

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

H

1

HOUSE BILL 965

Short Title: Broaden Successful AP Participation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blackwell, Holloway, Johnson, and Jordan (Primary Sponsors).  
For a complete list of Sponsors, see Bill Information on the NCGA Web Site.

Referred to: Education.

May 17, 2012

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO BROADEN SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION BY STUDENTS IN  
3 ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES AND TO CREATE PERFORMANCE  
4 INCENTIVES FOR SCHOOLS AND TEACHERS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE IN  
5 ADVANCED PLACEMENT COURSES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HOUSE  
6 SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION REFORM.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12(9)c1. reads as rewritten:

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

20 **SECTION 2.** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
21 adding a new section to read:

22 **"§ 115C-83.1. Advanced Placement courses.**

23 (a) It is the intent of the State to enhance accessibility and encourage students to enroll  
24 in and successfully complete more rigorous coursework, such as Advanced Placement (AP)  
25 courses, to enable success in postsecondary education for all students. To the extent funds are  
26 made available for this purpose, to attain this goal the following shall be provided:

27 (1) Students enrolled in public schools shall be exempt from paying any fees for  
28 administration of College Board AP examinations, regardless of whether or  
29 not the student achieves a passing score on an examination.

30 (2) Bonuses shall be awarded to teachers of AP courses for students who earn  
31 passing scores on AP examinations.

32 (b) Eligible secondary students shall be encouraged to enroll in AP courses to earn  
33 postsecondary credit.

34 (c) The results of student diagnostic tests administered pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.18  
35 and G.S. 115C-174.22, such as the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT) and ACT,



\* H 9 6 5 - V - 1 \*

1 shall be used to identify students who are prepared or who need additional work to be prepared  
2 to enroll and be successful in AP courses.

3 (d) Local boards of education shall provide information to students and parents on  
4 available opportunities and the enrollment process for students to take AP courses. The  
5 information shall explain the value of AP courses in preparing students for postsecondary level  
6 coursework, enabling students to gain access to postsecondary opportunities, and qualifying  
7 student for scholarships and other financial aid opportunities.

8 (e) Local boards of education shall ensure that all high school students have access to  
9 AP courses in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Such access may be  
10 provided through enrollment in courses offered through or approved by the North Carolina  
11 Virtual Public School.

12 (f) The State Board of Education shall make available professional development to  
13 enable teachers of AP courses to have the necessary content knowledge and instructional skills  
14 to prepare students for success on an AP examination and mastery of postsecondary course  
15 content.

16 (g) The State Board of Education is encouraged to seek partners to assist in improving  
17 college readiness of secondary students and to assist secondary schools to ensure that all  
18 students have access to high-quality, rigorous academics, with a focus on access to advanced  
19 courses."

20 **SECTION 3.(a)** The State Board of Education shall use funds appropriated in this  
21 act to do the following:

22 (1) Provide incentive funding to local school administrative units to be  
23 distributed to teachers of Advanced Placement (AP) courses as follows:

24 a. A bonus in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each student  
25 taught by the AP teacher in each AP course who receives a score of  
26 three or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement  
27 Examination.

28 b. An additional bonus of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to each AP  
29 teacher who teaches in a school identified as low-performing under  
30 G.S. 115C-105.37 by the State Board of Education and who has at  
31 least one student scoring three or higher on the College Board  
32 Advanced Placement Examination, regardless of the number of  
33 classes taught or the number of students scoring a three or higher on  
34 the College Board Advanced Placement Examination.

35 No teacher shall be awarded a bonus pursuant to this subdivision that  
36 exceeds two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in any given school year. The bonus  
37 awarded to a teacher pursuant to this subdivision shall be in addition to any  
38 regular wage or other bonus the teacher receives or is scheduled to receive.

39 (2) Provide funds to local school administrative units to pay testing fees for AP  
40 courses for all students.

41 (3) Provide funds to local school administrative units for professional  
42 development for teachers of AP courses.

43 **SECTION 3.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
44 Public Instruction the sum of eleven million six hundred sixty thousand nine hundred  
45 twenty-one dollars (\$11,660,921) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Of the amount appropriated,  
46 seven million one hundred seventy-nine thousand eight hundred thirty-four dollars  
47 (\$7,179,834) shall be used to fund fees for testing in AP courses, two million nine hundred  
48 eighty-one thousand eighty-seven dollars (\$2,981,087) shall be used for teacher bonuses, and  
49 one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) shall be used for professional  
50 development for teachers in AP courses. The appropriation to fund fees for testing in AP  
51 courses shall be expended only if other available receipts, including federal receipts, are

1 insufficient to meet costs. If the appropriation to fund fees for testing in AP courses is  
2 insufficient to fund AP course testing fees for all students, funding shall first be provided to  
3 fund the full cost of fees for testing in AP courses for students eligible for free and reduced  
4 lunch, and the remaining funds shall be prorated for fees for testing in AP courses for all other  
5 students.

6 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2012, and applies beginning with  
7 the 2012-2013 school year.