

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 977\*  
Second Edition Engrossed 4/26/99  
House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/7/99  
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Short Title: School Team Authority/Sch. Calendar.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

April 15, 1999

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENHANCE THE AUTHORITY OF THE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT  
3 TEAM WITH REGARD TO THE SCHOOL CALENDAR AND TO REQUIRE  
4 PRINCIPALS AND LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ESTABLISH  
5 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 Section 1. G.S. 115C-84.2(a) reads as rewritten:

8 "(a) School Calendar. – Each local board of education shall adopt a school calendar  
9 consisting of 220 days all of which shall fall within the fiscal year. A school calendar  
10 shall include the following:

11 (1) A minimum of 180 days and 1,000 hours of instruction covering at least  
12 nine calendar months. The local board shall designate when the 180  
13 instructional days shall occur. The number of instructional hours in an  
14 instructional day may vary according to local board policy and does not  
15 have to be uniform among the schools in the administrative unit. Local  
16 boards may approve school improvement plans that include days with  
17 varying amounts of instructional time. If school is closed early due to

1 inclement weather, the day and the scheduled amount of instructional  
2 hours may count towards the required minimum to the extent allowed  
3 by State Board policy. The school calendar shall include a plan for  
4 making up days and instructional hours missed when schools are not  
5 opened due to inclement weather.

6 (2) A minimum of 10 annual vacation leave days.

7 (3) The same or an equivalent number of legal holidays occurring within  
8 the school calendar as those designated by the State Personnel  
9 Commission for State employees.

10 (4) ~~Ten~~ Eight days, as designated by the local board, for use as teacher  
11 workdays, additional instructional days, or other lawful purposes. A  
12 local board may delegate to the individual schools some or all of the ~~10~~  
13 eight days to schedule under subdivision (5) of this subsection. A local  
14 board may schedule different purposes for different personnel on any  
15 given day and is not required to schedule the same dates for all  
16 personnel.

17 (5) The remaining days ~~shall be scheduled by each individual school by the~~  
18 ~~school's principal in consultation with the school improvement team. Days~~  
19 ~~may be scheduled for any of the purposes allowed under subdivision (4)~~  
20 ~~of this subsection. Before scheduling these days, the principal shall~~  
21 ~~work with the school improvement team to determine the days to be~~  
22 ~~scheduled and the purposes for which they should be scheduled. Days~~  
23 ~~may be scheduled and planned for different purposes for different~~  
24 ~~personnel and there is no requirement to schedule the same dates for all~~  
25 ~~personnel. However, if during the last two years the local school~~  
26 ~~administrative unit has made up an average of at least eight days for~~  
27 ~~school closing because of inclement weather, the local board may~~  
28 ~~designate up to two of these days as additional make-up days to be~~  
29 ~~scheduled after the last day of student attendance.~~

30 Local boards and individual schools are encouraged to use the calendar flexibility in  
31 order to meet the annual performance standards set by the State Board. Local boards of  
32 education shall consult with parents and the employed public school personnel in the  
33 development of the school calendar.

34 Local boards and individual schools shall give teachers at least 14 calendar days'  
35 notice before requiring a teacher to work instead of taking vacation leave on days  
36 scheduled in accordance with subdivision (4) or (5) of this subsection. A teacher may  
37 elect to waive this notice requirement for one or more such days."

38 Section 2. G.S. 115C-288 is amended by adding the following new subsection  
39 to read:

40 "(1) To Establish School Improvement Teams. – Each school year, the principal  
41 shall ensure that a school improvement team is established under G.S. 115C-105.27 for  
42 the purpose of developing, reviewing, and revising a school improvement plan."

1           Section 3. G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding the following new subdivision  
2 to read:

3           "(38) To Establish School Improvement Teams. – Local boards shall adopt a  
4           policy to ensure that each principal has established a school  
5           improvement team under G.S. 115C-105.27 and in accordance with  
6           G.S. 115C-288(l). Local boards shall direct the superintendent or the  
7           superintendent's designee to provide appropriate guidance to principals  
8           to ensure that these teams are established and that the principals work  
9           together with these teams to develop, review, and amend school  
10           improvement plans for their schools."

11           Section 4. The Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee shall study  
12 issues related to the development of a school calendar including whether there is  
13 sufficient flexibility under the current law to deal with school closings due to inclement  
14 weather and emergency situations involving individual schools. The Joint Legislative  
15 Education Oversight Committee may report its findings and any recommendations to the  
16 2000 Regular Session of the 1999 General Assembly, or to the 2001 General Assembly.

17           Section 5. This act becomes effective July 1, 1999, and applies to all school  
18 years beginning with the 2000-2001 school year.