

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

**H.B. 135**  
**Feb 16, 2017**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH40056-MT-22 (01/18)

Short Title: Technical Changes to Courses of Study Statute. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Elmore, Johnson, and Conrad (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE ORGANIZATIONAL AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE COURSES  
3 OF STUDY STATUTES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-81 is repealed.

6 SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-81.1 is repealed.

7 SECTION 3. G.S. 115C-81.3 is repealed.

8 SECTION 4. G.S. 115C-81.4 is repealed.

9 SECTION 5. Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended  
10 by adding new sections to read:

11 "**§ 115C-81.5. Standard course of study.**

12 (a) All children can learn. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the mission of the  
13 public school community is to challenge with high expectations each child to learn, to achieve,  
14 and to fulfill his or her potential. With that mission as its guide, the State Board of Education shall  
15 adopt a plan of education and a standard course of study as provided in G.S. 115C-12(9c) for the  
16 public schools of the State. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the focus of State  
17 educational funding shall be to ensure that each student receives a sound basic education. It is  
18 further a goal of the General Assembly to provide supplemental funds to low-wealth counties to  
19 allow those counties to enhance the instructional program and student achievement. Instruction  
20 shall be offered in the areas of arts, communication skills, physical education and personal health  
21 and safety, mathematics, media and computer skills, science, second languages, social studies, and  
22 career and technical education. In addition, instruction shall be offered in all of the areas provided  
23 in this Part.

24 (b) The standard course of study shall provide all of the following:

25 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special needs of  
26 children.

27 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area.

28 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum.

29 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the mastery of  
30 competencies, including standards for graduation, that take into account  
31 children with disabilities and, in particular, include appropriate modifications.

32 (5) A program of remedial education.

33 (6) Required support programs.

34 (7) A definition of the instructional day.

35 (8) Class size recommendations and requirements.

36 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ratios.



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1           (10) Material and equipment allotment ratios.

2           (11) Facilities guidelines that reflect educational program appropriateness, long-term  
3 cost efficiency, and safety considerations.

4           (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary.

5 **"§ 115C-81.10. Career and technical education.**

6           (a) Instruction in career and technical education shall include the following:

7           (1) The integration of academic and career and technical education.

8           (2) A sequential course of study leading to career and college readiness.

9           (3) Increased student work skill attainment and job placement.

10          (4) Increased linkages, where geographically feasible, between public schools and  
11 community colleges, so the public schools can emphasize academic preparation  
12 and the community colleges can emphasize specific job training.

13          (5) Instruction and experience, to the extent practicable, in all aspects of the  
14 industry the students are prepared to enter.

15 **"§ 115C-81.15. Conflict resolution and mediation models.**

16          The State Board of Education shall develop a list of recommended conflict resolution and  
17 mediation materials, models, and curricula that address responsible decision making, the causes  
18 and effects of school violence and harassment, cultural diversity, and nonviolent methods for  
19 resolving conflict, including peer mediation, and shall make the list available to local school  
20 administrative units and school buildings. In developing this list, the Board shall emphasize  
21 materials, models, and curricula that currently are being used in North Carolina and that the Board  
22 determines to be effective. The Board shall include at least one model that includes instruction and  
23 guidance for the voluntary implementation of peer mediation programs and one model that  
24 provides instruction and guidance for teachers concerning the integration of conflict resolution and  
25 mediation lessons into the existing classroom curriculum.

26 **"§ 115C-81.20. Alcohol and drug use prevention education.**

27          (a) Instruction shall be provided in alcohol and drug use prevention education at every  
28 grade level from kindergarten through grade 12.

29          (b) The State Board of Education shall develop and maintain a recommended list of  
30 alcohol and drug use prevention education materials that include components for teacher training  
31 and ongoing assessment and evaluation to verify success and ensure the use of up-to-date  
32 information and strategies.

33          (c) The Department of Public Instruction shall do the following:

34          (1) Work to strengthen instructional offerings in the content and skill areas in  
35 which alcohol and drug use prevention education is addressed.

36          (2) Develop curricular materials and resources that meet, extend, and supplement  
37 drug and alcohol education as outlined in the standard course of study and the  
38 teacher handbook for the competency-based curriculum.

39          (3) Recommend to the State Board of Education any drug use prevention education  
40 support materials that should be removed from or added to the recommended  
41 list of curricular resources developed and maintained by the State Board of  
42 Education.

43          (d) Local boards of education may select supplemental alcohol and drug use prevention  
44 education materials from the list maintained by the State Board of Education or develop their own  
45 supplemental materials to be approved by the State Board of Education.

46          (e) Local boards of education shall do the following:

47          (1) Implement an approved alcohol and drug use prevention education as a primary  
48 part of their comprehensive health education program.

