina. The discount may be up to  
12 the difference in the maximum amount provided by the employer and the  
13 applicable tuition. For purposes of this subdivision, an employer-sponsored  
14 financial support program is a program in which the employer of a student has  
15 committed to provide financial support to the student to offset the costs of  
16 tuition or fees in the student's degree or credential program.

17 (d2) No later than February 15 of each year, the Board of Governors of The University of  
18 North Carolina shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal  
19 Research Division on the discounted tuition provided in the previous academic year pursuant to  
20 subdivisions (2) and (3) of subsection (d1) of this section, including at least the following  
21 information:

- 22 (1) The number of students that receive a discount under subdivisions (2) and (3)  
23 of subsection (d1) of this section.  
24 (2) The annual financial impact on each constituent institution resulting from the  
25 discounted tuition provided.

26 ...."

27 **SECTION 8.10.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies  
28 beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H16(S8.13)i

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***ESTABLISH OFFICE OF LEARNING RESEARCH***

**SECTION 8.13.(a)** Article 31A of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

**"§ 116-257. Office of Learning Research.**

(a) Office of Learning Research Established. – There is established the Office of Learning Research (OLR) to identify and evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of programs, activities, initiatives, procedures, and any other factors related to elementary and secondary education in the State. The OLR shall be housed within the Collaboratory.

(b) Funding and Duties of the OLR. – Funding allocated to the Collaboratory for the OLR shall be administered by the Collaboratory pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 116-255(c). These funds shall be used to do at least the following:

- (1) Provide information and support needed by elementary and secondary public schools, university leaders, and elected officials to make evidence-based decisions.
- (2) Collaborate with constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina and other stakeholders to implement innovative policies and programs to accelerate learning for all students.
- (3) Work with external research resources and partners to evaluate local, State, and federal programs in order to establish metrics and assess return on investment.
- (4) Support the operations of the OLR.

(c) Access to Information. – All units of State and local government, including the State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction, and public school units, shall provide access to the OLR to records, data, processes, personnel, and any other information deemed relevant by the Collaboratory to carry out its duties pursuant to G.S. 116-255(b). The access provided to the Collaboratory pursuant to this subsection shall be in addition to any access provided related to funding received by the Collaboratory under G.S. 116-255(c)."

**SECTION 8.13.(b)** Section 2A.8 of S.L. 2024-57 reads as rewritten:

~~"SECTION 2A.8.(a) OLR Established. OLR Funds.~~ – There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to be allocated to the North Carolina Collaboratory to ~~establish and operate the Office of Learning Research (OLR), beginning in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The purpose of OLR is to identify and evaluate the efficacy and efficiency of programs, activities, initiatives, procedures, and any other factors related to elementary and secondary education in the State.~~

~~"SECTION 2A.8.(b) Funding and Duties of OLR.~~ – Funding allocated to the Collaboratory for OLR shall be administered by the Collaboratory pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 116-255(c). These funds shall be used to do at least the following:

- ~~(1) Provide information and support needed by elementary and secondary public schools, university leaders, and elected officials to make evidence-based decisions.~~

- 1           (2) Collaborate with constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina  
2           and other stakeholders to implement innovative policies and programs to  
3           accelerate learning for all students.  
4           (3) Work with external research resources and partners to evaluate local, State,  
5           and federal programs in order to establish metrics and assess return on  
6           investment.  
7           (4) Support the operations of OLR.

8       ~~"SECTION 2A.8.(c) Collaboratory May Relocate OLR. After the Collaboratory~~  
9       ~~establishes OLR, the Collaboratory may, in consultation with The University of North Carolina~~  
10      ~~System Office and the Provost at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, relocate OLR~~  
11      ~~within the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. If the Collaboratory relocates OLR~~  
12      ~~pursuant to this section, the Collaboratory shall do the following:~~

- 13           (1) Continue to administer funds appropriated in this act for OLR for the  
14           operations of OLR, as described in subsection (b) of this section.  
15           (2) Continue to determine, fund, manage, and oversee the research portfolio of  
16           OLR. The entity to which OLR is relocated shall otherwise oversee the  
17           operations of OLR.  
18           (3) Within 60 days of the relocation, report to the Joint Legislative Education  
19           Oversight Committee on where OLR was relocated and any other information  
20           the Collaboratory deems relevant to the relocation.

21      ~~"SECTION 2A.8.(d) Access to Information. All units of State and local government,~~  
22      ~~including the State Board of Education, the Department of Public Instruction, and public school~~  
23      ~~units, shall provide reasonable access to records, data, processes, personnel, and any other~~  
24      ~~information deemed relevant by the Office or the Collaboratory, to the extent otherwise permitted~~  
25      ~~under State and federal law, to carry out the provisions of this section.~~

26      ~~"SECTION 2A.8.(e) Report. – No later than July 1, 2025, the Collaboratory shall report to~~  
27      ~~the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the progress made in establishing and~~  
28      ~~operating the OLR pursuant to this section. For each fiscal year OLR is in operation, the~~  
29      ~~Collaboratory shall include in the annual report required by G.S. 116-256 information on the~~  
30      ~~activities of OLR from the prior fiscal year."~~

31           **SECTION 8.13.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H17(S8.16)i

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

**REVISE DEADLINE FOR UNC REPORT ON STATE BUDGET ALLOCATIONS AND  
POLICIES**

**SECTION 8.16.** G.S. 116-11(9b) reads as rewritten:

"(9b) The Board of Governors shall report by ~~February 1~~ March 1 of each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House of Representatives Appropriations Subcommittee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division on the actions and adjustments necessary to its budgetary policies, regulations, and standards resulting from the Current Operations Appropriations Act for the administration and operation of The University of North Carolina and the distribution of State and federal funds to constituent institutions. The report shall include at least the following information for each constituent institution:

- a. Guidelines related to State salaries of University of North Carolina employees, including range, median, and mean of faculty salaries at the institution.
- b. Budget allocations and reductions, including for operating expenses and specific programs.
- c. Distribution of additional State allocations for enrollment funding.
- d. Use of State funds and budget flexibility.
- e. Availability of federal funds.
- f. Tuition and fees.
- g. Composition of the student population at the institution, including headcount enrollment and full-time student enrollment for both undergraduate and graduate students, and aggregate data on residency status, median household income, gender, race, and ethnicity.
- h. Student retention and graduation rates.
- i. Postsecondary educational attainment rate at the institution, including comparison to statewide data.
- j. A comparison to prior fiscal year expenditures and appropriations.
- k. The total amount of mandatory student fee revenue collected by institution and fee type.
- l. Any source of student auxiliary revenue that represents greater than ten percent (10%) of the overall student auxiliary revenue by institution and revenue type.
- m. Any source of sales revenue that represents greater than ten percent (10%) of the overall sales revenue by institution and sales revenue type."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H19(S8.18)i

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***CARRYFORWARD UNC ENROLLMENT LOSS MITIGATION FUNDS***

**SECTION 8.18.(a)** Section 2A.4 of S.L. 2024-57 reads as rewritten:

~~"SECTION 2A.4. SECTION 2A.4.(a)~~ There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2024-2025 fiscal year the sum of seven million eight hundred thirty-seven thousand six hundred forty-six dollars (\$7,837,646) in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to offset enrollment-related funding losses experienced by certain constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina, as follows:

<b>Allocation</b>	<b>Constituent Institution</b>
\$1,364,971	East Carolina University
\$1,500,000	University of North Carolina at Asheville
\$19,687	University of North Carolina at Greensboro
\$3,701,653	University of North Carolina at Pembroke
\$1,251,335	Winston-Salem State University

**SECTION 2A.4.(b)** These funds shall not revert at the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year but shall remain available until the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year."

**SECTION 8.18.(b)** This section becomes effective June 30, 2025.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H3(S8.19)-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***INCREASE NC PROMISE TUITION FOR NONRESIDENTS***

**SECTION 8.19.(a)** G.S. 116-143.11(a) reads as rewritten:

"(a) The NC Promise Tuition Plan shall be established and implemented as provided by this section. Notwithstanding G.S. 116-143 and G.S. 116-11(7), the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall set the rate of undergraduate tuition for Elizabeth City State University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Fayetteville State University, and Western Carolina University as follows: the rate of tuition for students deemed to be North Carolina residents for purposes of tuition shall be five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per academic semester and the rate of tuition for nonresident students shall be ~~two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500)~~ three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3,500) per academic semester."

**SECTION 8.19.(b)** This section applies beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year to nonresident students matriculating at NC Promise institutions. Any nonresident student enrolled in the 2025-2026 academic year at an NC Promise institution who remains continuously enrolled in that institution shall continue to receive a rate of tuition of two thousand five hundred dollars (\$2,500) per academic semester.

**SECTION 8.19.(c)** For purposes of this section, the term "NC Promise institution" refers to Elizabeth City State University, the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, Fayetteville State University, and Western Carolina University.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H6(S8.20)-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***INSTITUTIONAL PERFORMANCE ACCOUNTABILITY AND FUNDING***

**SECTION 8.20.** Part 2A of Article 1 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new section to read:

**"§ 116-30.10. Institutional performance accountability.**

(a) Implementation of Accountability Measures and Performance Standards. – To the extent funds are available to the Board of Governors pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter or otherwise made available for this purpose, the Board of Governors may adopt and implement a system of accountability measures and performance standards to be used to allocate those funds to constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina.

(b) Recognition of Successful Institutional Performance. – The Board may allocate available funds among constituent institutions based on an evaluation of the performance of each institution conducted in accordance with the system of accountability measures and performance standards adopted pursuant to subsection (a) of this section. The evaluation shall include at least the following components:

(1) Performance change, based on the rate of student success at a constituent institution as compared to the baseline or goal rate of student success for that constituent institution.

(2) Institutional impact, based on the number of students at a constituent institution who graduate with a degree.

(c) Institutional Support. – In addition to any funds allocated pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, the Board of Governors may allocate available funds to specific constituent institutions that require targeted support to increase performance or adapt to significant enrollment changes. Funds allocated to an institution pursuant to this subsection may be used to support strategies at the constituent institution to improve institutional performance."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H20(S8.22)-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***UNC STUDY INCREASING NCSSM MORGANTON SIZE***

**SECTION 8.22.(a)** No later than February 15, 2026, the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, in consultation with the Chancellor of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics, shall study the feasibility of increasing the size of the Morganton campus of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM-Morganton), develop a plan to accommodate at least twice as many enrolled students at NCSSM-Morganton, and report the plan to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. At a minimum, the plan shall include the following information:

- (1) An analysis of the number of students with excellent academic records who apply to the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics but are not accepted because of lack of physical space or other resources.
- (2) Resources needed to accommodate additional students and associated costs, including at least the following:
  - a. Improvements to physical spaces, including residence halls.
  - b. Additional faculty and staff.
  - c. Instructional materials.
  - d. Other costs, as determined by the Board of Governors.
- (3) The extent to which increased enrollment could be accomplished through remote instruction, whether synchronously or asynchronously.

