

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE DRS55658-LE-384B* (5/9)

Short Title: Durham Vance Education Pilot Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator McKissick.

Referred to:

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPLEMENT A RURAL-URBAN
3 DROPOUT PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM IN DURHAM AND VANCE
4 COUNTIES TO BENEFIT ALL NORTH CAROLINA SCHOOLS.

5 Whereas, North Carolina and the federal government have set ambitious
6 goals for the State's public schools; and

7 Whereas, meeting these goals will require new approaches, particularly in the
8 area of dropout prevention, for all North Carolina schools systems, which continue to
9 search for ways to keep students in school and on track to graduate; and

10 Whereas, to address the dropout issue in their communities and to provide
11 North Carolina schools with a pathway to address the root causes of dropouts, the
12 Vance and Durham County School Systems have developed a unique partnership to
13 initiate innovative prevention and intervention measures to ensure all students graduate
14 on time and with the necessary 21st century skills to be successful in the workplace; and

15 Whereas, the target population for this effort includes students with multiple
16 risk factors, including students who are two or more years over age for their grade level,
17 chronically truant students, students with multiple suspensions, students failing two or
18 more classes, and students who are teen mothers; and

19 Whereas, this pilot program is designed to test two new approaches to
20 dropout prevention, subject these approaches to rigorous performance review, and
21 develop a model for success for other schools systems, both rural and urban, to realize
22 their own dropout prevention goals; Now, therefore,
23 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

24 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
25 Department of Public Instruction the sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars
26 (\$1,600,000) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year to implement a rural-urban dropout
27 prevention pilot program in Durham and Vance Counties. The purpose of the pilot

1 program is (i) to address the dropout issue in Durham and Vance Counties and (ii) to
2 test two new approaches to dropout prevention, subject these approaches to rigorous
3 performance review, and develop a model for success for other schools systems, both
4 rural and urban, to realize their own dropout prevention goals.

5 **SECTION 1.(b)** Of these funds, the sum of:

6 (1) \$700,000 shall be used to implement a Citizens Schools Program in
7 each county. The Citizens Schools Program provides high-quality,
8 extended learning time for middle school students in schools with high
9 percentages of minority students, poor students, or both, along with
10 other risk factors for dropping out. Citizens Schools students receive
11 after-school instruction in groups of eight to twelve students per adult.
12 The instruction includes (i) 60 minutes of daily academic support with
13 strong study skills and critical thinking components, (ii) four 11-week
14 apprenticeships, using volunteers as leaders focusing on 21st century
15 skills, and (iii) career exploration and choice time to further explore a
16 variety of interests. Citizens Schools Team Leaders contact each
17 student's family by telephone at least every two weeks to discuss the
18 student's participation and progress.

19 (2) \$900,000 shall be used to implement an Evening Academy Program in
20 each county. The Evening Academy program is an on-campus
21 Program that will provide approximately 100 students with academic
22 support through smaller classes, specialized instruction geared toward
23 a more adult population, counselors or social workers assigned to work
24 with only academy students, and career and technical education that
25 includes job experiences such as shadowing, apprenticeships, and
26 employment.

27 **SECTION 1.(c)** North Carolina State University shall evaluate the program
28 to ensure that it is effectively helping students stay in school and successfully graduate
29 in their four-year cohort. The evaluation shall include a long-term study of the
30 graduation cohort rate increase as well as short-term measures including attendance,
31 grade point average, discipline, the program dropout rate, credits earned, and
32 postsecondary education matriculation.

33 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.