49          (2) Provide for ongoing evaluation of drug use prevention education resources, to  
50 include participation in ongoing evaluations with the Department of Public  
51 Instruction.

1       (f)    The Department of Public Instruction, in conjunction with local school administrative  
2 units, shall provide for professional development to train educators and support personnel to  
3 implement a comprehensive alcohol and drug use prevention education program.

4       (g)    Sequential, age-appropriate instruction shall be provided that includes all of the  
5 following:

6           (1)   Reaches all students in all grades.

7           (2)   Presents a clear and consistent message that the use of alcohol and unlawful  
8 drugs and the misuse of other drugs are unhealthy and harmful.

9           (3)   Reflects current research and theory.

10          (4)   Includes all abusable substances.

11          (5)   Utilizes information that is current and accurate.

12          (6)   Involves students in active "hands-on" learning experiences.

13          (7)   Integrates substance abuse education with other health and social issues and  
14 other subject and skill areas of the standard course of study.

15          (8)   Promotes understanding and respect for the law and values of society.

16          (9)   Encourages healthy, safe, and responsible attitudes and behaviors.

17          (10)  Includes strategies to involve parents, family members, and the community.

18          (11)  Includes information on intervention and treatment services.

19          (12)  Is continually open to revision, expansion, and improvement.

20    **"§ 115C-81.25. Health education.**

21       (a)    Comprehensive health education instruction shall be developed and taught to students  
22 from kindergarten through ninth grade.

23       (b)    The State Board of Education shall do all of the following:

24           (1)   Supervise the development and operation of the statewide comprehensive  
25 school health education program, including curriculum development, teacher  
26 professional development, promotion of training in teacher preparation  
27 programs, learning material review, and assessment and evaluation of local  
28 programs in the same manner as for other programs.

29           (2)   Adopt objectives for the instruction of the subject areas listed in this section  
30 that are appropriate for each grade level.

31           (3)   Approve textbooks and other materials incorporating these objectives that local  
32 school administrative units may purchase with State funds.

33       (c)    The State Board of Education, through the Department of Public Instruction, shall, on a  
34 regular basis, review materials related to these objectives and distribute these reviews to local  
35 school administrative units for their information. This program includes age-appropriate  
36 instruction in the following subject areas, regardless of whether this instruction is described as, or  
37 incorporated into a description of, "family life education," "family health education," "health  
38 education," "family living," "health," "healthful living curriculum," or "self-esteem":

39           (1)   Mental and emotional health.

40           (2)   Drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

41           (3)   Nutrition.

42           (4)   Dental health.

43           (5)   Environmental health.

44           (6)   Family living.

45           (7)   Consumer health.

46           (8)   Disease control.

47           (9)   Growth and development.

48           (10)  First aid and emergency care, including the teaching of cardiopulmonary  
49 resuscitation (CPR) and the Heimlich maneuver by using hands-on training  
50 with mannequins so that students pass a test approved by the American Heart

1 Association or American Red Cross. For the purposes of this subdivision,  
2 schools shall do all of the following:

3 a. Use an instructional program developed by the American Heart  
4 Association, the American Red Cross, or other nationally recognized  
5 programs that is based on the most current national evidence-based  
6 emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for CPR.

7 b. Maintain documentation in an electronic database that students have  
8 successfully completed CPR instruction to meet healthful living  
9 essential standards.

10 c. Require successful completion of instruction in CPR to be a requirement  
11 for high school graduation by the 2014-2015 school year.

12 (11) Preventing sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and other  
13 communicable diseases. As used in this section, "HIV/AIDS" means Human  
14 Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

15 (12) Reproductive health and safety education.

16 (13) Bicycle safety.

17 (d) Parental Review. – The State Board of Education shall make available to all local  
18 school administrative units for review by the parents and legal guardians of students enrolled at  
19 those units any State-developed objectives for instruction, any approved textbooks, the list of  
20 reviewed materials, and any other State-developed or approved materials that pertain to or are  
21 intended to impart information or promote discussion or understanding in regard to the prevention  
22 of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to the avoidance of out-of-wedlock  
23 pregnancy, or to the reproductive health and safety education curriculum. The review period shall  
24 extend for at least 60 days before use.

25 (e) Duty of Local School Administrative Units. – Each local school administrative unit  
26 shall provide a comprehensive school health education program that meets all the requirements of  
27 this section and all the objectives established by the State Board. Each local board of education  
28 may expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives  
29 to be met.

