

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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1

HOUSE BILL 840

Short Title: Reward Schools for Student Growth. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Belk, Budd, Helfrich, and Lofton (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 10, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES TO PROVIDE THAT ALL
3 SCHOOLS RECEIVE A GRADE FOR SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT AND A GRADE FOR
4 SCHOOL GROWTH.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6
7 **PART I. ESTABLISH SEPARATE ACHIEVEMENT AND GROWTH GRADES**

8 **SECTION 1.1.** G.S. 115C-12(9) reads as rewritten:

9 "(9) Miscellaneous Powers and Duties. – All the powers and duties exercised by
10 the State Board of Education shall be in conformity with the Constitution and
11 subject to such laws as may be enacted from time to time by the General
12 Assembly. Among such duties are:

13 ...

14 c1. To issue an annual "report card" for the State and for each local school
15 administrative unit, assessing each unit's efforts to improve student
16 performance based on the growth in performance of the students in
17 each school and taking into account progress over the previous years'
18 level of performance and the State's performance in comparison with
19 other states. This assessment shall take into account factors that have
20 been shown to affect student performance and that the State Board
21 considers relevant to assess the State's efforts to improve student
22 performance. The annual "report card" for each local school
23 administrative unit shall include the following:

- 24 1. The State Board shall award, in accordance with
25 G.S. 115C-83.15, an overall numerical school achievement,
26 growth, and performance score on a scale of zero to 100
27 achievement and school growth scores and a separate
28 corresponding performance school achievement and school
29 growth letter grade grades of A, B, C, D, or F earned by each
30 school within the local school administrative unit. The school
31 performance score and grade achievement and growth scores
32 and grades shall reflect the measures required for achievement
33 and growth, respectively, by G.S. 115C-83.15, in measures
34 such as student performance on annual subject-specific
35 assessments, college and workplace readiness measures,



1 graduation rates, and student progress in achieving English
 2 language proficiency. In addition, the State Board shall award
 3 separate ~~performance~~ scores and grades for the following:

- 4 I. School achievement and school growth performance of
 5 certain subgroups of students as provided in
 6 G.S. 115C-83.15.
 7 II. For schools serving students in any grade from
 8 kindergarten to eighth grade, school achievement and
 9 school growth performance in reading and mathematics
 10 respectively.

11"

12 **SECTION 1.2.** G.S. 115C-47(58) reads as rewritten:

13 "(58) To Inform the Public About the North Carolina School Report Cards Issued
 14 by the State Board of Education. – Each local board of education shall ensure
 15 that the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide
 16 distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. Each local
 17 board of education shall ensure that the ~~overall~~ school ~~performance score~~
 18 achievement and growth scores and grade-grades earned by each school in the
 19 local school administrative unit for the current and previous four school years
 20 ~~is~~ are prominently displayed on the Web site of the local school administrative
 21 unit. If any school in the local school administrative unit earned ~~an overall a~~
 22 ~~school performance achievement or growth~~ grade of D or F, the local board
 23 of education shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or
 24 guardian of all students enrolled in that school."

25 **SECTION 1.3.** G.S. 115C-83.15 reads as rewritten:

26 "**§ 115C-83.15. School ~~achievement, growth, performance scores, achievement scores,~~**
 27 **growth scores, and grades.**

28 (a) School Scores and Grades. – The State Board of Education shall award school
 29 ~~achievement, growth, and performance~~ achievement and school growth scores and ~~an~~ associated
 30 ~~performance grade-grades~~ as required by G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., and calculated as provided in this
 31 section.

32 ...

33 (b1) Calculation of School Achievement Grades. – For all schools, the score for school
 34 achievement, as provided in subsection (b) of this section, shall be used to determine the school
 35 achievement grade. The school achievement grade shall be based on the following scale and shall
 36 not be modified to add any other designation related to other performance measures, such as a
 37 "plus" or "minus":

- 38 (1) A score of at least 85 is equivalent to a school achievement grade of A.
 39 (2) A score of at least 70 is equivalent to a school achievement grade of B.
 40 (3) A score of at least 55 is equivalent to a school achievement grade of C.
 41 (4) A score of at least 40 is equivalent to a school achievement grade of D.
 42 (5) A score of less than 40 is equivalent to a school achievement grade of F.

