

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 687

Short Title: Public Schools/Testing Schedule. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Meyer, Glazier, and Langdon (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Education - K-12.

April 14, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS
3 IN ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL TESTING SCHEDULE.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-174.12(a) reads as rewritten:

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

- 11 (1) Schools shall devote no more than two days of instructional time per year to
12 the taking of practice tests that do not have the primary purpose of assessing
13 current student ~~learning;~~learning.
- 14 (2) Students in a school shall not be subject to field tests or national tests during
15 the two-week period preceding the administration of end-of-grade tests,
16 end-of-course tests, or the school's regularly scheduled final ~~exams;~~
17 and exams.
- 18 (3) No school shall participate in more than two field tests at any one grade level
19 during a school ~~year;~~year.
- 20 (4) All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board
21 of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(1) and (3) and all final exams
22 for courses shall be ~~administered~~administered, whenever practicable and
23 educationally advantageous for students, within the final 10 instructional
24 days of the school year for year-long courses and within the final five
25 instructional days of the semester for semester courses. ~~Exceptions~~Upon
26 approval by the local board of education, a local school administrative unit
27 may apply to the State Board of Education at least 60 days prior to the date
28 of scheduled assessments or final exams for an extension of the testing
29 schedule for up to the final 20 instructional days of the school year for
30 year-long courses and up to the final 10 instructional days of the semester
31 for semester courses. A local school administrative unit shall also be
32 permitted to accommodate a student's individualized education program and
33 section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans and for the administration of final exams
34 for courses with national or international curricula required to be held at
35 designated times.



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1 These policies shall reflect standard testing practices to insure reliability and validity of the
2 sample testing. The results of the field tests shall be used in the final design of each test. The
3 State Board of Education's policies regarding the testing of children with disabilities shall (i)
4 provide broad accommodations and alternate methods of assessment that are consistent with a
5 student's individualized education program and section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans, (ii)
6 prohibit the use of statewide tests as the sole determinant of decisions about a student's
7 graduation or promotion, and (iii) provide parents with information about the Statewide Testing
8 Program and options for children with disabilities. The State Board shall report its proposed
9 policies and proposed changes in policies to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
10 Committee prior to adoption.

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

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