GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 927

Sponsors: Senators Anodaca: Berger of Rockingham Brunstetter and East	Short Title:	Testing K-8 National Form Test.	(Public)
sponsors. Senators Apodaca, Derger of Rockingham, Brunstetter, and East.	Sponsors:	Senators Apodaca; Berger of Rockingham, Brunstetter, and East.	
Referred to: Education/Higher Education.	Referred to:	Education/Higher Education.	

March 26, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED 2 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE STATE SCHOOL TESTING PROGRAM. 3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts: 4 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-12(9c) reads as rewritten: 5 "§ 115C-12. Powers and duties of the Board generally. 6 The general supervision and administration of the free public school system shall be vested 7 in the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall establish policy for the 8 system of free public schools, subject to laws enacted by the General Assembly. The powers and duties of the State Board of Education are defined as follows: 9 10 11 (9c)Power to develop content standards and exit standards. - The Board shall 12 develop a comprehensive plan to revise content standards and the standard course of study in the core academic areas of reading, writing, mathematics, 13 science, history, geography, and civics. The Board shall involve and survey 14 a representative sample of parents, teachers, and the public to help determine 15 academic content standard priorities and usefulness of the content standards. 16 17 A full review of available and relevant academic content standards that are rigorous, specific, sequenced, clear, focused, and measurable, whenever 18 possible, measurable shall be a part of the process of the development of 19 content standards. The revised content standards developed in the core 20 academic areas shall (i) reflect high expectations for students and an 21 in-depth mastery of the content; (ii) be clearly grounded in the content of 22 23 each academic area; (iii) be defined grade-by-grade and course-by-course; (iv) be understandable to parents and teachers; (v) be developed in full 24 25 recognition of the time available to teach the core academic areas at each 26 grade level; (vi) be measurable in grades three through eight by nationally normed achievement tests, and (vi) (vii) be measurable, whenever possible, 27 measurable in a reliable, valid, and efficient manner for accountability 28 29 purposes. 30 High school course content standards shall include the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue further postsecondary education or to attain 31 32 employment in the 21st century economy. The high school course content 33

standards also shall be aligned with the minimum undergraduate course requirements for admission to the constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina. The Board may develop exit standards that will be required for high school graduation.



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1 2 3			The Board also shall develop and implement an ong State programs and support materials with the revise standards for each core academic area on a regular ba	ed academic content
4			include revising textbook criteria, support materials, St	ate tests, teacher and
5			school administrator preparation, and ongoing profe	-
6			programs to be compatible with content standards. The	
7			and make available to teachers and parents support	
8			teacher and parent guides, for academic content standa	
9			of Education shall work in collaboration with the Board	
10			University of North Carolina to ensure that teacher and	
11			degree programs, ongoing professional development,	
12		SECT	activity in the State's public schools align with the State	Board's priorities.
13 14	"(2)		TON 2. G.S. 115C-174.11(c) reads as rewritten:	
14 15	"(c)	(1)	ll Testing Program. The State Board of Education shall adopt a system of	of appual tasting for
15 16		(1)	grades three through 12. These tests shall be designed	
10			progress toward reading, communication skills, and ma	
18			three through eight, and <u>academic progress</u> toward com	-
19			by the State Board for grades nine through 12. The 12.	ipeteneres designated
20			<u>The State Board may develop and implement a provident and the state Board may develop and implement a provident and the state state</u>	plan for high school
21			end-of-course tests that must be aligned with the	-
22			developed under G.S. 115C-12(9c).	
23			The tests adopted for grades three through eight	shall be nationally
24			normed achievement tests developed by a testing compared	
25			shall adopt these tests after consultation with the	advisory committee
26			established under subdivision (1a) of this subsection.	These tests shall be
27			administered for no more than five days in a school y	
28			amount of days required by the federal No Child Left Be	
29			Students who do not pass the tests adopted score	
30			average in reading or mathematics for eighth grade	
31 32			remedial instruction in the ninth grade. This assistance prepare the students to pass the competency test	
32 33			subsection (b) of this section.	aummistereu under
34		<u>(1a)</u>	There is hereby established an advisory committee to a	ssist the State Board
35		<u>(14)</u>	of Education with test selection. The advisory committee	
36			a. Three members of the Senate, appointed by	-
37			Tempore of the Senate;	
38			b. Three members of the House of Representativ	es, appointed by the
39			Speaker of the House of Representatives;	
40			c. The chair of the State Board of Education;	
41			 <u>c.</u> The chair of the State Board of Education; <u>d.</u> The Superintendent of Public Instruction; <u>e.</u> One representative of higher education, one team 	
42				
43			appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the S	
44			<u>f.</u> <u>One teacher certified in special education, one o</u>	
45			parent, appointed by the Speaker of the House of	-
46 47			The Legislative Services Office shall provide su	tan to the advisory
47 48		(2)	<u>committee.</u> If the State Board of Education finds that additional te	sting in grades three
48 49		(2)	If the State Board of Education finds that additional te <u>nine</u> through 12 is desirable to allow comparisons with	
49 50			student achievement, that testing shall be conducted w	
50 51			sample of students necessary to assure valid comparison	
51			sumple of students necessary to assure vand comparison	strui other states.

