

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 435
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/3/13
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Short Title: School Performance Grades.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 27, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR THE CALCULATION OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE
3 SCORES AND GRADES BY THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Section 7A.3(e) of S.L. 2012-142 is repealed.

6 **SECTION 2.** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new Part to read:

8 "Part 1B. School Performance.

9 "**§ 115C-83.11. School performance scores and grades.**

10 (a) The State Board of Education shall award school performance scores, grades, and an
11 indicator of student growth as required by G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., calculated as provided in this
12 section.

13 (b) For schools serving students in any combination of grades third through eighth
14 grade, the school performance score shall be calculated based on the performance composite
15 comprised of the following:

16 (1) Percent of students who score at or above proficient on annual assessments
17 for reading in grades three through eight.

18 (2) Percent of students who score at or above proficient on annual assessments
19 for mathematics in grades three through eight.

20 (3) Percent of students who score at or above proficient on annual assessments
21 for science in grades five and eight.

22 (4) Percent of proficient scores in Algebra I/Integrated I, English II, and Biology
23 end-of-course tests.

24 (c) For schools serving students in any combination of grades ninth through 12th grade,
25 the school performance score shall be the average of the following five indicators:

26 (1) Percent of proficient scores in Algebra I/Integrated I, English II, and Biology
27 end-of-course tests.

28 (2) Percent of students who complete a higher level mathematics class with a
29 passing grade.

30 (3) Percent of college readiness benchmarks met on a nationally normed test of
31 college readiness.

32 (4) Percent of students who graduate within four years of entering high school.

33 (5) Percent of students who demonstrate workplace readiness on a nationally
34 normed test of workplace readiness.



1 (d) The State Board of Education shall calculate school performance scores using the
2 State mean to set the criteria for each indicator. Each indicator will be translated to a common
3 scale and averaged for the reporting of one school performance letter grade for each school.

4 (e) For schools that meet or exceed growth as determined by the Education
5 Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS), the final letter grade shall be increased by one
6 grade.

7 (f) For schools serving students in third through eighth grade, their final letter grade
8 shall be increased by one letter grade if the performance composite, comprising of the percent
9 of proficient scores for reading, mathematics, and science, is at or above eighty percent (80%)
10 for the current year and the two prior school years.

11 (g) For schools serving students in ninth through 12th grade, their final letter grade shall
12 be increased by one letter grade if the performance composite, comprising of the percent of
13 proficient scores for Algebra I/Integrated I, English II, and Biology end-of-course tests, is at or
14 above eighty percent (80%) for the current year and the two prior school years.

15 (h) In calculating the overall school performance score earned by schools, the State
16 Board of Education shall proportionally adjust the scale to account for the absence of a school
17 performance element for award of scores to a school that does not have a measure of one of the
18 school performance elements annually assessed for the grades taught at that school.

19 (i) The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education
20 Oversight Committee annually by January 15 on any adjustments to the calculation and the
21 distribution of the school performance grades."

22 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 115C-12(9)c1. reads as rewritten:

23 "c1. To issue an annual "report card" for the State and for each local
24 school administrative unit, assessing each unit's efforts to improve
25 student performance based on the growth in performance of the
26 students in each school and taking into account progress over the
27 previous years' level of performance and the State's performance in
28 comparison with other states. This assessment shall take into account
29 factors that have been shown to affect student performance and that
30 the State Board considers relevant to assess the State's efforts to
31 improve student performance. As a part of the annual "report card"
32 for each local school administrative unit, the State Board shall
33 ~~award~~ award, in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.11, an overall
34 numerical school performance score on a scale of zero to 100 and a
35 corresponding letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F earned by each school
36 within the local school administrative unit. The school performance
37 score and grade shall reflect student performance on annual
38 subject-specific assessments, college and workplace readiness
39 measures, and graduation rates. For schools serving students in any
40 grade from kindergarten to eighth grade, separate performance scores
41 and grades shall also be awarded based on the school performance in
42 reading and mathematics respectively. The annual "report card" for
43 schools serving students in third grade also shall include the number
44 and percentage of third grade students who (i) take and pass the
45 alternative assessment of reading comprehension; (ii) were retained
46 in third grade for not demonstrating reading proficiency as indicated
47 in G.S. 115C-83.7(a); and (iii) were exempt from mandatory third
48 grade retention by category of exemption as listed in
49 G.S. 115C-83.7(b)."