43 (c) Calculation of the School Growth Score. – Using the Education Value-Added
 44 Assessment System (EVAAS), the State Board shall calculate the overall growth score earned
 45 by schools. In calculating the total growth score earned by schools, the State Board of Education
 46 shall weight student growth on the achievement measures as provided in subsection (b) of this
 47 section that have available growth values; provided that for schools serving students in grades
 48 nine through 12, the growth score shall only include growth values for measures calculated under
 49 sub-subdivisions a. and b. of subdivision (2) of subsection (b) of this section. The numerical
 50 values used to determine whether a school has met, exceeded, or has not met expected growth

1 shall be translated to a 100-point scale and used for school reporting purposes as provided in
2 G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, 115C-238.66, and 116-239.8.

3 (c1) Calculation of School Growth Grades. – For all schools, the score for school growth,
4 as provided in subsection (c) of this section, shall be converted by the State Board of Education
5 to a 100-point scale and used to determine the school growth grade. The school growth grade
6 shall be based on the following scale and shall not be modified to add any other designation
7 related to other performance measures, such as a "plus" or "minus":

8 (1) A score of at least 90 is equivalent to a school growth grade of A.

9 (2) A score of at least 80 is equivalent to a school growth grade of B.

10 (3) A score of at least 70 is equivalent to a school growth grade of C.

11 (4) A score of at least 60 is equivalent to a school growth grade of D.

12 (5) A score of less than 60 is equivalent to a school growth grade of F.

13 ~~(d) Calculation of the Overall School Performance Scores and Grades.~~ – The State Board
14 of Education shall calculate the overall school performance score by adding the school
15 achievement score, as provided in subsection (b) of this section, and the school growth score, as
16 determined using EVAAS as provided in subsection (c) of this section, earned by a school. The
17 school achievement score shall account for eighty percent (80%), and the school growth score
18 shall account for twenty percent (20%) of the total sum. For all schools, the total school
19 performance score shall be converted to a 100-point scale and used to determine an overall school
20 performance grade. The overall school performance grade shall be based on the following scale
21 and shall not be modified to add any other designation related to other performance measures,
22 such as a "plus" or "minus":

23 ~~(1) A school performance score of at least 85 is equivalent to an overall school~~
24 ~~performance grade of A.~~

25 ~~(2) A school performance score of at least 70 is equivalent to an overall school~~
26 ~~performance grade of B.~~

27 ~~(3) A school performance score of at least 55 is equivalent to an overall school~~
28 ~~performance grade of C.~~

29 ~~(4) A school performance score of at least 40 is equivalent to an overall school~~
30 ~~performance grade of D.~~

31 ~~(5) A school performance score of less than 40 points is equivalent to an overall~~
32 ~~school performance grade of F.~~

33 (d1) Establishment of Subgroups of Students. – The State Board shall establish the
34 minimum number of students in a subgroup served by a school that is necessary to disaggregate
35 information on student performance and to determine a-subgroup performance score achievement
36 and subgroup growth scores and grade-associated grades for the following subgroups of students:

37 (1) Economically disadvantaged students.

38 (2) Students from major racial and ethnic groups.

39 (3) Children with disabilities.

40 (4) English learners.

41 (d2) Calculation of the School Performance Scores and Achievement and School Growth
42 Scores and Corresponding Grades for Certain Subgroups of Students Served by a School. – In
43 addition to the ~~overall school performance achievement and school growth scores and~~
44 corresponding grades awarded under subsections (b) through (c1) of this section, for each school
45 that serves a minimum number of students in a subgroup of students listed in subsection (d1) of
46 this section, the State Board of Education shall calculate school ~~performance achievement and~~
47 school growth scores and shall determine ~~a-corresponding school performance grade grades~~
48 for each subgroup using the same method as set forth in subsection (d) subsections (b) through (c1)
49 of this section. School ~~performance achievement and school growth scores~~ for subgroups of
50 students shall not be included in the calculation of the ~~overall school performance achievement~~

1 and school growth scores and corresponding grades under subsection (d) subsections (b) through
2 (c1) of this section.