**SECTION 8.22.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H23(S8.24)i

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

***FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY AND UNIVERSITY TECH PLANNING***

**SECTION 8.24.** G.S. 116-11 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

"(9c) The Board shall adopt a policy that requires all constituent institutions to evaluate the following when acquiring the technology, computer hardware, and software:

- a. The long-term cost of ownership, including costs of repairing the technology, computer hardware, or software.
- b. Any flexibility for innovation during the life of the technology, computer hardware, or software.
- c. Any anticipated resale or salvage value at the end of the target life cycle for the technology, computer hardware, or software based on the average resale or salvage value of similar technology, computer hardware, or software as a percentage of the initial cost of purchase."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H2-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**COLLABORATORY OLR MATH INITIATIVE**

**SECTION #.(a)** The Office of Learning Research (OLR), as established by this act, shall develop a series of pilot initiatives using various mathematics support programs for all grade levels. OLR shall then compare results gathered from the initiatives, including existing high-intensity tutoring programs operating in the State, to evaluate the efficacy of the various initiatives and programs. OLR shall use at least the following programs in the initiatives developed pursuant to this section:

- (1) Zearn Math, by Zearn.
- (2) i-Ready Math, by Curriculum Associates, LLC.

**SECTION #.(b)** OLR shall develop guidelines for initiatives developed pursuant to this section. Guidelines shall include at least the following:

- (1) Acceptable uses for any funds provided to public school units from funds appropriated to OLR for the purposes of this section.
- (2) Application and approval processes for public school units interested in participating in an initiative.
- (3) Reporting requirements for public school units participating in each initiative so that OLR will have necessary data to evaluate the efficacy of each initiative.

**SECTION #.(c)** OLR may conduct as many different initiatives as OLR deems feasible with funds available for this purpose. OLR shall attempt to control for varying demographics of public school units when evaluating data collected pursuant to this section.

**SECTION #.(d)** OLR shall develop procedures for enabling public school units participating in an initiative to have access to the programs referenced in subsection (b) of this section. Procedures may include OLR contracting with an entity for access to a program, providing grant funds to participating public school units, or other methods of procuring the programs.

**SECTION #.(e)** OLR shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the efficacy of each initiative developed pursuant to this section by October 15, 2026, and each year thereafter that funds are received for this purpose. The report shall include evaluations of which programs are most effective at improving mathematics outcomes and recommendations on programs to continue use in the public schools of the State.

**SECTION #.(f)** Notwithstanding Article 31A of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes, funds appropriated for the purposes of this section shall only be used to develop and implement the initiatives developed pursuant to this section.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H31-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***OLR TO STUDY 9-12 LITERACY PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT***

**SECTION #.** The Office of Learning Research (OLR), as established by this act, shall evaluate providers of literacy professional development for teachers teaching students in grades nine through 12 that are not reading at grade level. OLR shall evaluate various providers of literacy professional development, including those already used by the State for teachers teaching students in kindergarten through grade eight. OLR shall provide recommendations for any professional development providers that align with existing literacy standards of the State to be used for these purposes to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by April 15, 2026.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H9-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***SCHOOL BUSINESS SYSTEMS MODERNIZATION STUDY***

**SECTION #.** The North Carolina Collaboratory shall conduct a study to determine the feasibility of having all public school units universally implement one Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) platform. The ERP platform must interface with the Uniform Education Reporting System and integrate finance, human resources, and payroll functions. No later than November 1, 2026, the Collaboratory shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division at least the following information:

- (1) An analysis of the positive and negative impacts of universal implementation.
- (2) Any ERP platforms feasibly capable of being universally implemented by all public school units.
- (3) The cost of universal implementation of each identified ERP platform.
- (4) A time line for universal implementation.
- (5) Challenges to universal implementation, including recommendations for any legislative changes needed to facilitate implementation.
- (6) Any other information the Collaboratory deems relevant.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H8-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**UNC FUNDING REDUCTION**

**SECTION #.(a)** The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina shall allocate the funding reduction provided for in this act in each fiscal year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium as follows:

- (1) In a manner that recognizes the importance of the academic missions and differences among the entities of The University of North Carolina and not by using an across-the-board method.
- (2) In making reductions in accordance with this act, the Board of Governors and the constituent institutions shall first prioritize reductions to the following:
  - a. Budget Code 16010, UNC System Office.
  - b. Budget Code 16011, UNC BOG – Institutional Programs.
  - c. Project Kitty Hawk.
- (3) The Board of Governors and the constituent institutions shall review the institutional trust funds and the special funds held by or on behalf of The University of North Carolina and its constituent institutions to determine whether there are monies available in those funds that can be used to assist with operating costs.
- (4) The Board of Governors and the constituent institutions shall not take a reduction in State funds allocated in either fiscal year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium for any of the following:
  - a. Budget Code 16012, UNC BOG Related Ed. Programs.
  - b. Budget Code 16015, UNC BOG Aid to Private Institutions.
  - c. Budget Code 16022, UNC at Chapel Hill – Area Health Ed.
  - d. Agricultural research and extension programs.
  - e. North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.
  - f. University of North Carolina School of the Arts.
  - g. Any budget expansion item funded by an appropriation to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina in this act for the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium.

**SECTION #.(b)** No later than April 1 of each year of the 2025-2027 fiscal biennium, the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Office of State Budget and Management, and the Fiscal Research Division on the implementation of the funding reduction provided in this act for that fiscal year. The report shall identify at least the following by constituent institution:

- (1) The total number of positions eliminated by type (faculty/nonfaculty).
- (2) The programs that were eliminated.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H25-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

*COLLEGE OF EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES PROGRAM ONE-TIME  
CARRYFORWARD*

**SECTION #.(a)** The recurring funds appropriated to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2024-2025 fiscal year and allocated to North Carolina State University and North Carolina Central University for the College of Educational Opportunities Program at each of those institutions shall not revert at the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, but shall remain available until the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year.

**SECTION #.(b)** This section becomes effective June 30, 2025.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H28-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***AUTHORIZE THE NORTH CAROLINA COLLABORATORY TO STUDY THE  
INCLUSION OF THE CLASSIC LEARNING TEST AMONG STANDARDIZED TESTS  
CONSIDERED FOR UNDERGRADUATE ADMISSION AND THE AWARD OF  
SCHOLARSHIPS AT CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA***

**SECTION #.(a)** The North Carolina Collaboratory shall study the viability of including Classic Learning Test scores as a part of an application for admission or award of scholarship to a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina. In conducting this study, the Collaboratory shall seek input from The University of North Carolina and the James G. Martin Center for Academic Renewal. As a part of the study, the Collaboratory shall determine:

- (1) Whether an applicant's score on the Classic Learning Test serves the purpose of aiding constituent institutions in determining (i) an applicant's qualifications for undergraduate admission and (ii) an applicant's qualifications for award of scholarships funded in whole or in part with State funds and administered by an entity of The University of North Carolina.
- (2) Whether an applicant's performance on the Classic Learning Test is predictive of college success.
- (3) Whether a score on the Classic Learning Test can be deemed concordant with a score on the SAT or ACT such that The University of North Carolina could use an applicant's score on the Classic Learning Test interchangeably with a score on the SAT or ACT for the purposes of setting minimum requirements for admission and awarding scholarships.
- (4) The financial, operational, and administrative cost to The University of North Carolina and constituent institutions associated with accepting an applicant's score on the Classic Learning Test in addition to accepting an applicant's score on the SAT or ACT.
- (5) The financial, operational, and administrative cost to the State of adding the CLT10 to the list of standardized tests offered one time and at no cost to the student for every student in the eighth through tenth grades who has completed Algebra I or who is in the last month of Algebra I pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.18.

**SECTION #.(b)** The Collaboratory shall make a final report on its study to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee no later than December 15, 2025.

**SECTION #.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H29-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**REVISE TUITION GRANTS FOR NCSSM AND UNCSA GRADUATES**

**SECTION #.(a)** Part 6 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Part 6. Tuition Grant for High School Graduates of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

**"§ 116-209.89. Definitions. Definitions; purpose.**

(a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this Part:

(1) Academic term. – Any of the following:

- a. One fall semester.
- b. One spring semester.
- c. One summer term.

(1a) Eligible graduate. – A graduate of either of the following:

- a. The North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics.
- b. The University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

(1b) Eligible student. – A student who meets the requirements of subsection (a) of G.S. 116-209.90.

(1c) Program. – The program established in this Part to provide tuition grants to high school graduates of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts.

(2) Summer term. – All instruction received in one summer between academic years.

(b) Purpose. – The purpose of the Program is to provide financial assistance to eligible students who graduated from the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics and the University of North Carolina School of the Arts to promote the retention of those high-performing students in this State.

**"§ 116-209.90. Tuition grants for graduates to attend a constituent institution.**

(a) Within the funds available, an eligible graduate in each school year who meets the following conditions shall qualify for a tuition grant awarded under this Part:

- (1) Is at the time of application for the initial tuition grant a resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in G.S. 116-143.1 and in accordance with the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the Authority.
- (2) Enrolls as a full-time student in a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina in the next academic year after graduation. The Authority shall have the discretion to postpone this requirement for up to one academic year after graduation if the student is able to demonstrate that any of the following have substantially disrupted or interrupted the student's ability to enroll as a full-time student:
  - a. A military service obligation.
  - b. Serious medical debilitation.



1 c. A short-term or long-term disability.

2 d. Other extraordinary hardship.

3 (3) ~~Submits a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)~~  
4 ~~form.~~

5 (b) Students who receive initial tuition grants as a cohort of a high school graduating class  
6 of NCSSM or UNCSCA shall also be eligible to apply for tuition grants for subsequent academic  
7 terms for up to a total of eight academic terms, provided that tuition grants are only used for  
8 undergraduate tuition.

9 (b1) ~~A student~~ An eligible student must be continuously enrolled full time in an  
10 undergraduate program at a constituent institution of The University of North Carolina after the  
11 award of the initial tuition grant to be eligible for tuition grants in subsequent academic terms.  
12 The Authority shall have the discretion to waive this requirement if the student is able to  
13 demonstrate that any of the following have substantially disrupted or interrupted the student's  
14 pursuit of a degree:

15 (1) A military service obligation.