SECTION 3. G.S. 115C-174.12 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-174.12. Responsibilities of agencies.

3 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish policies and guidelines necessary for 4 minimizing the time students spend taking tests administered through State and local testing 5 programs, for minimizing the frequency of field testing <u>in grades nine through 12</u> at any one 6 school, and for otherwise carrying out the provisions of this Article. These policies and 7 guidelines shall include the following:

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(1) Schools shall devote no more than two days of instructional time per year to the taking of practice tests that do not have the primary purpose of assessing current student learning;

(2) Students in a school shall not be subject to field tests or national tests during the two-week period preceding the administration of end-of-grade tests, end-of-course tests, or the school's regularly scheduled final exams; and

(3) No school shall participate in more than two field tests at any one grade level during a school year unless that school volunteers, through a vote of its school improvement team, to participate in an expanded number of field tests.

18 These policies shall reflect standard testing practices to insure reliability and validity of the 19 sample testing. The results of the field tests shall be used in the final design of each test. test for 20 grades nine through 12. The State Board of Education's policies regarding the testing of 21 children with disabilities shall (i) provide broad accommodations and alternate methods of 22 assessment that are consistent with a child's individualized education program and section 504 23 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans, (ii) prohibit the use of statewide tests as the sole determinant of 24 decisions about a child's graduation or promotion, and (iii) provide parents with information 25 about the Statewide Testing Program and options for students with disabilities. The State Board 26 shall report its proposed policies and proposed changes in policies to the Joint Legislative 27 Education Oversight Committee prior to adoption.

The State Board of Education may appoint an Advisory Council on Testing to assist in carrying out its responsibilities under this Article.

30 (a1) The State Board of Education shall adopt rules prohibiting schools from using
 31 guidance counselors to coordinate or administer the testing program for more than 10 days
 32 during the school year.

(b) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be responsible, under policies
 adopted by the State Board of Education, for the statewide administration of the testing
 program provided by this Article.

(b1) The Superintendent shall notify local boards of education by October 1 of each year
 of any field tests in grades nine through 12 that will be administered in their schools during the
 school year, the schools at which the field tests will be administered, and the specific field tests
 that will be administered at each school.

40 Local boards of education shall cooperate with the State Board of Education in (c) 41 implementing the provisions of this Article, including the regulations and policies established 42 by the State Board of Education. Local school administrative units shall use the annual and 43 competency testing programs to fulfill the purposes set out in this Article. Local school 44 administrative units are encouraged to continue to develop local testing programs designed to 45 further diagnose student needs further. needs; however, local school administrative units shall not administer locally adopted standardized tests in addition to the nationally normed 46 47 achievement tests adopted by the State Board of Education for grades three through eight."

48 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2009, and applies beginning with 49 the 2009-2010 school year.