30 **"§ 115C-81.30. Reproductive health and safety education provided by local school**  
31 **administrative units.**

32 (a) Each local school administrative unit shall provide a reproductive health and safety  
33 education program commencing in the seventh grade. Materials used in this instruction shall be  
34 age-appropriate for use with students. Law enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, and  
35 nongovernmental organizations with experience in sex-trafficking prevention and awareness may  
36 provide materials and information. Information conveyed during the instruction shall be objective  
37 and based upon scientific research that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and  
38 credentialed experts in any of the following fields: sexual health education, adolescent  
39 psychology, behavioral counseling, medicine, human anatomy, biology, ethics, or health  
40 education. Reproductive health and safety instruction provided by the local school administrative  
41 units shall do the following:

42 (1) Teach that abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage is the expected  
43 standard for all school-age children.

44 (2) Present techniques and strategies to deal with peer pressure and offering  
45 positive reinforcement.

46 (3) Present reasons, skills, and strategies for remaining or becoming abstinent from  
47 sexual activity.

48 (4) Teach that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain means of avoiding  
49 out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases when transmitted  
50 through sexual contact, including HIV/AIDS, and other associated health and

- 1 emotional problems. As used in this section, "HIV/AIDS" means Human  
2 Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.
- 3 (5) Teach that a mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationship in the  
4 context of marriage is the best lifelong means of avoiding sexually transmitted  
5 diseases, including HIV/AIDS.
- 6 (6) Teach the positive benefits of abstinence until marriage and the risks of  
7 premarital sexual activity.
- 8 (7) Provide opportunities that allow for interaction between the parent or legal  
9 guardian and the student.
- 10 (8) Provide factually accurate biological or pathological information that is related  
11 to the human reproductive system.
- 12 (9) Teach about the preventable risks for preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies,  
13 including induced abortion, smoking, alcohol consumption, the use of illegal  
14 drugs, and inadequate prenatal care.
- 15 (10) Teach about sexually transmitted diseases. Instruction shall include how  
16 sexually transmitted diseases are and are not transmitted, the effectiveness and  
17 safety of all federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved methods of  
18 reducing the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and information  
19 on local resources for testing and medical care for sexually transmitted diseases.  
20 Instruction shall include the rates of infection among pre-teen and teens of each  
21 known sexually transmitted disease and the effects of contracting each sexually  
22 transmitted disease. In particular, the instruction shall include information about  
23 the effects of contracting the Human Papilloma Virus, including sterility and  
24 cervical cancer.
- 25 (11) Teach about the effectiveness and safety of all FDA-approved contraceptive  
26 methods in preventing pregnancy.
- 27 (12) Teach awareness of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and risk reduction. The  
28 instruction and materials shall:
- 29 a. Focus on healthy relationships.
- 30 b. Teach students what constitutes sexual assault and sexual abuse, the  
31 causes of those behaviors, and risk reduction.
- 32 c. Inform students about resources and reporting procedures if they  
33 experience sexual assault or sexual abuse.
- 34 d. Examine common misconceptions and stereotypes about sexual assault  
35 and sexual abuse.
- 36 (13) Teach about sex trafficking prevention and awareness. Each local school  
37 administrative unit shall:
- 38 a. Collaborate with a diverse group of outside consultants where practical,  
39 including law enforcement with expertise in sex-trafficking prevention  
40 education, to address the threats of sex trafficking.
- 41 b. Collaborate with a diverse group of outside consultants, including law  
42 enforcement with expertise in sex trafficking, on a referral protocol for  
43 high-risk pupils and minors.
- 44 (b) Each local board of education shall adopt a policy and provide a mechanism to allow a  
45 parent or a legal guardian to withdraw his or her child from instruction required under  
46 subdivisions (10) through (13) of subsection (a) of this section.
- 47 (c) Parental Review and Consent. – Each school year, before students may participate in  
48 any portion of (i) a program that pertains to or is intended to impart information or promote  
49 discussion or understanding in regard to the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including  
50 HIV/AIDS, or to the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy or (ii) a reproductive health and  
51 safety education program, whether developed by the State or by the local board of education, the

1 parents and legal guardians of those students shall be given an opportunity to review the objectives  
2 and materials as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(d). Local boards of education shall adopt policies to  
3 provide opportunities either for parents and legal guardians to consent or for parents and legal  
4 guardians to withhold their consent to the students' participation in any or all of these programs.

5 (d) Information on Contraceptives and Abortion Referral Services. – Students may receive  
6 information about where to obtain contraceptives and abortion referral services only in accordance  
7 with a local board's policy regarding parental consent. Any instruction concerning the use of  
8 contraceptives or prophylactics shall provide accurate statistical information on their effectiveness  
9 and failure rates for preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS,  
10 in actual use among adolescent populations and shall explain clearly the difference between risk  
11 reduction and risk elimination through abstinence. The Department of Health and Human Services  
12 shall provide the most current available information at the beginning of each school year.