3 (d3) Report of Subgroup Performance Scores and School Achievement and School
4 Growth Scores and Corresponding Grades. – The subgroup ~~performance~~ school achievement and
5 school growth scores and associated grades shall be reported separately on the annual school
6 report card provided under G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, 115C-238.66, and 116-239.8 in a
7 way that provides the following information:

- 8 (1) For the current year and the previous two years, the achievement score for
9 each subgroup of students defined in subsection (d1) of this section for the
10 school.
- 11 (2) The statewide average achievement score for each subgroup defined in
12 subsection (d1) of this section.
- 13 (3) The difference between the achievement score for all students in the school
14 and the achievement score for each subgroup that meets the minimum number
15 of students defined in subsection (d1) of this section.
- 16 (4) Based on the information reported in subdivision (3) of this subsection, the
17 State Board shall determine and identify schools that are closing achievement
18 gaps, experiencing a widening of gaps, or seeing no significant gap changes.

19 ...

20 (f) Indication of Growth. – In addition to awarding the ~~overall~~ school scores for
21 achievement, growth, and performance and the performance grade, achievement and growth and
22 associated grades, using EVAAS, the State Board shall designate that a school has met, exceeded,
23 or has not met expected growth. The designation of student growth shall be clearly displayed in
24 the annual school report card provided under G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, 115C-238.66,
25 and 116-239.8.

26 (g) Access to Annual Report Card Information on the Department's Web Site. –
27 Beginning with data collected in the 2017-2018 school year, the State Board of Education shall
28 provide user-friendly access to the public on the annual report cards issued for local school
29 administrative units and individual schools provided under G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65,
30 115C-238.66, and 116-239.8 through the Department of Public Instruction's Web site. The annual
31 report card shall be designed and organized to display the following information more
32 prominently than any other information:

- 33 (1) A summary for each local school administrative unit and for each individual
34 school of the school ~~performance~~ achievement and growth grades, whether
35 the school has met, exceeded, or has not met expected growth, and any other
36 information required to be provided as part of the annual report card.
- 37 (2) The percentage of schools receiving ~~an overall~~ a school performance
38 achievement letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F earned by each school located
39 within a local school administrative unit and statewide.
- 40 (2a) The percentage of schools receiving a school growth letter grade of A, B, C,
41 D, or F earned by each school located within a local school administrative unit
42 and statewide.
- 43 (3) The number and percentage of schools that have met, exceeded, or have not
44 met expected growth by each school located within a local school
45 administrative unit and statewide.
- 46 (4) A Web page for each individual school that prominently displays the school's
47 ~~performance~~ achievement and growth grades, whether the school has met,
48 exceeded, or has not met expected growth, and the school's ~~performance~~
49 achievement and growth scores in a way that is easy for the user to read.
- 50 (5) The ability to easily compare annual report card information, including school
51 ~~performance~~ achievement and growth grades and whether schools have met,

1 exceeded, or have not met expected growth, for local school administrative
2 units and for individual schools for a time span of at least three years."

3 **SECTION 1.4.** G.S. 115C-83.17 reads as rewritten:

4 **"§ 115C-83.17. Definitions.**

5 The following definitions apply in this Part:

- 6 (1) Achievement score. – A numerical score ~~on a scale of zero to 100~~ that is based
7 on the sum of points earned by a school or by a subgroup of students pursuant
8 to G.S. 115C-83.15.
- 9 (2) Growth score. – A numerical score measuring student growth calculated for a
10 school or for a subgroup of students pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.15.
- 11 (3) ~~Overall school performance grade. School grades.~~ School grades. – The letter ~~grade~~ grades
12 earned by a school for achievement and growth for all students served by a
13 school pursuant to ~~G.S. 115C-83.15(d)~~ G.S. 115C-83.15(b1) and (c1).
- 14 (4) ~~Overall school performance score. School scores.~~ School scores. – The numerical ~~score~~ scores
15 earned by a school ~~that is calculated by adding the school achievement~~
16 ~~score and the school growth score earned by a school for achievement and~~
17 growth pursuant to ~~G.S. 115C-83.15(d)~~ G.S. 115C-83.15(b) and (c).
- 18 (5) ~~Subgroup performance grade. grades.~~ grades. – The letter ~~grade~~ grades earned by a
19 school for achievement and growth for a subgroup of students served by the
20 school pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.15(d2).
- 21 (6) ~~Subgroup performance score. scores.~~ scores. – The numerical ~~score~~ scores earned by
22 a school ~~that is calculated by adding the for~~ subgroup achievement ~~score and~~
23 ~~the subgroup growth score earned by a school that are converted to a 100-point~~
24 scale pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.15(d2)."
25

26 **PART II. CONFORMING CHANGES**

27 **SECTION 2.1.** G.S. 115C-83.16 reads as rewritten:

28 **"§ 115C-83.16. School performance indicators for the purpose of compliance with federal**
29 **law.**