50 **SECTION 3.(b)** G.S. 115C-47(58) reads as rewritten:

1 "(58) To Inform the Public About the North Carolina School Report Cards Issued
2 by the State Board of Education. – Each local board of education shall
3 ensure that the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education
4 receives wide distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the
5 public. Each local board of education shall ensure that the overall school
6 performance score and grade calculated in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.11
7 and earned by each school in the local school administrative unit for the
8 current and previous four school years is prominently displayed on the Web
9 site of the local school administrative unit. If any school in the local school
10 administrative unit is awarded a grade of D or F, the local board of education
11 shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or guardian of all
12 students enrolled in that school."

13 **SECTION 3.(c)** G.S. 115C-238.29F(1) reads as rewritten:

14 "(1) North Carolina School Report Cards. – A charter school shall ensure that the report
15 card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide distribution to the local press
16 or is otherwise provided to the public. A charter school shall ensure that the overall school
17 performance score and grade calculated in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.11 and earned by the
18 charter school for the current and previous four school years is prominently displayed on the
19 school Web site. If a charter school is awarded a grade of D or F, the charter school shall
20 provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that
21 school."

22 **SECTION 3.(d)** G.S. 115C-238.66(11) reads as rewritten:

23 "(11) North Carolina School Report Cards. – A regional school shall ensure that
24 the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide
25 distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A
26 regional school shall ensure that the overall school performance score and
27 grade calculated in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.11 and earned by the
28 regional school for the current and previous four school years is prominently
29 displayed on the school Web site. If a regional school is awarded a grade of
30 D or F, the regional school shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the
31 parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that school."

32 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-12(24) reads as rewritten:

33 "(24) Duty to Develop Standards for Alternative Learning Programs, Provide
34 Technical Assistance on Implementation of Programs, and Evaluate
35 Programs. – The State Board of Education shall adopt standards for
36 assigning students to alternative learning programs. These standards shall
37 include (i) a description of the programs and services that are recommended
38 to be provided in alternative learning programs and (ii) a process for
39 ensuring that an assignment is appropriate for the student and that the
40 student's parents are involved in the decision. The State Board also shall
41 adopt policies that define what constitutes an alternative school and an
42 alternative learning program.

43 The State Board of Education shall also adopt standards to require that
44 local school administrative units shall use (i) the teachers allocated for
45 students assigned to alternative learning programs pursuant to the regular
46 teacher allotment and (ii) the teachers allocated for students assigned to
47 alternative learning programs only to serve the needs of these students.

48 The State Board of Education shall provide technical support to local
49 school administrative units to assist them in developing and implementing
50 plans and proposals for alternative learning programs.

1 The State Board shall evaluate the effectiveness of alternative learning
2 programs and, in its discretion, of any other programs funded from the
3 Alternative Schools/At-Risk Student allotment. Local school administrative
4 units shall report to the State Board of Education on how funds in the
5 Alternative Schools/At-Risk Student allotment are spent and shall otherwise
6 cooperate with the State Board of Education in evaluating the alternative
7 learning programs. As part of its evaluation of the effectiveness of these
8 programs, the State Board shall, through the application of the accountability
9 system developed under G.S. 115C-83.11 and G.S. 115C-105.35, measure
10 the educational performance and growth of students placed in alternative
11 schools and alternative programs. If appropriate, the Board may modify this
12 system to adapt to the specific characteristics of these schools. Also as part
13 of its evaluation, the State Board shall evaluate its standards adopted under
14 this subdivision and make any necessary changes to those standards based
15 on strategies that have been proven successful in improving student
16 achievement and shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
17 Committee by April 15, 2006 to determine if any changes are necessary to
18 improve the implementation of successful alternative learning programs and
19 alternative schools."

20 **SECTION 5.** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning
21 with the 2013-2014 school year. The State Board of Education shall issue the first annual report
22 cards under G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., as amended by this act, no earlier than August 1, 2014.