13 (e) Prohibition on Distribution of Contraceptives. – Contraceptives, including condoms  
14 and other devices, shall not be made available or distributed on school property.

15 (f) School Health Coordinators. – School health coordinators may be employed to assist in  
16 the instruction of any portion of the comprehensive school health education program. Where  
17 feasible, a school health coordinator should serve more than one local school administrative unit.  
18 Each person initially employed as a State-funded school health coordinator after June 30, 1987,  
19 shall have a degree in health education.

20 (g) Duty of Local School Administrative Units. – Each local school administrative unit  
21 shall provide a comprehensive school health education program that meets all the requirements of  
22 this section and all the objectives established by the State Board. Each local board of education  
23 may expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives  
24 to be met.

25 **"§ 115C-81.35. Honors-level courses in healthful living education.**

26 The State Board of Education shall develop or identify academically rigorous honors-level  
27 courses in healthful living education that can be offered at the high school level. These  
28 honors-level courses shall be more rigorous than standard-level courses, include advanced content,  
29 provide multiple opportunities for students to take greater responsibility for their learning, and  
30 require higher quality work from the students than standard courses.

31 **"§ 115C-81.40. North Carolina history and geography.**

32 The standard course of study shall include the requirement that the public schools provide to  
33 all students one yearlong course of instruction on North Carolina history and geography in  
34 elementary school and one yearlong course of instruction in middle school on North Carolina  
35 history with United States history integrated into this instruction. The course of instruction shall  
36 include contributions to the history and geography of the State and the nation by the racial and  
37 ethnic groups that have contributed to the development and diversity of the State and nation. Each  
38 course of instruction may include up to two weeks of instruction relating to the local area in which  
39 the students reside.

40 **"§ 115C-81.45. Classes conducted in English; citizenship; and civic literacy.**

41 (a) Except when a board authorizes teaching in a foreign language in order to comply with  
42 federal law, local boards of education shall require all teachers and principals to conduct classes  
43 except foreign language classes in English. Any teacher or principal who refuses to do so may be  
44 dismissed.

45 (b) Local boards of education shall provide for the efficient teaching at appropriate grade  
46 levels of all materials set forth in the standard course of study, including integrated instruction in  
47 the areas of citizenship in the United States of America, government of the State of North  
48 Carolina, government of the United States, fire prevention, the free enterprise system, and the  
49 dangers of harmful or illegal drugs, including alcohol.

50 (c) Democratic Process and Citizenship Education. –

- 1           (1)   The State Board of Education shall include instruction in civic and citizenship  
2           education in the standard course of study for high school social studies. The  
3           State Board of Education is strongly encouraged to include, at a minimum, the  
4           following components in the high school civic and citizenship education  
5           standard course of study:  
6           a.     That students write to a local, State, or federal elected official about an  
7           issue that is important to them.  
8           b.     Instruction on the importance of voting and otherwise participating in  
9           the democratic process, including instruction on voter registration.  
10          c.     Information about current events and governmental structure.  
11          d.     Information about the democratic process and how laws are made.  
12          (2)   The State Board of Education shall include instruction in civic and citizenship  
13          education in the standard course of study for middle school social studies. The  
14          State Board of Education is strongly encouraged to include, at a minimum, the  
15          following components in the middle school civic and citizenship education  
16          standard course of study:  
17          a.     A tour of representative local government facilities, such as the local  
18          jail, the courthouse, or a town hall, to help students understand the way  
19          their community is governed.  
20          b.     Allowing students to choose and analyze a community problem and  
21          offer public policy recommendations on the problem to local officials.  
22          c.     Information about getting involved in community groups.  
23   (d)   Civic Literacy. –  
24          (1)   The State Board of Education shall require during the high school years the  
25          teaching of a semester course on the Founding Principles of the United States of  
26          America and the State of North Carolina. A passing grade in the course shall be  
27          required for graduation from high school, and the course shall include at least  
28          the following subjects:  
29          a.     The Creator-endowed inalienable rights of the people.  
30          b.     Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and  
31          balances.  
32          c.     Frequent and free elections in a representative government.  
33          d.     Rule of law.  
34          e.     Equal justice under the law.  
35          f.     Private property rights.  
36          g.     Federalism.  
37          h.     Due process.  
38          i.     Individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights.  
39          j.     Individual responsibility.  
40          k.     Constitutional limitations on government power to tax and spend, and  
41          prompt payment of public debt.  
42          l.     Strong defense and supremacy of civil authority over military.  
43          m.     Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling  
44          alliances with none.  
45          (2)   The State Board of Education shall require that any high school level  
46          curriculum-based tests for the course required in subdivision (1) of this  
47          subsection developed and administered statewide beginning with the 2016-2017  
48          academic year include questions related to the philosophical foundations of our  
49          form of government and the principles underlying the Declaration of  
50          Independence, the United States Constitution and its amendments, and the most  
51          important of the Federalist Papers.