16 (2) Serious medical debilitation.

17 (3) A short-term or long-term disability.

18 (4) Other extraordinary hardship.

19 (c) The amount of the tuition grant to each graduate shall be determined and distributed  
20 as provided in G.S. 116-209.91.

21 **"§ 116-209.91. Administration of tuition grants.**

22 (a) ~~The~~ Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, the Authority shall administer  
23 the tuition grants provided for in this Part pursuant to guidelines and procedures established by  
24 the Authority consistent with its practices for administering State-funded financial aid. The  
25 guidelines and procedures shall include an application process and schedule, notification and  
26 disbursement procedures, standards for reporting, and standards for return of tuition grants when  
27 a student withdraws. The Authority shall also require students to submit (i) a completed Free  
28 Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form or (ii) other documentation, as necessary, to  
29 administer and award the tuition grant. The Authority shall not approve any grant until it receives  
30 proper certification from the appropriate constituent institution that the student applying for the  
31 grant is an eligible student. Upon receipt of the certification, the Authority shall remit, at the  
32 times it prescribes, the tuition grant to the constituent institution on behalf, and to the credit, of  
33 the eligible student. In the event a student on whose behalf a tuition grant has been paid is not  
34 enrolled in an undergraduate program and carrying a minimum academic load as of the tenth  
35 classroom day following the beginning of the school term for which the tuition grant was paid,  
36 the constituent institution shall refund the full amount of the tuition grant to the Authority.

37 (b) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the amount of the grant awarded to ~~a~~ an  
38 eligible student under the Program shall cover the tuition cost at the constituent institution in  
39 which the eligible student is enrolled. No tuition grant awarded to ~~a~~ an eligible student under this  
40 section shall exceed the cost of attendance at a constituent institution for which the eligible  
41 student is enrolled.

42 (c) ~~If a student, who is eligible for a tuition grant under this section,~~ an eligible student  
43 also receives a scholarship or other grant covering the cost of attendance at the constituent  
44 institution for which the tuition grant is awarded, then the amount of the tuition grant shall be  
45 reduced by an appropriate amount determined by the Authority so that the total amount of  
46 scholarships and grants received by the eligible student does not exceed the cost of attendance  
47 for the institution. The cost of attendance shall be determined by the Authority for each  
48 constituent institution.

49 (c1) The Authority shall place all funds appropriated to, or otherwise received by, the  
50 Authority for the award of tuition grants under this Part into an institutional trust fund established  
51 in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 116-36.1. All interest earned on these funds shall also

1 be placed in the institutional trust fund established pursuant to this subsection. The monies in the  
2 institutional trust fund may be used only for the purposes set forth in this Part.

3 (d) In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each eligible student who has  
4 applied in accordance with the application process and the schedule established by the Authority  
5 with a full tuition grant as provided by this Part, each eligible student shall receive a pro rata  
6 share of funds available for the academic term covered by the appropriation in the preceding  
7 fiscal year.

8 (e) The Authority may use up to five percent (5%) of the funds appropriated each year  
9 for tuition grants under this Part for the administrative costs-costs of the Program."

10 **SECTION #.(b)** This section is effective when this act becomes law. Subsection (a)  
11 of this section applies beginning with the award of tuition grants in the 2025-2026 academic year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H30-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***PRESERVATION OF STUDENT RECORDS HELD BY LICENSED NONPUBLIC  
POSTSECONDARY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS***

**SECTION #.** G.S. 116-15 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 116-15. Licensing of certain nonpublic post-secondary educational institutions.**

...

(f) Standards for Licensure. – To receive a license to conduct post-secondary degree activity in this State, an institution shall satisfy the Board that the institution has met all of the following standards:

- (1) ~~That the~~ The institution is State-chartered. If chartered by a state or sovereignty other than North Carolina, the institution shall also obtain a Certificate of Authority to Transact Business or to Conduct Affairs in North Carolina issued by the Secretary of State of North ~~Carolina;~~ Carolina.
- (2) ~~That the~~ The institution has been conducting post-secondary degree activity in a state or sovereignty other than North Carolina during consecutive, regular-term, academic semesters, exclusive of summer sessions, for at least the two years immediately prior to submitting an application for licensure under this section, or has been conducting with enrolled students, for a like period in this State or some other state or sovereignty, post-secondary educational activity not related to a post-secondary degree; provided, that an institution may be temporarily relieved of this standard under the conditions set forth in ~~subsection (i), below;~~ subsection (i) of this section.
- (3) ~~That the~~ The substance of each course or program of study, equivalent experience, or achievement test is such as may reasonably and adequately achieve the stated objective for which the study, experience, or test is offered or to be certified as successfully ~~completed;~~ completed.
- (4) ~~That the~~ The institution has adequate space, equipment, instructional materials, and personnel available to it to provide education of good ~~quality;~~ quality.
- (5) ~~That the~~ The education, experience, and other qualifications of directors, administrators, supervisors, and instructors are such as may reasonably insure that the students will receive, or will be reliably certified to have received, education consistent with the stated objectives of any course or program of study, equivalent experience, or achievement test offered by the ~~institution;~~ institution.
- (6) ~~That the~~ The institution provides students and other interested persons with a catalog or brochure containing information describing the substance, objectives, and duration of the study, equivalent experience, and achievement testing offered, a schedule of related tuition, fees, and all other necessary charges and expenses, cancellation and refund policies, and such other material facts concerning the institution and the program or course of study,

equivalent experience, and achievement testing as are reasonably likely to affect the decision of the student to enroll therein, together with any other disclosures that may be specified by the Board; and that such information is provided to prospective students prior to ~~enrollment~~; enrollment.

- (7) ~~That upon~~ Upon satisfactory completion of study, equivalent experience, or achievement test, the student is given appropriate educational credentials by the institution, indicating that the relevant study, equivalent experience, or achievement testing has been satisfactorily completed by the ~~students~~; students.
- (8) ~~That records~~ Records are maintained by the institution adequate to reflect the application of relevant performance or grading standards to each enrolled ~~student~~; student. If the institution ceases to operate in this State, the owner of the institution shall ensure that these records are transferred to the North Carolina State Archives.
- (9) ~~That the~~ The institution is maintained and operated in compliance with all pertinent ordinances and laws, including rules and regulations adopted pursuant thereto, relative to the safety and health of all persons upon the premises of the ~~institution~~; institution.
- (10) ~~That the~~ The institution is financially sound and capable of fulfilling its commitments to students and that the institution has provided a bond as provided in subsection (f1) of this ~~section~~; section.
- (11) ~~That the~~ The institution, through itself or those with whom it may contract, does not engage in promotion, sales, collection, credit, or other practices of any type which are false, deceptive, misleading, or ~~unfair~~; unfair.
- (12) ~~That the~~ The chief executive officer, trustees, directors, owners, administrators, supervisors, staff, instructors, and employees of the institution have no record of unprofessional conduct or incompetence that would reasonably call into question the overall quality of the ~~institution~~; institution.
- (13) ~~That the~~ The student housing owned, maintained, or approved by the institution, if any, is appropriate, safe, and ~~adequate~~; adequate.
- (14) ~~That the~~ The institution has a fair and equitable cancellation and refund ~~policy~~; and policy.
- (15) ~~That no~~ No person or agency with whom the institution contracts has a record of unprofessional conduct or incompetence that would reasonably call into question the overall quality of the institution.

...

(j) Enforcement Authority in the Attorney General. – The Board shall call to the attention of the Attorney General, for such action as he may deem appropriate, any institution failing to comply with the requirements of this section. In addition, if the Board determines that the student academic records identified in subdivision (8) of subsection (f) of this section are in danger of being made unavailable to the North Carolina State Archives for any reason, including refusal by the institution to transfer those records, the Board shall notify the Attorney General and the Attorney General shall take appropriate action to ensure the records are retrieved and preserved at the North Carolina State Archives.

...."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H32-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***ESTABLISH SEPARATE BUDGET CODE FOR NORTH CAROLINA COLLABORATORY***

**SECTION #.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, as a part of the certification of the budget of The University of North Carolina for the 2025-2026 fiscal year, the Director of the Budget, in consultation with The University of North Carolina and the North Carolina Collaboratory (Collaboratory), shall establish a separate budget code and make the necessary permanent adjustments to ensure that State appropriations for the Collaboratory are clearly accounted for in the new budget code. The adjustments shall include establishing one or more budget funds to account for each project funded with State appropriations as well as a separate budget fund or funds to account for administration of the Collaboratory.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNC-H33-P

University of North Carolina and Private Instruction  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**UNC HEALTH SCIENCES PROVIDER EDUCATION TRAINING FUNDS/CAROLINA  
NORTH SITE PLAN**

**SECTION #.(a)** No later than March 15, 2026, the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the specific uses by UNC-CH of the two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds appropriated from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2023-2024 fiscal year and allocated to UNC-CH for its Department of Health Sciences at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine to support an expansion of health care provider education and training.

**SECTION #.(b)** Notwithstanding any provision of law or the Committee Report described in Section 43.2 of S.L. 2023-134, the unencumbered balance of the two million dollars (\$2,000,000) in nonrecurring funds appropriated from the ARPA Temporary Savings Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2023-2024 fiscal year in S.L. 2023-134 and allocated to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) for its Department of Health Sciences at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine to support an expansion of health care provider education and training shall instead be used to develop a conceptual site plan for Carolina North. The site plan shall not consider medical buildings receiving funds through this act.

**SECTION #.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H4(S8A.2)-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

**REVISE CERTAIN OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP DOMICILE VERIFICATION  
REQUIREMENTS**

**SECTION 8A.2.(a)** G.S. 115C-562.3 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-562.3. Verification of eligibility; information from other State agencies.**

(a) To verify that the domicile requirements of G.S. 115C-366 are met for State ~~residency~~, residency for the award of scholarship grants pursuant to this Part, the Authority shall establish a domicile determination system and shall establish rules for determination of domicile within the State in accordance with this subsection. The Division of Motor Vehicles of the Department of Transportation, the Department of Public Instruction, the Department of Commerce, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Revenue, the State Board of Elections, and the State Chief Information Officer each shall expeditiously cooperate with the Authority in verifying electronically, or by other similarly effective and efficient means, evidence submitted to the Authority for the purposes of establishing the domicile required by G.S. 115C-366 for State residency. The Authority shall accept any of the following as evidence of domicile within the State:

...

(b) Household members of applicants for scholarship grants shall authorize the Authority to access ~~information~~ certain information, including social security numbers and other unique identifiers, needed for verification efforts conducted under this section that is held by other State agencies, including the Department of Revenue, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Public Instruction.

