

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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SENATE BILL 751
Second Edition Engrossed 5/18/89

Short Title: State Educational Equity Grants.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Martin of Guilford.

Referred to: Education.

April 3, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH AND PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A STATE
2 EDUCATIONAL EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL DISTRICTS
3 THAT HAVE HIGH CONCENTRATIONS OF PRESCHOOL AND SCHOOL
4 AGE CHILDREN WHO ARE FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES, FOR THE
5 DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF PROGRAMS TO ASSIST
6 SUCH CHILDREN WHO DEMONSTRATE OR ARE AT RISK OF
7 DEMONSTRATING BELOW AVERAGE ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND
8 SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT DURING THEIR SCHOOL YEARS.
9

10 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

11 Section 1. Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
12 Article to read:

13 **“ARTICLE 9A.**

14 **“EDUCATIONAL EQUITY GRANT PROGRAM.**

15 **“§ 115C-150.1. Educational Equity Grant Program established.**

16 (a) In furtherance of the State's efforts to provide equal educational opportunities
17 to North Carolina's children, and recognizing that children from low-income families
18 are often at greater risk of not achieving at the academic level of which they are capable
19 or of not attaining an appropriate level of social and civic development during their
20 public school years, there is established the State Educational Equity Grant Program.
21 The State Educational Equity Grant Program shall provide grant funds to local school
22 districts which serve high concentrations of preschool and school age children from
23 families whose income is at or below the federal poverty level and who perform or are

1 at risk of performing below the average academic and social development levels
2 achieved by other children served by the same school district. Grant funds shall be
3 awarded for the development and implementation of programs designed to improve the
4 academic performance and social development of children at risk who are enrolled in
5 the public schools of North Carolina that are administered by the State Board of
6 Education, Department of Public Instruction.

7 (b) As used in this Article, low-income 'children at risk' are children served by
8 local school districts, who are between the ages of five and 17 and from families whose
9 income is at or below the federal poverty level as determined by the most recent census
10 data, and whose academic performance and emotional and social development are
11 adversely affected or likely to be adversely affected by poverty status alone, or by
12 poverty status in combination with other factors that are likely to cause or contribute to
13 the child's below-average academic performance. Such other factors include race,
14 gender, teenage parenthood, teenage pregnancy, migrant status, or handicapping
15 conditions.

16 **"§ 115C-150.2. Program administration; criteria for grant awards.**

17 (a) The Educational Equity Grant Program shall be administered by the State
18 Board of Education, which administration shall include establishing guidelines for the
19 submission, receipt, evaluation, and approval of grant proposals from school districts,
20 and for establishing methods for determining academic performance, social
21 development and other factors related to the participation of children and schools in the
22 Program. At the end of the first year of implementation of the Educational Equity
23 Grants Program, and each year of implementation thereafter, the State Board of
24 Education shall provide for a formal evaluation of the impact of the Program and shall
25 report the results of its evaluation to the General Assembly.

26 (b) As a prerequisite to receiving educational equity grant funds under this
27 Article, school districts shall include with their grant application a utilization plan which
28 shall include:

- 29 (1) Specific goals to be achieved by each program or activity supported by
30 grant funds;
- 31 (2) A description of an outcome-oriented process to be used to measure
32 progress being made by students, and for instituting corrective actions
33 to enhance student progress; and
- 34 (3) A description of an outcome-oriented process to be used to measure
35 the extent to which program or activity goals have been achieved.

36 (c) Grant funds allocated to local school districts under this Article shall be used
37 for the development and implementation of:

- 38 (1) Programs and activities designed to increase meaningful parental
39 understanding of, and involvement in, the development of their
40 children's academic, social, and civic abilities and skills;
- 41 (2) Programs or activities designed to assist parents of three and four year
42 old children at risk in providing the kinds of learning and
43 developmental activities that will enhance their children's chances of

1 average or better than average academic performance and social
2 development during their years in school;

3 (3) Computer-assisted remediation and advancement materials for
4 children at risk;

5 (4) Programs or activities designed to achieve communication skills, and
6 mathematics mastery at or above grade level by children who are in
7 grades three through eight who are performing at least one grade
8 below the level at which he should be performing; the primary goals of
9 such programs shall be (i) to improve mastery by at least 1.5 grade
10 levels over the previous year, and (ii) to achieve at least grade level
11 mastery upon completion of grades five and eight; and/or

12 (5) Programs designed to significantly increase the academic performance
13 of identifiable groups of students who, as a group, are performing
14 below their capabilities and at lower than average academic levels than
15 other children in their school district.