30 (a) The State Board of Education shall use the school ~~performance achievement and~~
31 growth scores and grades as calculated required under G.S. 115C-83.15 to satisfy the federal
32 requirement under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended by the
33 Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), P.L. 114-95, to meaningfully differentiate the performance
34 of schools on an annual basis. For the purpose of compliance with federal law, the State Board
35 of Education shall calculate the overall school performance score by adding the school
36 achievement score and the school growth score earned by a school. The school achievement score
37 shall account for fifty-one percent (51%), and the school growth score shall account for forty-nine
38 percent (49%) of the total sum. Additionally, the indicators shall be defined as follows:

39 ...

40 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) of this section and only for the purpose of conforming
41 with ESSA, the State Board may label measures as indicators different from those described in
42 subsection (a) of this section; ~~provided that each measure shall be calculated in accordance with~~
43 the requirements of G.S. 115C-83.15 section."

44 **SECTION 2.2.** G.S. 115C-105.37 reads as rewritten:

45 **"§ 115C-105.37. Identification of low-performing schools.**

46 (a) Identification of Low-Performing Schools. – The State Board of Education shall
47 identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn
48 ~~an overall a school performance achievement~~ grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met
49 expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15.

50 (a1) Plan for Improvement of Low-Performing Schools. – If a school has been identified
51 as low-performing as provided in this section and the school is not located in a local school

1 administrative unit identified as low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.39A, the following
2 actions shall be taken:

- 3 (1) The superintendent shall proceed under G.S. 115C-105.39.
- 4 (2) Within 30 days of the initial identification of a school as low-performing by
5 the State Board, the superintendent shall submit to the local board of education
6 a preliminary plan for improving ~~both the school performance grade and~~
7 ~~school growth score, grades,~~ including how the superintendent and other
8 central office administrators will work with the school and monitor the
9 school's progress.

10 ...

11 (b) Parental Notice of Low-Performing School Status. – Each school that the State Board
12 identifies as low-performing shall provide written notification to the parents and guardians of
13 students attending that school within 30 days of the identification that includes the following
14 information:

- 15 (1) A statement that the State Board of Education has found that the school has
16 earned ~~an overall a school performance achievement~~ grade of D or F and a
17 school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth"
18 and has been identified as a low-performing school as defined by
19 ~~G.S. 115C-105.37.~~ this section. The statement shall include an explanation of
20 the school ~~performance grades and growth scores.~~ achievement and growth
21 scores and grades.
- 22 (2) The school ~~performance grade and growth score~~ achievement and growth
23 scores and grades earned.
- 24 (3) Information about the preliminary plan developed under subsection (a1) of
25 this section and the availability of the final plan on the local school
26 administrative unit's Web site.
- 27 (4) The meeting date for when the preliminary plan will be considered by the local
28 board of education.
- 29 (5) A description of any additional steps the school is taking to improve student
30 performance."

31 **SECTION 2.3.** G.S. 115C-105.39A reads as rewritten:

32 **"§ 115C-105.39A. Identification of low-performing local school administrative units.**

33 (a) Identification of Low-Performing Local School Administrative Units. – The State
34 Board of Education shall identify low-performing local school administrative units on an annual
35 basis. A low-performing local school administrative unit is a unit in which the majority of the
36 schools in that unit that earned ~~an overall school performance grade and school growth score~~
37 achievement and growth scores and grades as provided in G.S. 115C-83.15 have been identified
38 as low-performing schools, as provided in G.S. 115C-105.37.

39 (b) Plan for Improvement of Low-Performing Local School Administrative Units. – Once
40 a local school administrative unit has been identified as low-performing under this section, the
41 following actions shall be taken:

- 42 (1) The superintendent shall proceed under G.S. 115C-105.39.
- 43 (2) Within 30 days of the identification of a local school administrative unit as
44 low-performing by the State Board, the superintendent shall submit to the
45 local board of education a preliminary plan for improving ~~both the school~~
46 ~~performance grade and school growth score~~ achievement and growth scores
47 and grades of each low-performing school in the unit, including how the
48 superintendent and other central office administrators will work with each
49 low-performing school and monitor the low-performing school's progress and
50 how current local school administrative unit policy should be changed to
51 improve student achievement throughout the local school administrative unit.

1 The plan shall also include specific strategies to improve early childhood
2 learning along with measurable goals.

3 ...