(b1) The Authority may adopt in its rules a process for contracting with a third-party vendor to facilitate the verification of domicile or other application information in accordance with this section.

(c) By December 1 of each year, the Department of Public Instruction shall provide the Authority the average State per pupil allocation for that fiscal year to determine the maximum scholarship amount for eligible students to be awarded in the following fiscal year in accordance with G.S. 115C-562.2(b2)."

**SECTION 8A.2.(b)** G.S. 115C-594 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-594. Verification of eligibility; information from other State agencies.**

(a) Verification of Information. – The Authority may seek verification of information on any application for the award of scholarship funds for a personal education student account. The Authority shall establish rules for the verification process. If a household fails to cooperate with verification efforts, the Authority shall revoke the award of scholarship funds for a PESA for the eligible student.

(b) Access to Information. – Applicants for the award of scholarship funds for a PESA shall authorize the Authority to access information needed for verification efforts held by other State agencies, including the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction. The provisions of G.S. 115C-562.3 shall apply to this section."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H5(S8A.3)i

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

1 **CLARIFY APPLICATION DATE FOR OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP AND PESA**  
2 **PROGRAMS**

3 **SECTION 8A.3.(a)** G.S. 115C-562.2(a) reads as rewritten:

4 "(a) The Authority shall make available no later than ~~February 1 annually~~ the first Monday  
5 in February of each year applications to eligible students for the award of scholarship grants to  
6 attend any nonpublic school on a full- or part-time basis. Information about scholarship grants  
7 and the application process shall be made available on the Authority's Web site. Beginning March  
8 15, the Authority shall begin awarding scholarship grants to students who have applied by ~~March~~  
9 ~~1~~ the first Monday in March in the following order:

10 ...."

11 **SECTION 8A.3.(b)** G.S. 115C-592(a) reads as rewritten:

12 "(a) Application Selection. – The Authority shall make available no later than ~~February 1~~  
13 the first Monday in February of each year applications to eligible students for the award of  
14 scholarship funds for a personal education student account to be used for qualifying education  
15 expenses to attend a nonpublic school. Information about scholarship funds and the application  
16 process shall be made available on the Authority's website. Applications shall be submitted  
17 electronically. The Authority shall award scholarships according to the following criteria for  
18 applications received by ~~March 1~~ the first Monday in March of each year:

19 ...."



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Drafting  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H6(S8A.4)i

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

***PERMIT SEAA TO PROVIDE PAYMENTS FOR TESTS FOR OPPORTUNITY  
SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS USING ALTERNATIVE METHODS***

**SECTION 8A.4.** G.S. 115C-562.2(b5) reads as rewritten:

"(b5) In addition to the amount of the scholarship grant, for any student receiving a scholarship grant in grades three, eight, or 11, the Authority shall provide to the nonpublic school for the student an amount equal to the cost of the nationally standardized test required to be administered as provided in G.S. 115C-562.5."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H7(S8A.5)-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

**CLARIFY OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS**

**SECTION 8A.5.(a)** Part 2A of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-562.2A. Residency required; qualified exemption for military families.**

(a) Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) Documentation of military orders. – A copy of the official military order transferring to a military installation or reservation located in the State.

(2) Military-connected student. – An eligible student who is the child of a military family, as defined in G.S. 115C-407.5.

(b) Residency Required. – Except as otherwise provided in this section, a student shall be a resident of North Carolina that is eligible to attend a North Carolina public school pursuant to Article 25 of this Chapter in both of the following circumstances:

(1) At the time the student applies to receive a scholarship grant under this Part.

(2) At the beginning of each school year in which the student is eligible to receive scholarship grant funds.

(c) Qualified Residency Exemptions for Military-Connected Students. – A military-connected student who is not a resident solely because of military orders impacting the residency of that student and who provides applicable documentation of military orders shall receive the following qualified exemptions related to the residency requirements in this section:

(1) If the military-connected student is not a resident during the application period established by the Authority, the Authority shall nevertheless accept the application and award a scholarship grant in accordance with this Part.

(2) If the military-connected student is not a resident upon initial enrollment in a nonpublic school, the military-connected student may nevertheless receive grant funds in the first semester of the school year. Thereafter, the student shall not receive a scholarship award until proof of residency is provided in accordance with the requirements of the Authority.

(d) Funds and Reports. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-562.8, if the funds required to award scholarship grants for military-connected students pursuant to subdivision (c)(1) of this section exceed the funds available for the distribution of those awards, the Authority may allocate the necessary funds from the unencumbered cash balance in the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve. If the Authority expends funds in excess of those available in the Reserve, the Authority shall submit the report required in G.S. 115C-562.7(d) as it relates to the awards provided under this section."

**SECTION 8A.5.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with applications for the award of scholarship grants in the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H11(S8A.6)-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

***REVISE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS AND  
TRANSFER ADMINISTRATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND  
VETERANS AFFAIRS TO THE STATE EDUCATION ASSISTANCE AUTHORITY***

**SECTION 8A.6.(a)** For purposes of subsection (b) of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Authority. – The State Education Assistance Authority.
- (2) Commission. – The Veterans' Affairs Commission of the Department.
- (3) Department. – The Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.
- (4) Program. – The program administered by the Department to award scholarship funds that is referred to as Scholarships for Children of Wartime Veterans.
- (5) Scholarship funds. – Scholarship funds awarded to the child of a North Carolina veteran under Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes.

**SECTION 8A.6.(b)** Notwithstanding Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, for the 2025-2026 academic year, the following shall occur relating to the administration of scholarship funds under the Program:

- (1) After the selection of persons by the Commission to receive scholarship funds, and in no event later than May 15, 2026, the Commission shall notify the Authority of all selections, and the Department shall notify the Authority of any determinations that a student qualifies for a scholarship funded with monies from the Escheat Fund.
- (2) The Authority shall determine whether additional recipients of scholarship funds qualify for scholarships funded with monies from the Escheat Fund based on a determination of need consistent with other financial assistance programs administered by the Authority and the unique needs and challenges of the children of wartime veterans to ensure they have opportunities to reach their higher education attainment goals.
- (3) To the extent funds made available for the award of scholarship funds are insufficient to provide scholarships to all selected persons, the Authority may adjust and standardize award amounts as necessary, including providing pro rata scholarship awards for room and board, to ensure the efficient administration of the scholarship funds.
- (4) The Authority may notify all recipients of their selection to receive scholarship funds in accordance with Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes. If the Department notifies any student that the student is eligible to receive scholarship funds, the Department shall inform the student that the award amount is subject to the availability of funds and may be prorated, if necessary.
- (5) The Authority shall disburse scholarship funds in accordance with G.S. 116-204(11a).

- (6) From the total amount of funding appropriated to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and allocated to the Authority in the 2025-2026 fiscal year to support the award of scholarship funds under the Program in that fiscal year, the Authority may use up to two and one-half percent (2.5%) for administration costs related to the Program.

**SECTION 8A.6.(c)** The following are repealed:

- (1) G.S. 143B-1211(11).
- (2) G.S. 143B-1220(3).
- (3) G.S. 143B-1223 through G.S. 143B-1228.

**SECTION 8A.6.(d)** Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new Part to read:

"Part 8. Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship.

**"§ 116-209.110. Purpose.**

In appreciation for the service and sacrifices of North Carolina's war veterans and as evidence of this State's concern for their children, there is established the Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship Program to be administered by the State Education Assistance Authority. The General Assembly finds that the establishment of the Program is necessary to provide financial assistance from the State to address the unique needs and challenges of the children of wartime veterans to ensure they have opportunities to reach their higher education attainment goals.

**"§ 116-209.112. Definitions.**

The following definitions shall apply in this Part:

- (1) Active federal service. – One of the following:
  - a. Full-time duty in the Armed Forces other than active duty for training.
  - b. Active duty for training, if disability or death occurs (i) as a direct result of armed conflict or (ii) while engaged in extra-hazardous service, including such service under conditions simulating war.
- (2) Armed Forces. – The United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard, including their reserve components.
- (3) Authority. – The State Education Assistance Authority established pursuant to this Article.
- (4) Disability. – A disability of a veteran that qualifies the veteran to receive compensation under 38 U.S.C. § 101.
- (5) Eligible child. – A person who meets all of the following criteria:
  - a. Is under 25 years of age at the time of application for a scholarship.
  - b. Qualifies as a resident for tuition purposes under the criteria set forth in G.S. 116-143.1 and in accordance with the coordinated and centralized residency determination process administered by the Authority.
  - c. Holds a high school diploma or its equivalent.
  - d. Is the child of a veteran who meets one of the following criteria:
    1. Is a resident of North Carolina at the time of completion of the application documentation for the Program.
    2. Was a resident of North Carolina at the time of entrance into service in the Armed Forces.
    3. Was permanently stationed in North Carolina at the time of his or her death.
    4. Is an active duty service member permanently stationed in North Carolina at the time of completion of the application documentation for the Program.
  - e. Submits a completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the Authority.

- 1           (6)   Eligible institution. – A State educational institution or a private educational  
2           institution.
- 3           (7)   Period of war or wartime. – Any of the periods or circumstances described  
4           below:
- 5               a.   Any period of war as defined in 38 U.S.C. § 101.  
6               b.   Any period of service in the Armed Forces during which the veteran  
7               parent of an applicant for a scholarship under this Part suffered death  
8               or disability (i) as a direct result of armed conflict or (ii) while engaged  
9               in extra-hazardous service, including such service under conditions  
10              simulating war.
- 11          (8)   Private educational institution. – An eligible private postsecondary institution  
12          as defined in G.S. 116-280(3).
- 13          (9)   Program. – The Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship Program  
14          established by this Part.
- 15          (10)   State educational institution. – Any constituent institution of The University  
16          of North Carolina, or any community college operated under the provisions of  
17          Chapter 115D of the General Statutes of North Carolina.
- 18          (11)   Veteran. – Either of the following:
- 19               a.   A person who served as a member of the Armed Forces in active  
20               federal service during a period of war and who was either separated  
21               from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions or who is currently  
22               serving in a second or subsequent enlistment.
- 23               b.   A person who was separated from the Armed Forces under honorable  
24               conditions and whose death or disability was incurred (i) as a direct  
25               result of armed conflict or (ii) while engaged in extra-hazardous  
26               service, including such service under conditions simulating war.