1           (3)    The Department of Public Instruction and the local boards of education, as  
2           appropriate, shall provide or cause to be provided curriculum content for the  
3           semester course required in subdivision (1) of this subsection and professional  
4           development to ensure that the intent and provisions of this subsection are  
5           carried out. The curriculum content established shall include a review of the  
6           contributions made by Americans of all races.

7           (4)    The Department of Public Instruction shall submit a biennial report by October  
8           15 of each odd-numbered year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
9           Committee covering the implementation of this subsection.

10 **"§ 115C-81.50. Student councils.**

11       All high schools and middle schools shall be encouraged to have elected student councils  
12       through which students have input into policies and decisions that affect them. All other schools  
13       are encouraged to have student councils.

14       The purpose of these student councils is to build civic skills and attitudes such as participation  
15       in elections, discussion and debate of issues, and collaborative decision making. Schools shall  
16       encourage active, broad-based participation in these student councils.

17 **"§ 115C-81.55. Current events.**

18       Schools should encourage discussions of current events in a wide range of classes, especially  
19       social studies and language arts classes. All high schools and middle schools are encouraged to  
20       have at least two classes per grade level to offer interactive current events discussions at least  
21       every four weeks.

22 **"§ 115C-81.60. Character education.**

23       (a)   Each local board of education shall develop and implement character education  
24       instruction with input from the local community. The instruction shall be incorporated into the  
25       standard curriculum and should address the following traits:

26           (1)    Courage. – Having the determination to do the right thing even when others  
27           don't and the strength to follow your conscience rather than the crowd; and  
28           attempting difficult things that are worthwhile.

29           (2)    Good judgment. – Choosing worthy goals and setting proper priorities; thinking  
30           through the consequences of your actions; and basing decisions on practical  
31           wisdom and good sense.

32           (3)    Integrity. – Having the inner strength to be truthful, trustworthy, and honest in  
33           all things; acting justly and honorably.

34           (4)    Kindness. – Being considerate, courteous, helpful, and understanding of others;  
35           showing care, compassion, friendship, and generosity; and treating others as  
36           you would like to be treated.

37           (5)    Perseverance. – Being persistent in the pursuit of worthy objectives in spite of  
38           difficulty, opposition, or discouragement; and exhibiting patience and having  
39           the fortitude to try again when confronted with delays, mistakes, or failures.

40           (6)    Respect. – Showing high regard for authority, for other people, for self, for  
41           property, and for country; and understanding that all people have value as  
42           human beings.

43           (7)    Responsibility. – Being dependable in carrying out obligations and duties;  
44           showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct; being accountable  
45           for your own actions; and being committed to active involvement in your  
46           community.

47           (8)    Self-discipline. – Demonstrating hard work and commitment to purpose;  
48           regulating yourself for improvement and restraining from inappropriate  
49           behaviors; being in proper control of your words, actions, impulses, and  
50           desires; choosing abstinence from premarital sex, drugs, alcohol, and other  
51           harmful substances and behaviors; and doing your best in all situations.



1       **(b) In addition to the instruction under subsection (a) of this section, local boards of**  
2 **education are encouraged to include instruction on the following responsibilities:**

3       **(1) Respect for school personnel. – In the school environment, respect includes**  
4 **holding teachers, school administrators, and all school personnel in high esteem**  
5 **and demonstrating in words and deeds that all school personnel deserve to be**  
6 **treated with courtesy and proper deference.**

7       **(2) Responsibility for school safety. – Helping to create a harmonious school**  
8 **atmosphere that is free from threats, weapons, and violent or disruptive**  
9 **behavior; cultivating an orderly learning environment in which students and**  
10 **school personnel feel safe and secure; and encouraging the resolution of**  
11 **conflicts and disagreements through peaceful means, including peer mediation.**  
12 **Instruction in this responsibility should include a consistent and age-appropriate**  
13 **antiviolence message and a conflict resolution component for students in**  
14 **kindergarten through grade 12. These messages should include**  
15 **media-awareness education to help children recognize stereotypes and**  
16 **messages portraying violence.**

17       **(3) Service to others. – Engaging in meaningful service to their schools and their**  
18 **communities. Schools may teach service-learning by (i) incorporating it into**  
19 **their standard curriculum or (ii) involving a classroom of students or some**  
20 **other group of students in one or more hands-on community service projects.**  
21 **All schools are encouraged to provide opportunities for student involvement in**  
22 **community service or service-learning projects.**

