

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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HOUSE BILL 559

Short Title: Testing Feedback for Students/Teachers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Whitmire, Lucas, Riddell, and Elmore (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Education - K-12.

April 6, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT
OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO PROVIDE SUMMATIVE FEEDBACK TO PARENTS,
STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS ON THE RESULTS OF STATEWIDE TESTS AND
ASSESSMENTS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-174.12 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-174.12. Responsibilities of agencies.

(a) The State Board of Education shall establish policies and guidelines necessary for minimizing the time students spend taking tests administered through State and local testing programs, for minimizing the frequency of field testing at any one school, and for otherwise carrying out the provisions of this Article. These policies and guidelines shall include the following:

- (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~~; 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 exams.
- (3) No school shall participate in more than two field tests at any one grade level during a school ~~year~~; year.
- (4) All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(1) and (3) and all final exams for courses shall be administered within the final 10 instructional days of the school year for year-long courses and within the final five instructional days of the semester for semester courses. Exceptions shall be permitted to accommodate a student's individualized education program and section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans and for the administration of final exams for courses with national or international curricula required to be held at designated times.

These policies shall reflect standard testing practices to insure reliability and validity of the sample testing. The results of the field tests shall be used in the final design of each test. The State Board of Education's policies regarding the testing of children with disabilities shall (i) provide broad accommodations and alternate methods of assessment that are consistent with a



1 student's individualized education program and section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans, (ii)
2 prohibit the use of statewide tests as the sole determinant of decisions about a student's
3 graduation or promotion, and (iii) provide parents with information about the Statewide Testing
4 Program and options for children with disabilities. The State Board shall report its proposed
5 policies and proposed changes in policies to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
6 Committee prior to adoption.

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

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

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

16 (b2) The State Board of Education shall develop a summative analysis of the statewide
17 assessments and tests administered in accordance with this Article for dissemination to local
18 school administrative units, teachers, parents, and students. The Department of Public
19 Instruction shall utilize an applicable component of the Instructional Improvement System to
20 provide instructional feedback to local school administrative units, teachers, parents, and
21 students as required by this subsection. This summative analysis for individual assessments and
22 tests shall be disseminated within five days of a student taking a test or assessment, if
23 practicable, or within a reasonable amount of time for the protection and integrity of the
24 administration of a statewide test, to students, parents, and teachers as follows:

25 (1) For a student, the student's parent, and the teacher of record for that student,
26 the following information shall be disseminated on individual test items:

27 a. Identification of the test item.

28 b. The curriculum standard to which the test item is linked.

29 c. Indication of whether the student's response was correct or incorrect.

30 (2) For all students for which a teacher is the teacher of record, the teacher shall
31 receive the percentage of students who responded correctly on a test item
32 correlating with corresponding curriculum standards in order to assist the
33 teacher in identifying specific areas in need of improvement for adjustments
34 to instruction and future course lesson plans.

35 (c) Local boards of education shall cooperate with the State Board of Education in
36 implementing the provisions of this Article, including the regulations and policies established
37 by the State Board of Education. Local school administrative units shall use the annual tests to
38 fulfill the purposes set out in this Article. Local school administrative units are encouraged to
39 continue to develop local testing programs designed to diagnose student needs."

40 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
41 the 2015-2016 school year.