

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE DRS15127-LE-169A (3/4)

Short Title: Intervention Plan After Unexcused Absences.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senator Preston.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PERMIT STUDENTS TO MAKE UP WORK DURING UNEXCUSED
3 ABSENCES AND TO REQUIRE SCHOOLS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
4 INTERVENTION PLANS FOR STUDENTS WITH AN EXCESSIVE NUMBER OF
5 UNEXCUSED ABSENCES AND FOR STUDENTS AT RISK OF DROPPING OUT OF
6 SCHOOL.

7 Whereas, the dropout rate in the North Carolina public schools is unacceptably high;
8 and

9 Whereas, family responsibilities make it difficult for some students to stay in school
10 and graduate; and

11 Whereas, students who face these challenges may need additional support to
12 graduate; and

13 Whereas, parental involvement is important to students' educational achievement;
14 Now, therefore,

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16 **SECTION 1.** Part 3 of Article 8B of Subchapter IV of Chapter 115C of the
17 General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

18 "**§ 115C-105.42. Unexcused absences from school; intervention plan for students who**
19 **have an excessive number of unexcused absences or are at risk of dropping out**
20 **of school.**

21 (a) Schools shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of a child's excessive
22 unexcused absences from school and shall work with the child and the child's family to analyze
23 the causes of the absences and to determine steps to eliminate the problem, as required by
24 G.S. 115C-378.

25 (b) Schools shall give students with unexcused absences an opportunity to make up and
26 receive credit for work missed, including end-of-grade and end-of-course tests.

27 (b) Local school administrative units shall develop and implement intervention plans
28 for students who (i) have more than six unexcused absences or (ii) are considering dropping out
29 of school. Each plan shall include high educational expectations, focus on the educational
30 needs of the child, contain an accountability component, and require a signature by the child's
31 parent or guardian."

32 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
33 the 2009-2010 school year.