23       **(4) Good citizenship. – Obeying the laws of the nation and this State; abiding by**  
24 **school rules; and understanding the rights and responsibilities of a member of a**  
25 **republic.**

26 **"§ 115C-81.65. Financial literacy.**

27       **(a) Instruction shall be provided in personal financial literacy for all students. In addition**  
28 **to the requirements in subsection (b) of this section, the State Board of Education shall determine**  
29 **the other components of personal financial literacy that will be covered in the curriculum. The**  
30 **State Board shall also review the high school standard course of study to determine into which**  
31 **courses and grade levels personal financial literacy shall be integrated.**

32       **(b) Each student shall receive personal financial literacy instruction that shall include:**

33       **(1) The true cost of credit.**

34       **(2) Choosing and managing a credit card.**

35       **(3) Borrowing money for an automobile or other large purchase.**

36       **(4) Home mortgages.**

37       **(5) Credit scoring and credit reports.**

38       **(6) Other relevant financial literacy issues.**

39 **"§ 115C-81.70. Disability history and awareness.**

40       **(a) Each local board of education shall provide instruction on disability, people with**  
41 **disabilities, and the disability rights movement in conjunction with Disability History and**  
42 **Awareness Month, established pursuant to G.S. 103-11.**

43       **(b) This instruction shall be incorporated through measures that include any of the**  
44 **following:**

45       **(1) Supplementing existing lesson plans.**

46       **(2) Holding school assemblies.**

47       **(3) Hosting disability-focused film festivals.**

48       **(4) Organizing other school activities.**

49       **Local boards of education are encouraged to incorporate individuals with disabilities or**  
50 **knowledgeable guest speakers from the disability community into the delivery of this instruction.**

51 **"§ 115C-81.75. Cursive writing.**

1 The standard course of study shall include the requirement that the public schools provide  
2 instruction in cursive writing so that students create readable documents through legible cursive  
3 handwriting by the end of fifth grade.

4 **"§ 115C-81.80. Multiplication tables.**

5 The standard course of study shall include the requirement that students enrolled in public  
6 schools memorize multiplication tables to demonstrate competency in efficiently multiplying  
7 numbers.

8 **"§ 115C-81.85. Instruction in American Sign Language.**

9 (a) The State Board of Education shall encourage schools to offer American Sign  
10 Language classes in high schools as a modern foreign language.

11 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt and implement standards for the certification  
12 of teachers of American Sign Language and shall set standards for teacher preparation programs  
13 that prepare students for certification as American Sign Language teachers."

14 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

15 **"(1a) To Establish and Maintain Kindergartens. –**

16 a. Local boards of education shall provide for their respective local school  
17 administrative unit kindergartens as a part of the public school system  
18 for all children living in the local school administrative unit who are  
19 eligible for admission pursuant to sub-subdivision c. of this subdivision  
20 provided that funds are available from State, local, federal, or other  
21 sources to operate a kindergarten program as provided in this  
22 subdivision.

23 b. All kindergarten programs so established shall be subject to the  
24 supervision of the Department of Public Instruction and shall be  
25 operated in accordance with the standards adopted by the State Board of  
26 Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Public  
27 Instruction. Among the standards to be adopted by the State Board of  
28 Education shall be a provision that the Board will allocate funds for the  
29 purpose of operating and administering kindergartens to each school  
30 administrative unit in the State based on the average daily membership  
31 for the best continuous three out of the first four school months of pupils  
32 in the kindergarten program during the last school year in that respective  
33 school administrative unit. Such allocations are to be made from funds  
34 appropriated to the State Board of Education for the kindergarten  
35 program.

36 c. Any child who meets the requirements of G.S. 115C-364 shall be  
37 eligible for enrollment in kindergarten. Any child who is enrolled in  
38 kindergarten and not withdrawn by the child's parent or legal guardian  
39 shall attend kindergarten.

40 d. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, subject to  
41 the approval of the State Board of Education, any local board of  
42 education may elect not to establish and maintain a kindergarten  
43 program. Any funds allocated to a local board of education which does  
44 not operate a kindergarten program may be reallocated by the State  
45 Board of Education, within the discretion of the Board, to a county or  
46 city board of education which will operate such a program."