27   **"§ 116-209.114. Scholarship.**

28       (a)   Scholarship Benefits. – To the extent funds are made available for this purpose,  
29   scholarship granted pursuant to this Part shall consist of the following benefits and other  
30   requirements and limitations for eligible children enrolled as undergraduate students at eligible  
31   institutions:

- 32           (1)   Scholarship funds may be used for any of the following purposes:
- 33               a.   The cost of attendance at an eligible institution, including tuition, fees,  
34               room, and board.
- 35               b.   The cost of short-term workforce training courses leading to industry  
36               credentials.
- 37           (2)   An eligible child may only receive scholarship funds for a total of four  
38           academic years. The eligible child is not required to be continuously enrolled  
39           to receive subsequent awards in a term, quarter, or semester. However, the  
40           eligible child shall not receive an award after the end of a six-year period  
41           beginning on the date a scholarship is first awarded. Whenever an eligible  
42           child is enrolled in an eligible institution and the period for a scholarship ends  
43           while enrolled in a term, quarter, or semester, such period shall be extended  
44           to the end of such term, quarter, or semester, but not beyond the eligibility  
45           limitation of four academic years.
- 46           (3)   No scholarship awarded to an eligible child pursuant to this Part shall exceed  
47           an amount equal to the highest cost of attendance for attendance at a State  
48           educational institution for that academic year.
- 49           (4)   As necessary, the Authority shall reduce a scholarship provided pursuant to  
50           this Part so that the sum of all grants and scholarship aid covering the cost of  
51           attendance received by the student, including the scholarship under this

section, shall not exceed the cost of attendance for the eligible institution at which the student is enrolled.

(5) A student who has been awarded a scholarship under this section shall maintain satisfactory academic progress according to the standards of the eligible institution throughout the four academic years for which the student is eligible for a scholarship under this section.

(b) Selection of Recipients. – The Authority shall select recipients for scholarships and disburse the scholarships in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 116-209.116. The Authority may contract with another State agency or a third-party entity to determine eligibility and select recipients as required by G.S. 116-209.116(a)(1). In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide each eligible child who has properly applied with a full scholarship as provided by this Part, the Authority shall determine the necessary adjustment of awards consistent with the priority requirements set forth in subsection (c) of this section, including establishing a lottery, awarding scholarships on a pro rata share basis, or both, for the academic year.

(c) Award of Funds; Priority. – Beginning May 1 of the year in which the recipient enrolls in an eligible institution, the Authority shall award scholarship funds to students who have properly applied and are otherwise eligible under the Program in the following order:

(1) Students who received scholarship funds under Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes in the previous academic year.

(2) Students who received scholarship funds under Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes in any previous academic year.

(3) All other students.

**"§ 116-209.116. Administration and funding.**

(a) Responsibilities of the Authority. – The Authority shall administer the award of scholarships under this Part and have all of the following associated responsibilities:

(1) Determining the eligibility of applicants and selecting recipients.

(2) Awarding funds to scholarship recipients.

(3) Suspending or revoking scholarships if the Authority is notified and finds that a recipient does any of the following:

a. Fails to maintain satisfactory academic progress.

b. Engages in riots, unlawful demonstrations, the seizure of educational buildings, or otherwise engages in disorderly conduct, breaches of the peace, or unlawful assemblies.

(4) Promulgating such rules and regulations not inconsistent with the other provisions of this Part as the Authority deems necessary for the orderly administration of the Program. These rules may require eligible institutions to provide such reports and other information as are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Part, including whether a recipient is failing to maintain satisfactory academic progress or engaging in any of the actions described in sub-subdivision b. of subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(b) Funding. – Funds for the support of the Program shall be appropriated to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina to be allocated to the Authority as a reserve for payment of approved expenses for the cost of attendance. Funds to support the Program shall be supported by receipts from the Escheat Fund, as provided by G.S. 116B-7, to the extent those funds are used for worthy and needy residents of this State who are enrolled in public institutions of higher education of this State.

(c) Withdrawal from Enrollment. – Irrespective of any other provision of this Part, the Authority may prescribe special procedures for adjusting the accounts of scholarship recipients who, for reasons of illness, physical inability to attend class, or for other valid reason satisfactory to the Authority may withdraw from eligible institutions prior to the completion of the term, semester, quarter, or other academic period being attended at the time of withdrawal. Such

1 procedures may include, but shall not be limited to, permitting an eligible institution to pay the  
2 recipient the dollar value of his or her unused scholarship for the academic period being attended,  
3 with a corresponding deduction of this period from his or her remaining scholarship eligibility  
4 time.

5 (d) Administrative Costs. – Of the funds available each fiscal year to support the  
6 Program, the following shall occur:

7 (1) The Authority may use up to two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the total  
8 funds appropriated for that fiscal year from the allocation of monies from the  
9 General Fund for administrative costs related to the Program.

10 (2) Up to five million dollars (\$5,000,000) that are unexpended at the end of each  
11 fiscal year shall not revert but shall remain available for future scholarships to  
12 be awarded under this Part.

13 **"§ 116-209.118. Report on scholarships.**

14 By January 1 of each year, the Authority shall report the following information related to  
15 scholarships awarded under this Part to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and  
16 the Fiscal Research Division:

17 (1) The number of scholarships awarded in the prior academic year, disaggregated  
18 on the basis of at least the following:

19 a. Number of full-time students receiving scholarships, grouped by State  
20 educational institutions and private educational institutions.

21 b. Number of new applicants for scholarships.

22 c. Number of new scholarship awards offered, denied, and accepted.

23 d. Range and average amount of scholarships awarded.

24 e. Actual amount of award provided by eligible institution.

25 f. Total expenditures for scholarship awards classified by source,  
26 including State funds and Escheat Fund.

27 g. Total costs of administering the Program.

28 (2) The amount of funds held in reserve by the Authority for the award of  
29 scholarships under the Program at the end of the prior fiscal year."

30 **SECTION 8A.6.(e) G.S. 116-204 reads as rewritten:**

31 **"§ 116-204. Powers of Authority.**

32 The Authority is hereby authorized and empowered:

33 ...

34 (11a) To be responsible for the disbursement and accounting of funds for the State's  
35 Scholarships for Children of Wartime Veterans established by Part 2 of Article  
36 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes administer the Children of  
37 Wartime Veterans Scholarship established by Part 8 of Article 23 of this  
38 Chapter.

39 ...."

40 **SECTION 8A.6.(f) G.S. 116-209.23 reads as rewritten:**

41 **"§ 116-209.23. Inconsistent laws inapplicable.**

42 Insofar as the provisions of this Article are inconsistent with the provisions of any general or  
43 special laws, or parts thereof, the provisions of this Article shall be ~~controlling, except that no~~  
44 ~~provision of the 1971 amendments to this Article shall apply to scholarships for children of war~~  
45 ~~veterans as set forth in Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, as~~  
46 ~~amended controlling."~~

47 **SECTION 8A.6.(g) G.S. 116B-7(b) reads as rewritten:**

48 "(b) An amount specified in the Current Operations Appropriations Act shall be  
49 transferred annually from the Escheat Fund to the Board of Governors of The University of North  
50 Carolina to be allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority to partially fund the ~~program~~  
51 ~~of Scholarships for Children of War Veterans established by Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B~~

1 ~~of the General Statutes. Children of Wartime Veterans Scholarship established by Part 8 of~~  
2 ~~Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes. Those funds may be used only for residents of~~  
3 ~~this State who (i) are worthy and needy as determined by the Department of Military and Veterans~~  
4 ~~Affairs Authority and (ii) are enrolled in public institutions of higher education of this State."~~

5 **SECTION 8A.6.(h)** G.S. 116-209.124(4)c.5.I., as enacted by Section 8A.9 of this  
6 act, reads as rewritten:

7 "I. ~~Is a private educational institution, as defined in~~  
8 ~~G.S. 143B-1224, an eligible private postsecondary~~  
9 ~~institution as defined in G.S. 116-280(3)."~~

10 **SECTION 8A.6.(i)** Notwithstanding Part 8 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the  
11 General Statutes, as enacted by this section, the following shall apply for any student who  
12 received an award of scholarship funds under Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General  
13 Statutes in a previous academic year who would be eligible to receive funds under Part 2 of  
14 Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, as that Part existed immediately prior to its  
15 repeal, beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year:

- 16 (1) The student shall be considered an "eligible child" under G.S. 116-209.112(4).  
17 (2) To the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the student shall  
18 receive up to the amount of scholarship funds the student received under Part  
19 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes for up to four academic  
20 years occurring within the eight-year period after the date the student's first  
21 scholarship was awarded. In the event there are not sufficient funds to provide  
22 each eligible child who has properly applied with a full scholarship in a fiscal  
23 year, the Authority may adjust awards as necessary under  
24 G.S. 116-209.114(b).

25 **SECTION 8A.6.(j)** The nonrecurring funds appropriated in this act to the Board of  
26 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2025-2026 fiscal year and allocated to the  
27 State Education Assistance Authority for the award of scholarships for the children of wartime  
28 veterans pursuant this section shall not revert at the end of the 2025-2026 fiscal year, but shall  
29 remain available until the end of the 2027-2028 fiscal year.

30 **SECTION 8A.6.(k)** Subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h), and (i) of this section  
31 become effective July 1, 2026, and apply beginning with the award of scholarship funds in the  
32 2026-2027 academic year. Except as otherwise provided, this section becomes effective July 1,  
33 2025.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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2025-UNCSEAA-H9(S8A.7)i

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

***SEAA MAY REALLOCATE UNENCUMBERED FUNDS FROM PRIVATE NEED-BASED  
SCHOLARSHIPS TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR SPRING 2025 AWARDS FOR  
CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS SCHOLARSHIPS***

**SECTION 8A.7.** Notwithstanding G.S. 116-283(c), of the funds appropriated to the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina and allocated to the State Education Assistance Authority for need-based scholarships for students attending private institutions of higher education in accordance with Article 34 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes that are unexpended at the end of the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the Authority may reallocate up to two million one hundred thousand dollars (\$2,100,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 fiscal year to instead support scholarships for children of wartime veterans that were awarded in the spring 2025 academic semester in accordance with Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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2025-UNCSEAA-H10(S8A.8)-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

***REQUIRE SEAA TO PROVIDE TESTING COSTS FOR PESA RECIPIENTS***

**SECTION 8A.8.(a)** G.S. 115C-592 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(c1) Test Costs. – In addition to the amount of the scholarship award and except as otherwise provided in this subsection, for any student receiving a scholarship award in grades three, eight, or 11, the Authority shall provide for the student an amount equal to the cost of the nationally standardized test required to be administered as provided in G.S. 115C-562.5."