16 (d) At the end of each grant recipient's grant period, the State Board of Education
17 shall provide for an evaluation of the recipient school district's participation in the
18 Program, which evaluation shall include (i) the degree to which the school district has
19 implemented programs and utilized funds according to the district's approved utilization
20 plans, and (ii) the extent to which the school district has achieved the goals set for the
21 district and for individual schools. The evaluation conducted by the State Board shall
22 be considered by the Board in determining whether the school district shall be awarded
23 subsequent grants under the Program.

24 (e) The Department of Public Instruction and local school system grant recipients
25 with approval from the Department, may contract with State institutions of higher
26 education including those of the Department of Community Colleges, with private and
27 independent colleges and universities, and with private nonprofit community
28 organizations to plan, implement, or evaluate any part or parts of the State Educational
29 Equity Grant Program that the State Board of Education deems appropriate.

30 (f) Any school system receiving a grant under this Article shall be eligible to
31 apply for funds to assist in establishing or expanding programs which provide for
32 community volunteer activities which involve children and youth at risk. The goals of
33 community volunteer programs shall include (i) to encourage greater appreciation and
34 awareness of the importance and benefit of volunteerism in the State; (ii) to foster a
35 better understanding of and appreciation for the needs and problems of other persons;
36 and (iii) to encourage participation in activities that are likely to achieve these goals.
37 The Department of Public Instruction shall develop guidelines for establishing or
38 expanding such programs, and for awarding grants under this subsection. Participation
39 in volunteer programs may not be limited to children and youth at risk; provided,
40 however, that guidelines for awarding grants under this subsection shall be aimed at
41 encouraging participation by children and youth at risk in proportion to the percentage
42 of the student body in their school or school system that children and youth at risk
43 compose. Guidelines for awarding grants under this subsection shall be designed to
44 encourage participation by students in grades six through 12.

1 **"§ 115C-150.3. Distribution formula for grant awards.**

2 (a) Grant funds shall be distributed by the Department of Public Instruction to
3 school districts based on the following criteria:

4 (1) Eligibility of school districts in a county to receive grant awards shall
5 be based on a pro rata determination of the number of children in the
6 county who are from families whose income is at or below the federal
7 poverty level according to the most current census data, and who
8 constitute at least 10% of the children aged five through 17 who live in
9 the county.

10 (2) Distribution of grant funds among the schools in a school district may
11 be made based on the Superintendent of Public Instruction's estimate
12 of the number or percentage of low-income students in each school.

13 (3) Funds may be allocated to individual schools up to the maximum
14 amount for which they are eligible, provided that the school has
15 developed and the Department of Public Instruction has approved a
16 plan for utilization of the funds to be allocated.

17 (b) All Federal JTPA Title II-A 8% funds allocated to the Department of Natural
18 Resources and Community Development for distribution to the Department of Public
19 Instruction shall be used, consistent with federally mandated eligibility criteria, to
20 benefit children at risk as defined in this Article. To the extent possible, such funds
21 shall be used to implement this Article."

22 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
23 Public Education the sum of three million dollars (\$3,000,000) for the 1989-90 fiscal
24 year, and the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) for the 1990-91 fiscal year, to be
25 used for the implementation of this act. Of the funds appropriated under this act, not
26 more than ten percent (10%) shall be allocated by the State Board of Education to the
27 North Carolina Children and Youth Community Involvement Volunteer Program for the
28 purpose of carrying out the provisions of G.S. 115C-150.2(f).

29 Sec. 3. To the extent reasonably possible, the State Board of Education shall
30 utilize funds that would otherwise be allocated for remediation programs, drop-out
31 prevention and in-school suspension programs, to implement this act.

32 Sec. 4. Not more than ten percent (10%) of the funds appropriated to the
33 Department of Public Education under this act may be used for the administration of the
34 Educational Equity Grants Program.

35 Sec. 5. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.