47 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

48 **"(29c) To Allow and Encourage the Reading and Posting of Documents on the History**  
49 **of the United States and With Historical Significance for the United States. –**

50 a. Local boards of education shall allow and may encourage any public  
51 school teacher or administrator to read or post in a public school

1 building, classroom, or event excerpts or portions of writings,  
2 documents, and records that reflect the history of the United States,  
3 including, but not limited to:

- 4 1. The preamble to the North Carolina Constitution.
- 5 2. The Declaration of Independence.
- 6 3. The United States Constitution.
- 7 4. The Mayflower Compact.
- 8 5. The national motto.
- 9 6. The National Anthem.
- 10 7. The Pledge of Allegiance.
- 11 8. The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the  
12 founding fathers and Presidents of the United States.
- 13 9. Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.
- 14 10. Acts of the Congress of the United States, including the  
15 published text of the Congressional Record.

16 b. Local boards, superintendents, principals, and supervisors shall not  
17 allow content-based censorship of American history in the public  
18 schools of this State, including religious references in these writings,  
19 documents, and records. Local boards and professional school personnel  
20 may develop curricula and use materials that are limited to specified  
21 topics, provided the curricula and materials are aligned with the  
22 standard course of study or are grade level appropriate.

23 c. A local school administrative unit may display on real property  
24 controlled by that local school administrative unit documents and  
25 objects of historical significance that have formed and influenced the  
26 United States legal or governmental system and that exemplify the  
27 development of the rule of law, such as the Magna Carta, the  
28 Mecklenburg Declaration, the Ten Commandments, the Justinian Code,  
29 and documents set out in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision. Such  
30 displays are subject to the following requirements:

- 31 1. The display may include, but shall not be limited to, documents  
32 that contain words associated with a religion; provided,  
33 however, no display shall seek to establish or promote religion  
34 or to persuade any person to embrace a particular religion,  
35 denomination of a religion, or other philosophy.
- 36 2. The display of a document containing words associated with a  
37 religion shall be in the same manner and appearance generally as  
38 other documents and objects displayed and shall not be  
39 presented or displayed in any fashion that results in calling  
40 attention to it apart from the other displayed documents and  
41 objects. The display also shall be accompanied by a prominent  
42 sign quoting the First Amendment of the United States  
43 Constitution as follows: "Congress shall make no law respecting  
44 an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise  
45 thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or  
46 the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the  
47 government for a redress of grievances."

48 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

49 "(49a) To Address Science Safety Requirements. –

- 50 a. Each local board of education shall certify annually to the State Board  
51 of Education that its high school and middle school science laboratories

1                    are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment for  
2                    students and teachers.

- 3                    b. Each local board of education shall ensure that its high schools and  
4                    middle schools comply with all State Board of Education policies  
5                    related to science laboratory safety."

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

7                    "(9c) Power to Develop Content ~~Standards and Exit Standards.~~ –

- 8                    a. The Board shall develop a comprehensive plan to revise content  
9                    standards and the standard course of study in the core academic areas of  
10                    reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, geography, and civics.  
11                    The Board shall involve and survey a representative sample of parents,  
12                    teachers, and the public to help determine academic content standard  
13                    priorities and usefulness of the content standards. A full review of  
14                    available and relevant academic content standards that are rigorous,  
15                    specific, sequenced, clear, focused, and measurable, whenever possible,  
16                    shall be a part of the process of the development of content standards.  
17                    The revised content standards developed in the core academic areas  
18                    shall (i) reflect high expectations for students and an in-depth mastery of  
19                    the content; (ii) be clearly grounded in the content of each academic  
20                    area; (iii) be defined grade-by-grade and course-by-course; (iv) be  
21                    understandable to parents and teachers; (v) be developed in full  
22                    recognition of the time available to teach the core academic areas at  
23                    each grade level; and (vi) be measurable, whenever possible, in a  
24                    reliable, valid, and efficient manner for accountability purposes.

- 25                    b. High school course content standards shall include the knowledge and  
26                    skills necessary to pursue further postsecondary education or to attain  
27                    employment in the 21st century economy. The high school course  
28                    content standards also shall be aligned with the minimum undergraduate  
29                    course requirements for admission to the constituent institutions of The  
30                    University of North Carolina. ~~The Board may develop exit standards~~  
31                    ~~that will be required for high school graduation.~~

- 32                    c. The Board also shall develop and implement an ongoing process to  
33                    align State programs and support materials with the revised academic  
34                    content standards for each core academic area on a regular basis.  
35                    Alignment shall include revising textbook criteria, support materials,  
36                    State tests, teacher and school administrator preparation, and ongoing  
37                    professional development programs to be compatible with content  
38                    standards. The Board shall develop and make available to teachers and  
39                    parents support materials, including teacher and parent guides, for  
40                    academic content standards. The State Board of Education shall work in  
41                    collaboration with the Board of Governors of The University of North  
42                    Carolina to ensure that teacher and school administrator degree  
43                    programs, ongoing professional development, and other university  
44                    activity in the State's public schools align with the State Board's  
45                    priorities."