**SECTION 8A.8.(b)** G.S. 115C-562.5 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(b2) The parent of a student receiving scholarship funds under Article 41 of this Chapter may opt that student out of any testing required by this section in accordance with rules adopted by the Authority pursuant to G.S. 115C-592(c1)."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H3(S8A.9)-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

***CODIFY NORTH CAROLINA PATRIOT STAR FAMILY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM***

**SECTION 8A.9.(a)** Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new Part to read:

"Part 9. North Carolina Patriot Star Family Scholarship Program.

**"§ 116-209.120. Program established.**

The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina shall establish the North Carolina Patriot Star Family Scholarship Program. To the extent funds are made available for the Program, the Board shall award funds for the purpose of administering scholarships under the Program to (i) the Patriot Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, and (ii) the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc., a nonprofit corporation.

**"§ 116-209.122. Purpose of the Program.**

The Patriot Foundation and the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc., respectively, shall provide for scholarships to eligible children and eligible spouses of certain veterans, eligible children of certain currently serving members of the Armed Forces, and eligible disabled veterans to attend eligible postsecondary institutions in accordance with the requirements of this Part.

**"§ 116-209.124. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this Part, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Armed Forces. – A component of the United States Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Space Force, and Coast Guard, including their reserve components.
- (2) Eligible child or eligible children. – Any person who meets all of the following requirements:
  - a. Is attending or has been accepted to enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution.
  - b. Is a legal resident of North Carolina when scholarship documentation is completed, provided that if a child is claimed as a dependent by the child's parent, residency may be established based on a parent meeting the requirements of sub-sub-sub-subdivision IV. of sub-sub-subdivision 1. of sub-subdivision d. of this subdivision.
  - c. Has complied with the requirements of the Selective Service System, if applicable.
  - d. The parent of the person is a veteran or a currently serving member of the Armed Forces that meets all of the following criteria:
    1. One of the following residency conditions:
      - I. Is a resident of North Carolina at the time of scholarship documentation completion.
      - II. Was a resident of North Carolina at the time of entrance into service in the Armed Forces.
      - III. Was permanently stationed in North Carolina at the time of his or her death.

- 1 IV. Is an active duty service member permanently stationed  
2 in North Carolina at the time of documentation  
3 completion.
- 4 2. One of the following service conditions:
- 5 I. Was a member of the Armed Forces who was killed in  
6 action or in the line of duty or died of wounds or other  
7 causes not due to the service member's willful  
8 misconduct during a period of war, national  
9 emergency, or training in preparation for future  
10 conflicts and is a direct result of service in the line of  
11 duty.
- 12 II. Was a member of the Armed Forces who died of  
13 service-connected injuries, wounds, illness, or other  
14 causes incurred or aggravated while a member of the  
15 Armed Forces during a period of war, national  
16 emergency, or training in preparation for future  
17 conflicts and is a direct result of service in the line of  
18 duty. Standard documentation of the parent's death,  
19 wounds, injury, or illness shall be supplied by a  
20 scholarship recipient at the time of scholarship request.
- 21 III. Is a veteran of the Armed Forces who meets both of the  
22 following criteria:
- 23 A. Incurred traumatic injuries or wounds or  
24 sustained a major illness while a member of the  
25 Armed Forces during a period of war, national  
26 emergency, or training in preparation for future  
27 conflicts, and the injuries, wounds, or illness are  
28 a direct result of service in the line of duty.
- 29 B. Is receiving compensation of at least fifty  
30 percent (50%) as rated by the U.S. Department  
31 of Veterans Affairs for a disability connected to  
32 the injuries, wounds, or illness identified in  
33 accordance with sub-sub-sub-sub-subdivision  
34 A. of this sub-sub-sub-subdivision.
- 35 IV. Is a current member of the Armed Forces who incurred  
36 traumatic injuries or wounds or sustained a major  
37 illness while a member of the Armed Forces during a  
38 period of war, national emergency, or training in  
39 preparation for future conflicts, and the injuries,  
40 wounds, or illness are a direct result of service in the  
41 line of duty. The parent's traumatic wounds, injury, or  
42 major illness must be documented by the member's  
43 Unit Commander.
- 44 (3) Eligible disabled veteran. – Any person who is a veteran who meets all of the  
45 following criteria:
- 46 a. Incurred traumatic injuries or wounds or sustained a major illness  
47 while a member of the Armed Forces during a period of war, national  
48 emergency, or training in preparation for future conflicts, and the  
49 injuries, wounds, or illness are a direct result of service in the line of  
50 duty.

- b. Is receiving compensation of at least fifty percent (50%) as rated by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs for a disability connected to the injuries, wounds, or illness identified in accordance with sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision.
- c. Is a resident of North Carolina when scholarship documentation is completed.
- d. Is attending or has been accepted to enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution.
- (4) Eligible postsecondary institution. – Any of the following postsecondary educational institutions:
- a. A constituent institution of The University of North Carolina.
- b. A community college under the jurisdiction of the State Board of Community Colleges.
- c. A junior college, senior college, or university that meets all of the following requirements:
1. Is operated and governed by private interests not under the control of the federal government, the State, or any local government.
2. Has a main permanent campus, as defined in G.S. 116-280(4), located within the State of North Carolina.
3. Does not operate for profit.
4. The curriculum is primarily directed toward the awarding of associate, baccalaureate, or graduate degrees.
5. Meets one of the following requirements:
- I. Is a private educational institution, as defined in G.S. 143B-1224.
- II. Is accredited by an accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education as a reliable authority concerning the quality of education or training offered by institutions of higher education.
- d. A private vocational institution, including Federal Aviation Administration certificated aviation training programs.
- (5) Eligible spouse. – Any person who meets all of the following criteria:
- a. Is attending or has been accepted to enroll in an eligible postsecondary institution.
- b. Is a legal resident of North Carolina when scholarship documentation is completed.
- c. Has complied with the requirements of the Selective Service System, if applicable.
- d. Meets one of the conditions set forth in sub-sub-sub-subdivisions I. through III. of sub-sub-subdivision 2. of sub-subdivision d. of subdivision (2) of this section.
- (6) Program. – The North Carolina Patriot Star Family Scholarship Program established pursuant to this Part.
- (7) Veteran. – An individual who has served and is no longer serving in the Armed Forces of the United States. For the purposes of this subdivision, the veteran shall have separated from the Armed Forces under honorable conditions or whose death or disability of at least fifty percent (50%) or more was incurred as a direct result of service in the line of duty.

**"§ 116-209.126. Administration; awards.**

1       (a)     To the extent funds are made available for the Program, the Patriot Foundation and  
2 the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc., shall each separately administer and award  
3 scholarships to eligible applicants in accordance with the requirements of the Program. To  
4 account for the demand for scholarships, the Board of Governors of The University of North  
5 Carolina may reallocate funds appropriated for the Program between the Patriot Foundation and  
6 the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc., in each fiscal year funds are made available for  
7 the Program as long as each nonprofit corporation agrees to the reallocation in that year. In  
8 administering the Program, each nonprofit corporation shall be responsible for oversight for the  
9 scholarships awarded through its organization under the Program to ensure compliance with the  
10 provisions of this Part.

11       (b)     Each nonprofit corporation shall, at a minimum, establish criteria and procedures  
12 related to scholarship documentation completion, the amount of individual scholarships, the  
13 permissible uses of scholarship funds, the period of eligibility for award of a scholarship, the  
14 conditions for a revocation of a scholarship, and any other procedures it deems necessary for its  
15 administration of the Program.

16       (c)     If an eligible child or eligible spouse receives a scholarship or other grant covering  
17 the costs of attendance at an eligible postsecondary institution for which the scholarship is  
18 awarded, then the amount of a scholarship awarded under this Part shall be reduced so that the  
19 sum of all grants and scholarships covering the costs of attendance received by the eligible child  
20 or eligible spouse does not exceed the costs of attendance for the institution. For the purposes of  
21 this section, costs of attendance shall include monies for tuition, fees, books, supplies, and  
22 school-related expenses, including laptops, equipment, tutoring support, as well as room and  
23 board, as long as the scholarship recipient is enrolled as at least a half-time student at the  
24 institution. Off-campus housing costs for room and board are also included to the extent the  
25 eligible postsecondary institution includes it in its costs of attendance.

26     **"§ 116-209.128. Reporting.**

27       (a)     The Patriot Foundation shall submit a report by April 1 of each year in which the  
28 Patriot Foundation spends State funds made available for the Program to the Joint Legislative  
29 Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division on the activities related to the  
30 Program and the use of the State funds.

31       (b)     The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc., shall submit a report by April 1 of  
32 each year in which the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc., spends State funds made  
33 available for the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal  
34 Research Division on the activities related to the Program and the use of the State funds."

35       **SECTION 8A.9.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law or the Committee  
36 Report described in Section 43.2 of S.L. 2021-180, the recurring funds appropriated to the Board  
37 of Governors of The University of North Carolina and allocated to the Patriot Foundation and  
38 the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, Inc., to administer the North Carolina Patriot Star  
39 Family Scholarship Program pursuant to Section 8.3 of S.L. 2021-180, as amended by Section  
40 2.8 of S.L. 2022-6, Section 3.6 of S.L. 2022-71, Section 8.22 of S.L. 2023-134, and Section 2.13  
41 of S.L. 2024-1, shall instead be used to administer the North Carolina Patriot Star Family  
42 Scholarship Program pursuant to Part 9 of Article 23 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes, as  
43 enacted by this section.

44       **SECTION 8A.9.(c)** Section 8.3 of S.L. 2021-180, as amended by Section 2.8(a) of  
45 S.L. 2022-6, Section 3.6 of S.L. 2022-71, Section 8.22 of S.L. 2023-134, and Section 2.13 of  
46 S.L. 2024-1, is repealed.

