

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015**

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**SENATE BILL 561
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 4/28/15
House Committee Substitute Favorable 8/18/15**

Short Title: Career- and College-Ready Graduates.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 30, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THAT STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL ARE
3 CAREER- AND COLLEGE-READY.

4 Whereas, a study by the Community College Research Center at Columbia
5 University found that students who enter college underprepared and requiring remediation are
6 much less likely to graduate than those who test at college-ready levels and that students who
7 enter college underprepared and requiring remediation frequently do not enroll in classes of any
8 kind; and

9 Whereas, of those students in 2013 who graduated from high school and
10 immediately enrolled in a North Carolina community college, 52% were required to take one or
11 more remedial courses at the community college, including 41% who were required to take a
12 remedial mathematics course and 36% who were required to take a remedial reading and
13 English course; and

14 Whereas, reducing the need for remediation reduces the impact that being
15 underprepared has on students who are dependent on financial aid and helps remove barriers to
16 completion of college programs; Now, therefore,
17 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

18 **SECTION 1.(a)** The State Board of Community Colleges, in consultation with the
19 State Board of Education, shall develop a program for implementation in the 2016-2017 school
20 year that introduces the college developmental mathematics and developmental reading and
21 English curriculums in the high school senior year and provide opportunities for college
22 remediation for students prior to high school graduation through cooperation with community
23 college partners. Students who are enrolled in the Occupational Course of Study to receive their
24 high school diplomas shall not be required to participate in the program or be required to take
25 mandatory remedial courses as provided for in this section, unless a parent specifically requests
26 through the individualized education program (IEP) process that the student participates. The
27 program shall require the following:

- 28 (1) Establishment by the State Board of Community Colleges of measures for
29 determining student readiness and preparation for college coursework by
30 using ACT scores, student grade point averages, or other measures currently
31 used by the State Board of Community Colleges to determine college
32 readiness for entering students.
- 33 (2) Changes in curriculum, policy, and rules as needed by the State Board of
34 Community Colleges and State Board of Education to make remedial
35 courses mandatory for students who do not meet readiness indicators by



1 their junior year to ensure college readiness prior to high school graduation.
2 These changes shall include the flexibility for students to fulfill senior
3 mathematics and English graduation requirements through enrollment in
4 mandatory remedial courses or to enroll in those courses as electives.

5 (3) High schools to use curriculum approved by the State Board of Community
6 Colleges, in consultation with the State Board of Education.

7 (4) Determinations by the State Board of Community Colleges on the following:

8 a. Appropriate measures of successful completion of the remedial
9 courses to ensure students are prepared for coursework at a North
10 Carolina community college without need for further remediation in
11 mathematics or reading and English.

12 b. The length of time following high school graduation in which a
13 student who successfully completed high school remedial courses
14 will not be required to enroll in developmental courses at a North
15 Carolina community college.

16 (5) Delivery of remedial courses by high school faculty consistent with policies
17 adopted by the State Board of Community Colleges and the State Board of
18 Education. The policies shall include, at a minimum, the following
19 requirements:

20 a. High school faculty teaching the approved remedial courses must
21 successfully complete training requirements as determined by the
22 State Board of Community Colleges, in consultation with the State
23 Board of Education.

24 b. The North Carolina Community College System shall provide
25 oversight of the remedial courses to ensure appropriate instructional
26 delivery.

27 **SECTION 1.(b)** The State Board of Community Colleges and the State Board of
28 Education shall report on progress of implementation of the program statewide, including the
29 requirements in subsection (a) of this section, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
30 Committee no later than January 15, 2016.

31 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.