46                    **SECTION 10.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

47                    "(9d) Power to Develop Exit Standards and Graduation Requirements. –

- 48                    a. The Board may develop exit standards that shall be required for high  
49                    school graduation. The Board shall require the following for high school  
50                    graduation:

- 1                   1.     Successful completion of instruction in cardiopulmonary  
 2                   resuscitation as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10).  
 3                   2.     A passing grade in the semester course on the Founding  
 4                   Principles of the United States of America and the State of North  
 5                   Carolina described in G.S. 115C-81.45(d)(1).  
 6           b.     The following restrictions apply to the Board regarding Algebra I and  
 7                   high school graduation projects:  
 8                   1.     The Board shall not adopt or enforce any rule that requires  
 9                   Algebra I as a graduation standard or as a requirement for a high  
 10                   school diploma for any student whose individualized education  
 11                   program (i) identifies the student as learning disabled in the area  
 12                   of mathematics and (ii) states that this learning disability will  
 13                   prevent the student from mastering Algebra I.  
 14                   2.     The Board shall not require any student to prepare a high school  
 15                   graduation project as a condition of graduation from high school;  
 16                   local boards of education may, however, require their students to  
 17                   complete a high school graduation project."

18           **SECTION 11.** G.S. 115C-12(9)c. is repealed.

19           **SECTION 12.** G.S. 115C-47(12) is repealed.

20           **SECTION 13.** G.S. 115C-105.32 reads as rewritten:

21   "**§ 115C-105.32. Parent involvement programs and conflict resolution programs as part of**  
 22   **school improvement plans.**

23       A school is encouraged to include a comprehensive parent involvement program as part of its  
 24   school improvement plan under G.S. 115C-105.27. The State Board of Education shall develop a  
 25   list of recommended strategies that it determines to be effective, which building level committees  
 26   may use to establish parent involvement programs designed to meet the specific needs of their  
 27   schools. The Board shall make the list available to local school administrative units and school  
 28   buildings by the beginning of the 1994-95 school year.

29       A school is encouraged to review its need for a comprehensive conflict resolution program as  
 30   part of the development of its school improvement plan under G.S. 115C-105.27. If a school  
 31   determines that this program is needed, it may select from the list developed by the State Board of  
 32   Education under ~~G.S. 115C-81(a4)~~G.S. 115C-81.15 or may develop its own materials and  
 33   curricula to be approved by the local board of education."

34           **SECTION 14.** G.S. 115C-174.11(a) reads as rewritten:

35       "(a)   Assessment Instruments for Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third Grades. – The State  
 36   Board of Education shall develop, adopt, and provide to the local school administrative units  
 37   developmentally appropriate individualized assessment instruments ~~consistent with the Basic~~  
 38   ~~Education Program~~ aligned with the standard course of study and Part 1A of Article 8 of this  
 39   Chapter for the kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. Local school administrative units  
 40   shall use these assessment instruments provided to them by the State Board for kindergarten, first,  
 41   second, and third grade students to assess progress, diagnose difficulties, and inform instruction  
 42   and remediation needs. Local school administrative units shall not use standardized tests for  
 43   summative assessment of kindergarten, first, and second grade students except as required as a  
 44   condition of receiving federal grants."

45           **SECTION 15.** G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4) reads as rewritten:

46       "(4)   To the extent funds are made available, the State Board of Education shall plan  
 47   for and require the administration of the ACT test for all students in the  
 48   eleventh grade unless the student has already taken a comparable test and  
 49   scored at or above a level set by the State Board. The State Board of Education  
 50   shall require the administration of an alternate to the ACT or an alternate to the  
 51   PLAN precursor test to the ACT to a student who (i) exhibits severe and

1 pervasive delays in all areas of conceptual, linguistic, and academic  
2 development and in adaptive behaviors, including communication, daily living  
3 skills, and self-care, (ii) is following the extended content standards of the  
4 Standard Course of Study as provided in ~~G.S. 115C-81~~, G.S. 115C-81.5, or is  
5 following a course of study that, upon completing high school, may not lead to  
6 admission into a college-level course of study resulting in a college degree, and  
7 (iii) has a written parental request for an alternate assessment.

8 The State Board of Education shall ensure that parents of students enrolled  
9 in all public schools, including charter and regional schools, have the necessary  
10 information to make informed decisions regarding participation in the ACT and  
11 the PLAN precursor test to the ACT.

12 Alternate assessment and ACT assessment results of students with  
13 disabilities shall be included in school accountability reports, including charter  
14 and regional schools, provided by the State Board of Education."

15 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 120-70.81(a)(2) is repealed.

16 **SECTION 17.** This act is effective when it becomes law.