

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 890

Short Title: School Internet Emergency Access Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Greenfield, Greene, Clampitt, and Riddell (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 14, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO DEVELOP A
3 PLAN TO PROVIDE INTERNET SERVICE TO SCHOOLS IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY
4 AND TO ESTABLISH THE EMERGENCY INTERNET SERVICE FUND.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** Article 3 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding
7 a new section to read:

8 "**§ 115C-23. Emergency Internet Service Plan and Fund.**

9 (a) The Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of
10 Information Technology, the Department of Transportation, and the Department of Public Safety,
11 Division of Emergency Management, shall develop and maintain an Emergency Internet Service
12 Plan (EISP) related to the provision of temporary internet service to public school units during a
13 state of emergency. This plan shall provide for at least the following:

- 14 (1) The number of months of emergency internet service that can be provided
15 through the EISP within funds available for the purpose.
16 (2) Conditions necessary to activate the EISP.
17 (3) Public school units may not be required to provide funds to initiate service
18 under the EISP.
19 (4) Equipment needed to support the EISP, including ensuring each public school
20 has access to the equipment necessary to activate emergency internet when
21 needed.
22 (5) Identification of any third-party relationships needed to support the EISP,
23 including identifying the party that will be responsible for maintaining or
24 establishing required accounts.
25 (6) Protection of sensitive information or data.

26 (b) There is established under the control and direction of the Superintendent of Public
27 Instruction the Emergency Internet Service Fund consisting of any monies appropriated to it by
28 the General Assembly. The fund is subject to the following:

- 29 (1) The fund shall be nonreverting.
30 (2) The fund may be used for the purchase of equipment or to maintain contracts
31 or accounts necessary to make internet service available in a time of
32 emergency.

33 (c) No later than February 15 of each year, the Superintendent shall report to the Joint
34 Legislative Education Oversight Committee on at least the following:



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- 1 (1) If there have been changes to the EISP since the last report, a copy of the EISP
- 2 developed pursuant to subsection (a) of this section.
- 3 (2) An accounting of any services provided since the last report.
- 4 (3) The balance of the Emergency Internet Service Fund and any funds expended
- 5 from the fund.
- 6 (4) Any other information the Superintendent deems relevant."

7 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
8 Public Instruction the sum of three million nine hundred twenty-seven thousand three hundred
9 eighty dollars (\$3,927,380) in nonrecurring funds for the 2025-2026 school year to be allocated
10 to the Emergency Internet Service Fund as established by this act.

11 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2025, and applies beginning with
12 the 2025-2026 school year.