

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

H.B. 985
Apr 25, 2019
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40423-MVa-159B

Short Title: Rural Model/Out Teach/Pilot Funds.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Johnson and Horn (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE FOR AN OUTDOOR LEARNING
3 CENTER PILOT PROGRAM FOR TEN RURAL TITLE I SCHOOLS THROUGH REAL
4 SCHOOL GARDENS, DOING BUSINESS AS OUT TEACH.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
7 Public Instruction the sum of seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for the 2019-2020 fiscal
8 year to be made available as grant-in-aid to the nonprofit organization known as REAL School
9 Gardens, doing business as Out Teach (Out Teach), to establish a two-year pilot program,
10 beginning with the 2019-2020 school year and ending with the 2020-2021 school year. The
11 purpose of the pilot program is to transform teaching practices and create outdoor learning
12 laboratories on school campuses, based on the national model developed by Out Teach, in 10
13 rural elementary schools operating a school-wide Title I program. Qualifying schools shall be
14 selected at the discretion of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction. The pilot program
15 shall concentrate on improving student academic performance, teacher effectiveness, student
16 engagement, and improving health and behavioral issues of students. Funds made available to
17 Out Teach under this section may be used for teacher training utilizing Out Teach project-based,
18 experiential learning curriculum, which is aligned to NC Essential Standards for science, math,
19 and literacy skills and the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model for nutrition
20 education. State funds shall only be used to operate and administer the pilot program.

21 **SECTION 1.(b)** As used in this section, a school-wide Title I program is a program
22 at a school identified under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
23 1965, as amended.

24 **SECTION 1.(c)** The funds appropriated in subsection (a) of this section shall not
25 revert at the end of the each fiscal year but shall remain available for expenditure until the end of
26 the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

27 **SECTION 1.(d)** By October 1, 2020, and by October 1, 2021, Out Teach shall submit
28 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division of the
29 General Assembly an annual report on the progress of the pilot program, an accounting of
30 expenditures, and student outcome and teacher effectiveness data related to the operation of the
31 pilot program.

32 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.



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