

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 839

Short Title: Public School Reporting Reform. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Martin, Horn, Johnson, and Whitmire (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Education.

April 11, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REDUCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

3 Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes that local school administrative units  
4 have become overburdened with paperwork; and

5 Whereas, local school administrative units are also overburdened with reporting  
6 requirements by the Department of Public Instruction and other various State and federal  
7 agencies; and

8 Whereas, in some cases much of this paperwork is duplicative and nonessential to  
9 educational outcomes for our students; and

10 Whereas, the General Assembly desires to remedy this with input from those closest  
11 to the issues; and

12 Whereas, school superintendents from across North Carolina were asked to work  
13 together in regional groups to review 153 current rules and regulations with which they must  
14 comply; and

15 Whereas, the school superintendents working group(s) have reported back  
16 recommendations on whether to keep, revise, study, or delete any of these 153 current rules and  
17 regulations; and

18 Whereas, the useful information and data that may have been supplied in these  
19 reports will continue to be available through the PowerSchool application coming online in  
20 2013; and

21 Whereas, a reduction in reporting and/or paperwork will not result in a lack of  
22 informed decision making but will allow local school administrative units to operate more  
23 efficiently; Now, therefore,

24 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

25 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Public Instruction shall delete at least all of the  
26 following reports to reduce unnecessary reporting requirements for local school administrative  
27 units:

- 28 (1) The Education Directory and Demographic Information Exchange (EDDIE).
- 29 (2) The Principal's Monthly Report (PMR) Final, required by the 30th of each  
30 month.
- 31 (3) The LEA Vacancy Report, required by October 20th of each year.
- 32 (4) The Missed Instructional Days Report, required the 30th of each month.
- 33 (5) The Professional Personnel Activity Report (PPAR), required annually.
- 34 (6) The Pupils in Membership by Race and Sex, required annually by October  
35 31st.



1 (7) The Report of School Sales of Textbooks and Used Books, required annually  
2 by October 31st.

3 (8) The School Activity Report (SAR), required annually.

4 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Department of Public Instruction may collect any information  
5 contained in the reports eliminated in accordance with subsection (a) of this section that is  
6 necessary for compliance with State or federal law through the implementation of the  
7 PowerSchools application or any other component of the Instructional Improvement System  
8 developed by the Department.

9 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-12 reads as rewritten:

10 **"§ 115C-12. Powers and duties of the Board generally.**

11 ...

12 (18) Duty to Develop and Implement a Uniform Education Reporting System,  
13 Which Shall Include Standards and Procedures for Collecting Fiscal and  
14 Personnel Information. –

15 a. The State Board of Education shall adopt standards and procedures  
16 for local school administrative units to provide timely, accurate, and  
17 complete fiscal and personnel information, including payroll  
18 information, on all school personnel. ~~All local school administrative  
19 units shall comply with these standards and procedures by the  
20 beginning of the 1987-88 school year.~~

21 b. The State Board of Education shall develop and implement a  
22 Uniform Education Reporting System that shall include requirements  
23 for collecting, processing, and reporting fiscal, personnel, and student  
24 data, by means of electronic transfer of data files from local  
25 computers to the State Computer Center through the State  
26 Communications Network. ~~All local school administrative units shall  
27 comply with the requirements of the Uniform Education Reporting  
28 System by the beginning of the 1989-90 school year.~~

29 c. The State Board of Education shall comply with the provisions of  
30 G.S. 116-11(10a) to plan and implement an exchange of information  
31 between the public schools and the institutions of higher education in  
32 the State. The State Board of Education shall require local boards of  
33 education to provide to the parents of children at a school all  
34 information except for confidential information received about that  
35 school from institutions of higher education pursuant to  
36 G.S. 116-11(10a) and to make that information available to the  
37 general public.

38 d. The State Board of Education shall modify the Uniform Education  
39 Reporting System to provide clear, accurate, and standard  
40 information on the use of funds at the unit and school level. The plan  
41 shall provide information that will enable the General Assembly to  
42 determine State, local, and federal expenditures for personnel at the  
43 unit and school level. The plan also shall allow the tracking of  
44 expenditures for textbooks, educational supplies and equipment,  
45 capital outlay, at-risk students, and other purposes. ~~The revised  
46 Uniform Education Reporting System shall be implemented  
47 beginning with the 1999-2000 school year.~~

48 e. Whenever practicable, reporting and data collection developed by the  
49 State Board of Education and required as part of the Uniform  
50 Education Reporting System under this subdivision shall be

1 incorporated into the Instructional Improvement System to minimize  
2 unnecessary reporting by local school administrative units.

- 3 (19) Duty to Identify Required Reports and to Eliminate Unnecessary Reports  
4 and Paperwork. – Prior to the beginning of each school year, the State Board  
5 of Education shall identify all reports that are required at the State level for  
6 the school year.

7 The State Board of Education shall adopt policies to ensure that local  
8 school administrative units are not required by the State Board of Education,  
9 the State Superintendent, or the Department of Public Instruction staff to (i)  
10 provide information that is already available on the student information  
11 management system or housed within the Department of Public Instruction;  
12 (ii) provide the same written information more than once during a school  
13 year unless the information has changed during the ensuing period; ~~or~~ (iii)  
14 complete forms, for children with disabilities, that are not necessary to  
15 ensure compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education  
16 Act ~~(IDEA)~~-(IDEA); or (iv) provide information that is unnecessary to  
17 comply with State or federal law and not relevant to student outcomes and  
18 the efficient operation of the public schools. Notwithstanding the foregoing,  
19 the State Board may require information available on its student information  
20 management system or require the same information twice if the State Board  
21 can demonstrate a compelling need and can demonstrate there is not a more  
22 expeditious manner of getting the information.

23 The State Board shall permit schools and local school administrative  
24 units to submit all reports to the Department of Public Instruction  
25 electronically.

26 The State Board of Education, in collaboration with the education  
27 roundtables within the Department of Public Instruction, shall consolidate all  
28 plans that affect the school community, including school improvement plans.  
29 The consolidated plan shall be posted on each school's Web site for easy  
30 access by the public and by school personnel.

31 The State Board shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
32 Committee by November 15 of each year on the reports identified that are  
33 required at the State level, the evaluation and determination for continuing  
34 individual reports, including the consideration of whether those reports  
35 exceed what is required by State and federal law, and any reports that it has  
36 consolidated or eliminated for the upcoming school year.

37 "...."

38 **SECTION 2.(b)** Notwithstanding the requirements of G.S. 115C-12(19), as  
39 enacted by this act, the State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education  
40 Oversight Committee no later than March 15, 2014, on the elimination of reporting  
41 requirements for local school administrative units as a result of the implementation of the  
42 Instructional Improvement System and the justification for the continuation of any reports  
43 required to be submitted by local school administrative units.

44 **SECTION 3.** Section 1 of this act is effective upon the implementation of the  
45 Instructional Improvement System by the Department of Public Instruction. This remainder of  
46 this act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.