4 (c) Parental Notice of Low-Performing Local School Administrative Unit Status. – Each
5 local school administrative unit that the State Board identifies as low-performing shall provide
6 written notification to the parents and guardians of all students attending any school in the local
7 school administrative unit within 30 days of the identification that includes the following
8 information:

- 9 (1) A statement that the State Board of Education has found that a majority of the
10 schools in the local school administrative unit have earned ~~an overall a school~~
11 ~~performance achievement~~ grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met
12 expected growth" or "not met expected growth" and have been identified as
13 low-performing schools as defined by G.S. 115C-105.37. The statement shall
14 also include an explanation of the school ~~performance grades and school~~
15 ~~growth scores achievement and growth scores and grades.~~
- 16 (2) The percentage of schools identified as low-performing.
- 17 (3) Information about the preliminary plan developed under subsection (b) of this
18 section and the availability of the final plan on the local school administrative
19 unit's Web site.
- 20 (4) The meeting date for when the preliminary plan will be considered by the local
21 board of education.
- 22 (5) A description of any additional steps the local school administrative unit and
23 schools are taking to improve student performance.
- 24 (6) For notifications sent to parents and guardians of students attending a school
25 that is identified as low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37, a statement that
26 the State Board of Education has found that the school has earned ~~an overall~~
27 ~~a school performance achievement~~ grade of D or F and a school growth score
28 of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" and has been
29 identified as a low-performing school as defined by G.S. 115C-105.37. This
30 notification also shall include the ~~overall school performance grade and school~~
31 ~~growth score the school achievement and growth scores and grades~~ earned
32 and an explanation of the school ~~performance grades and school growth~~
33 ~~scores achievement and growth scores and grades."~~

34 **SECTION 2.4.** G.S. 115C-218.65 reads as rewritten:

35 "**§ 115C-218.65. North Carolina School Report Cards.**

36 A charter school shall ensure that the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education
37 receives wide distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A charter
38 school shall ensure that the ~~overall school performance score achievement and growth scores and~~
39 ~~grade grades~~ earned by the charter school for the current and previous four school years ~~is~~ are
40 prominently displayed on the school Web site. If a charter school earned ~~an overall a school~~
41 ~~performance achievement or growth~~ grade of D or F, the charter school shall provide notice of
42 the grade in writing to the parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that school."

43 **SECTION 2.5.** G.S. 115C-218.94(a) reads as rewritten:

44 "(a) Identification of Low-Performing Charter Schools. – The State Board of Education
45 shall identify low-performing charter schools on an annual basis. Low-performing charter
46 schools are those that earn ~~an overall a school performance achievement~~ grade of D or F and a
47 school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by
48 G.S. 115C-83.15."

49 **SECTION 2.6.** G.S. 115C-238.66(11) reads as rewritten:

50 "(11) North Carolina School Report Cards. – A regional school shall ensure that the
51 report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide

1 distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A regional
2 school shall ensure that the ~~overall-school performance score achievement and~~
3 ~~growth scores~~ and ~~grade-grades~~ earned by the regional school for the current
4 and previous four school years ~~is-are~~ prominently displayed on the school Web
5 site. If a regional school earned ~~an overall-a school performance achievement~~
6 ~~or growth~~ grade of D or F, the regional school shall provide notice of the grade
7 in writing to the parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that school."

8 **SECTION 2.7.** G.S. 116-239.8(b)(14) reads as rewritten:

9 "(14) North Carolina school report cards. – A laboratory school shall ensure that the
10 report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide
11 distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A
12 laboratory school shall ensure that the ~~overall-school performance score~~
13 ~~achievement and growth scores~~ and ~~grade-grades~~ earned by the laboratory
14 school for the current and previous four school years ~~is-are~~ prominently
15 displayed on the school Web site. If a laboratory school earned ~~an overall-a~~
16 school ~~performance achievement or growth~~ grade of D or F, the laboratory
17 school shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or guardian of
18 all students enrolled in that school."

19 **SECTION 2.8.** G.S. 116-239.13(3) reads as rewritten:

20 "(3) Public school student achievement data, including school ~~performance grades~~
21 ~~and student achievement scores and student growth,~~ achievement and growth
22 scores and grades at each laboratory school."

23 24 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY CLAUSE**

25 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective January 1, 2026, and applies to school
26 achievement grades, growth grades, and report cards issued based on data from the 2025-2026
27 school year.