47       **SECTION 8A.9.(d)** This section is effective when it becomes law.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H14A-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***NURSING FELLOWS PILOT PROGRAM AT WINSTON-SALEM STATE UNIVERSITY***

**SECTION #.(a)** Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Academic term. – A semester or summer session.
- (2) Authority. – The State Education Assistance Authority.
- (3) Dean. – The Dean of the School of Health Sciences at WSSU.
- (4) Eligible nurse. – A nurse who meets all of the following criteria:
  - a. Enrolled at WSSU beginning in the 2026-2027 or 2027-2028 academic year.
  - b. Received a forgivable loan under the Program.
  - c. Graduated within 10 years from at least one of the following at WSSU, excluding any authorized deferment for extenuating circumstances:
    1. A Bachelor of Science in Nursing program.
    2. A Master of Science in Nursing Education program.
  - d. Is licensed as a registered nurse in this State.
- (5) Forgivable loan. – A forgivable loan made under the Program.
- (6) Program. – The Nursing Fellows Pilot Program.
- (7) Qualifying nurse. – An eligible nurse who meets all of the following criteria:
  - a. Holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from WSSU.
  - b. Is employed as a nurse in this State.
- (8) Qualifying nurse instructor. – An eligible nurse who meets all of the following criteria:
  - a. Holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from WSSU and a Master of Science degree in Nursing Education from WSSU.
  - b. Is employed as an instructor in a qualifying nursing program.
- (9) Qualifying nursing program. – A nursing program at one of the following that prepares students to earn a degree in nursing and become a licensed practical nurse as defined in Article 9A of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes:
  - a. A community college.
  - b. A university or private postsecondary institution.
- (10) Trust Fund. – The Nursing Fellows Program Trust Fund.
- (11) University or private postsecondary institution. – Either of the following:
  - a. A postsecondary constituent institution of The University of North Carolina as defined in G.S. 116-2(4).
  - b. An eligible private postsecondary educational institution as defined in G.S. 116-280(3).
- (12) WSSU. – Winston-Salem State University.

**SECTION #.(b)** Program. – There is established the Nursing Fellows Pilot Program.

The purpose of the Program is to recruit, prepare, and support eligible nursing students enrolling at WSSU beginning in the 2026-2027 and 2027-2028 academic years for preparation as highly effective nurses and instructors in qualifying nursing programs. The Program shall be used to

1 provide forgivable loans to nursing students who are (i) enrolled in degree programs at WSSU to  
2 receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing or a Master of Science in Nursing Education and (ii)  
3 interested in preparing to become nurses in the State or instructors in qualifying nursing  
4 programs.

5 **SECTION #.(c) Program Administration; Dean.** – The Authority shall administer  
6 the Program in cooperation with the Dean. The Dean shall determine forgivable loan recipient  
7 selection criteria and selection procedures and shall select the recipients to receive forgivable  
8 loans under the Program in accordance with the requirements of this section. The Dean shall  
9 appoint any needed staff of the Program and shall be responsible for recruitment and coordination  
10 of the Program, including proactive, aggressive, and strategic recruitment of potential recipients.  
11 Recruitment activities shall include (i) targeting regions of the State with the greatest need for  
12 nurses and nursing instructors in qualifying nursing programs, (ii) actively engaging with  
13 registered nurses, business leaders, experts in human resources, elected officials, and other  
14 community leaders throughout the State, and (iii) attracting candidates to the Program. WSSU  
15 shall provide office space and clerical support staff, as necessary, to the Dean for the Program.

16 **SECTION #.(d) Trust Fund.** – There is established the Nursing Fellows Program  
17 Trust Fund to be administered by the Authority, in conjunction with the Dean. All funds (i)  
18 appropriated to, or otherwise received by, the Program for forgivable loans and other Program  
19 purposes, (ii) received as repayment of forgivable loans, and (iii) earned as interest on these funds  
20 shall be placed in the Trust Fund. The purpose of the Trust Fund is to provide financial assistance  
21 to qualified students to fill needed positions for nurses in the State and instructors in qualifying  
22 nursing programs through completion of a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing or both a  
23 Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and a Master of Science degree in Nursing Education.

24 **SECTION #.(e) Uses of Monies in the Trust Fund.** – The monies in the Trust Fund  
25 may be used only for forgivable loans granted under the Program, administrative costs associated  
26 with the Program, including recruitment and recovery of funds advanced under the Program,  
27 mentoring and coaching support to forgivable loan recipients, and extracurricular enhancement  
28 activities of the Program in accordance with the following:

- 29 (1) The Authority shall transfer six percent (6%) of the available funds from the  
30 Trust Fund to WSSU at the beginning of each fiscal year for the following  
31 purposes:
  - 32 a. The Program's administrative costs.
  - 33 b. Extracurricular enhancement activities of the Program.
  - 34 c. Mentoring and coaching support to forgivable loan recipients.
- 35 (2) The Authority may use up to four percent (4%) of the funds appropriated to  
36 the Trust Fund each fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the  
37 Program.

38 **SECTION #.(f) Student Selection Criteria for Forgivable Loans.** – The Dean, in  
39 consultation with the Associate Dean of Nursing at WSSU, shall adopt stringent standards for  
40 awarding forgivable loans based on multiple measures to ensure that only the strongest applicants  
41 receive them, including the following:

- 42 (1) Grade point averages.
- 43 (2) Performance on relevant assessments.
- 44 (3) Experience, accomplishments, and other criteria demonstrating qualities  
45 positively correlated with highly effective nurses and instructors in qualifying  
46 nursing programs, including excellent verbal and communication skills.
- 47 (4) Demonstrated commitment to serve in North Carolina.

48 **SECTION #.(g) Awards of Forgivable Loans.** – The Program shall provide  
49 forgivable loans to selected students who are initially enrolled in a Bachelor of Science in  
50 Nursing degree program at WSSU. Loan payments shall be provided each year for completion  
51 of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing program and, if a loan recipient seeks to become a



1 qualifying nurse instructor, for a Master of Science in Nursing Education program. The student  
2 shall be eligible to receive loan payments for the Master of Science in Nursing Education  
3 program as long as the student enrolls within two years of graduation from the Bachelor of  
4 Science in Nursing program. Forgivable loans may be used for tuition, fees, the cost of books,  
5 and expenses related to completing a Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing and a Master of  
6 Science degree in Nursing Education. Forgivable loans shall be awarded per academic term in  
7 amounts of up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) per semester or two thousand five hundred dollars  
8 (\$2,500) per summer session, as follows:

9 (1) For students pursuing careers as qualifying nurses, for up to five semesters.

10 (2) For persons pursuing careers as qualifying nurse instructors, for up to nine  
11 semesters.

12 **SECTION #.(h) Administration of Forgivable Loan Awards.** – Upon the naming of  
13 recipients of the forgivable loans by the Dean, the Dean shall transfer to the Authority its  
14 decisions. The Authority, in coordination with the Dean, shall perform all of the administrative  
15 functions necessary to implement this section, which functions shall include rulemaking,  
16 disseminating information, acting as a liaison with participating institutions of higher education,  
17 implementing forgivable loan agreements, loan monitoring, loan canceling through service and  
18 collection, determining the acceptability of service repayment agreements, enforcing the  
19 agreements, and all other functions necessary for the execution, payment, and enforcement of  
20 promissory notes required under this section.

21 **SECTION #.(i) Annual Report.** – The Dean, in coordination with the Authority, shall  
22 report no later than January 1, 2027, and annually thereafter while forgivable loans are being  
23 serviced under the Program, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee regarding  
24 the following:

25 (1) Forgivable loans awarded from the Trust Fund, including the following:

26 a. Demographic information regarding recipients.

27 b. Number of recipients by institution of higher education.

28 (2) Placement and repayment rates, including the following:

29 a. Number of graduates who have been employed as qualifying nurses in  
30 the State and qualifying nurse instructors in qualifying nursing  
31 programs within two years of graduation.

32 b. Number of graduates who have elected to do loan repayment and their  
33 years of service, if any, prior to beginning loan repayment.

34 c. Graduation rates of associate degree students taught by instructors in  
35 qualifying nursing programs who are recipients of loans under the  
36 Program.

37 (3) Mentoring and coaching support, including the number of forgivable loan  
38 recipients who received mentoring and coaching support.

39 (4) Selected nurse employer outcomes by degree program, including the  
40 following:

41 a. Turnover rate for forgivable loan graduates, including the turnover rate  
42 for graduates who also received mentoring and coaching support.

43 b. Fulfillment rate of forgivable loan graduates.

44 **SECTION #.(j) Terms of Forgivable Loans.** – All forgivable loans shall be  
45 evidenced by notes made payable to the Authority that bear interest at a rate not to exceed ten  
46 percent (10%) per year as set by the Authority and beginning on the first day of September after  
47 completion of the applicable degree program or 90 days after graduation, whichever is later. If a  
48 forgivable loan is terminated, the note shall be made payable to the Authority 90 days after  
49 termination of the forgivable loan. The forgivable loan may be terminated upon the recipient's  
50 withdrawal from the Program or by the recipient's failure to meet the standards set by the Dean.

1           **SECTION #.(k)** Forgiveness. – For every year a qualifying nurse remains a  
2 qualifying nurse or a qualifying nurse instructor remains a qualifying nurse instructor, the  
3 Authority shall forgive one-third of the total loan amount received over the course of enrollment  
4 in the applicable degree program and any interest accrued on that amount. The Authority shall  
5 also forgive the loan if it finds that it is impossible for the recipient to work for up to three years,  
6 within 10 years after completion of the Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree program for  
7 persons pursuing forgiveness as qualifying nurses or of the Master of Science in Nursing  
8 Education degree program for persons pursuing forgiveness as qualifying nurse instructors,  
9 because of the death or permanent disability of the recipient. If the recipient repays the forgivable  
10 loan by cash payments, all indebtedness shall be repaid within 10 years after completion of the  
11 latest applicable degree program supported by the forgivable loan. If the recipient completes the  
12 applicable degree program, payment of principal and interest shall begin no later than the first  
13 day of September after the completion of the program. Should a recipient present extenuating  
14 circumstances, the Authority may extend the period to repay the loan in cash to no more than a  
15 total of 12 years.

16           **SECTION #.(l)** Notwithstanding G.S. 116-209.45(h), beginning in the 2026-2027  
17 fiscal year, to the extent funds remain available in the Forgivable Education Loans for Service  
18 Fund at the end of each fiscal year, the Authority may use those funds to administer the Nursing  
19 Fellows Pilot Program in accordance with this section.

20           **SECTION #.(m)** The Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Winston-Salem State  
21 University shall establish initial selection criteria for recipients no later than November 15, 2025,  
22 and shall make available applications to prospective students no later than December 31, 2025.

23           **SECTION #.(n)** The Dean of the School of Health Sciences at Winston-Salem State  
24 University shall select recipients and award the initial forgivable loans for the 2026-2027  
25 academic year no later than April 1, 2026.

26           **SECTION #.(o)** This section applies beginning with applications for enrollment in  
27 the Nursing Fellows Program in the 2026-2027 academic year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H15-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***INCREASE CARRYFORWARD AUTHORITY FOR PERSONAL EDUCATION STUDENT  
ACCOUNTS***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-600(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) The Authority shall make reasonable efforts to ensure the amount of scholarship funds awarded for a school year do not exceed the funds that are available for awards to eligible students in each fiscal year. However, to ensure that as many eligible students receive scholarship funds in a timely manner as possible, at the end of each fiscal year, the Authority shall place any unexpended funds appropriated for the Program into an institutional trust fund established in accordance with the provisions of G.S. 116-36.1 to accrue a cash balance in the institutional trust fund of up to ~~ten million dollars (\$10,000,000)~~ fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000). The Authority shall use these funds to award scholarship funds in any fiscal year that the funds required to award scholarships to eligible students for a school year exceed the funds available for the distribution of those awards. All interest earned on these funds shall also be placed in the institutional trust fund established pursuant to this subsection. For any fiscal year in which funds are expended from the institutional trust fund, the Authority shall submit a report as required by G.S. 115C-598(b). In any fiscal year in which the cash balance of the institutional trust fund is greater than ~~ten million dollars (\$10,000,000)~~ fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) any funds above ~~ten million dollars (\$10,000,000)~~ fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) remaining at the end of the fiscal year from the funds appropriated for the Program shall revert to the General Fund."

**SECTION #.(b)** This section becomes effective June 30, 2025.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

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SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H16-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

**MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE PRINCIPAL FELLOWS PROGRAM**

**SECTION #.(a)** Article 5C of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes reads as rewritten:

"Article 5C.

"North Carolina Principal Fellows Program.

...

**"§ 116-74.44. North Carolina Principal Fellows Program established; administration.**

(a) Established. – There is established the North Carolina Principal Fellows Program as a competitive grant program for eligible entities for the purpose of elevating educators in North Carolina public schools by transforming the preparation of principals across the State and providing for (i) forgivable scholarship loans to the participants of those school leader preparation programs and (ii) grants to school leader preparation programs to develop innovative ways of training principals. The Authority shall administer the North Carolina Principal Fellows Program in collaboration with the Commission as set forth in this Article to provide funds for the preparation and support of highly effective future school principals in North Carolina.

...

(c) Administration of Forgivable Scholarship Loans. – Upon the ~~grant recipients' selection~~ selection by grant recipients for forgivable scholarship loans of the program participants for the school leader preparation programs, the Commission shall transfer the names of all program participants to the Authority. The Authority shall perform all of the administrative functions necessary to implement the forgivable scholarship loans to the school leader preparation program participants, which functions shall include rule making, disseminating information, acting as a liaison with participating eligible entities, implementing forgivable loan agreements in the form of promissory notes, monitoring loan repayment through service and cash, and performing all other functions necessary for the execution, payment, and enforcement of promissory notes required under this Article.

...

**"§ 116-74.45. Grant applications; priority.**

(a) Application Requirements. – Subject to the availability of funds for this purpose, the Commission shall issue a request for proposal with guidelines and criteria for applying for a ~~grant~~ grants to provide forgivable scholarship loans and develop innovative ways of training principals. An eligible entity that seeks a grant shall submit to the Commission an application at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such information as the Commission may require. Eligible entities may create partnerships to develop and establish school leader preparation programs and apply jointly to be a grant recipient. An applicant shall include at least the following information in its application for consideration by the Commission:

...

**"§ 116-74.46. Recipient selection; use of grant funds; duration and conditions of grants; reporting requirements.**

1 (a) Selection. – After evaluation of grant applications pursuant to G.S. 116-74.45, the  
2 Commission shall notify the Authority of its selection of the recipients of grants for each fiscal  
3 year. The Commission shall select up to eight grant recipients to ~~be operating~~ operate a school  
4 leader preparation program with grant funds for forgivable scholarship loans in any fiscal  
5 ~~year-year~~ and up to two recipients for a grant of up to two hundred fifty thousand dollars  
6 (\$250,000) per recipient per fiscal year to develop innovative ways of training principals.

7 (b) ~~Use of Funds.~~ Grant Funds for Forgivable Scholarship Loans. – Each eligible entity  
8 that receives grant funds for forgivable scholarship loans shall use those funds to carry out the  
9 following:

10 ...

11 (c) Duration and Conditions of Grants. – The Commission shall also notify the Authority  
12 of its decisions on the duration and renewal of grants to eligible entities made in accordance with  
13 the following:

14 (1) The duration of grants for forgivable scholarship loans shall be as follows:

15 a. Grants shall be no more than six years and no fewer than two years in  
16 duration, unless the Commission finds early termination of a grant is  
17 necessary due to noncompliance with grant terms.

18 b. The Commission may renew a grant based on compliance with the  
19 grant terms and performance, including allowing the grantee to scale  
20 up or replicate the successful program as provided in subdivision (3)  
21 of this subsection.

22 (1a) The duration of grants for training development shall be for one year. The  
23 Commission may renew a grant for training development, in its discretion, on  
24 an annual basis.

25 ...

26 (3) In evaluating performance for purposes of grant renewal and making its  
27 renewal decisions to provide to the ~~Authority,~~ Authority pursuant to  
28 subdivision (1) of this subsection, the Commission shall consider at least the  
29 following:

30 ...

31 (d) Reporting Requirements for Grant Recipients. – Recipients of grants shall participate  
32 in all evaluation activities required by the Commission and submit an annual report to the  
33 Commission with any information requested by the Commission. The recipients shall comply  
34 with additional report requests made by the Commission. Whenever practicable and within a  
35 reasonable amount of time, grant recipients shall also make all materials developed as part of the  
36 program and with grant funds publicly available to contribute to the broader sharing of promising  
37 practices. Materials shall not include personally identifiable information regarding individuals  
38 involved or associated with the program, including, without limitation, applicants, participants,  
39 supervisors, evaluators, faculty, and staff, without their prior written consent. The Commission  
40 shall work with recipients, local school administrative units, and public schools, as needed, to  
41 enable the collection, analysis, and evaluation of at least the following ~~relevant data,~~ data related  
42 to grants for forgivable scholarship loans, within necessary privacy constraints:

43 (1) Student achievement in eligible schools.

44 (2) The percentage of program completers who are placed as school leaders  
45 within three years in the State.

46 (3) The percentage of program completers who are placed as school leaders  
47 within three years in high-need schools in the State.

48 (4) The percentage of program completers rated proficient or above on school  
49 leader evaluation and support systems.

- 1 (5) The percentage of program completers that are school leaders who have  
2 remained employed in a North Carolina public school for two or more years  
3 of initial placement.

4 ...."

5 **SECTION #.(b)** G.S. 116-74.41B reads as rewritten:

6 **"§ 116-74.41B. The North Carolina Principal Fellows Trust Fund.**

7 ...

8 (b) Use of Monies in the Trust Fund. – The monies in the Trust Fund may be used only  
9 for the purposes set forth in this subsection, including the award of grants pursuant to  
10 G.S. 116-74.44, administrative costs, and costs associated with Program operations in  
11 accordance with this Article. The Authority may use up to two percent (2%) of the funds  
12 appropriated for the Program or one hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$160,000) from the Trust  
13 Fund, whichever is greater, each fiscal year for administrative costs, including recovery of funds  
14 advanced under the Program, and may allocate to the Commission up to eight hundred thousand  
15 dollars (\$800,000) from the Trust Fund each fiscal year for the following:

- 16 (1) The salary and benefits of the director and staff of the Program.  
17 (2) The expenses of the Commission to administer the Program.  
18 (3) Program monitoring and evaluation.  
19 (4) Extracurricular enhancement activities for the Program.  
20 (5) Repealed by Session Laws 2019-60, s. 1(y), effective July 1, 2021.  
21 (6) Programming on research-based school leadership practices to be shared with  
22 eligible entities in order to improve principal preparation throughout the State.

23 (c) Remaining Funds. – If at the end of each fiscal year there are funds remaining in the  
24 Trust Fund that are not obligated or otherwise encumbered for another purpose, upon the request  
25 of the Commission, the Authority shall allocate the funds to the Commission for any of the  
26 purposes identified in subdivisions (3) through (6) of subsection (b) of this section."

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
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2025-UNCSEAA-H17-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***REQUIRE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP  
FUNDS TO RETAIN CERTAIN TESTING RECORDS AND VERIFY COMPLIANCE***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-562.5 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-562.5. Obligations of nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving scholarship grants.**

(a) A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall comply with the following:

...

(4) Administer, at least once in each school year, tests as provided in this subdivision. Test performance data shall be submitted to the Authority by July 15 of each year. Test performance data reported to the Authority under this subdivision is not a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. Tests shall be administered to all eligible students enrolled in grades three and higher whose tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant as follows:

- a. The nationally standardized test designated by the Authority in grades three and eight.
- b. The ACT in grade 11.
- c. A nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized equivalent measurement selected by the chief administrative officer of the nonpublic school in all other grades four and higher. For grades four through seven, the nationally standardized test or other equivalent measurement selected must measure achievement in the areas of English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics. For grades nine, 10, and 12, the nationally standardized test or other equivalent measurement selected must measure either (i) achievement in the areas of English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics or (ii) competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas.

...

(b1) A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall annually certify compliance with subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section and shall retain records of the test administration for a period of four years. Each year the Authority shall select at least four percent (4%) of nonpublic schools to verify testing administration in accordance with subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section.

...."

**SECTION #.(b)** This section applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

Session 2025

Proofed  
SPECIAL PROVISION



2025-UNCSEAA-H18-P

State Education Assistance Authority  
House Appropriations, Education

Requested by

***REDUCE TOTAL INDIVIDUAL CARRYFORWARD FOR PERSONAL EDUCATION  
STUDENT ACCOUNTS***

**SECTION #.(a)** G.S. 115C-592(b1) reads as rewritten:

"(b1) Scholarship Awards for Students with Certain Disabilities. – A student who has one or more of the following disabilities listed as a primary or secondary disability on the student's eligibility determination form submitted as required by subsection (e) of this section at the time of application for scholarship funds may be awarded scholarship funds for each school year in an amount of up to (i) seventeen thousand dollars (\$17,000) for an eligible student or (ii) eight thousand five hundred dollars (\$8,500) for an eligible part-time student:

- (1) Autism.
- (2) Hearing impairment.
- (3) Moderate or severe intellectual disability.
- (4) Orthopedic impairment.
- (5) Visual impairment.

For eligible students who qualify for scholarship funds under this subsection, no more than four thousand five hundred dollars (\$4,500) of funds remaining in an electronic account at the end of a school year shall be carried forward until expended for each school year upon renewal of the account under subsection (b2) of this section. In no event shall the total amount of funds carried forward for an eligible student in a personal education student account exceed ~~thirty thousand dollars (\$30,000)~~ fifteen thousand dollars (\$15,000). Any funds remaining in the electronic account if an agreement is not renewed under G.S. 115C-595 shall be returned to the Authority."

**SECTION #.(b)** This section becomes effective June 30, 2028.