

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 368

Short Title: Improve the A-F Grading System. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Cotham (Primary Sponsor).
For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.

Referred to: Education - K-12.

March 30, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADE SYSTEM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-47(58) reads as rewritten:

"(58) To Inform the Public About the North Carolina School Report Cards Issued by the State Board of Education. – Each local board of education shall ensure that the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. Each local board of education shall ensure that the overall school performance score and grade earned by each school in the local school administrative unit for the current and previous four school years is prominently displayed on the Web site of the local school administrative unit. Any publication of the annual report card shall include an explanation of the method of calculation and compilation of school performance data and associated school performance grades, with a translation of this explanatory information in Spanish. If any school in the local school administrative unit is awarded a grade of D or F, the local board of education shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that school."

SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-83.15(d) reads as rewritten:

"(d) Calculation of the School Performance Scores and Grades. – The State Board of Education shall use EVAAS to calculate the school performance score by adding the school achievement score, as provided in subsection (b) of this section, and the school growth score, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, earned by a school. The school achievement score shall account for ~~eighty percent (80%), twenty percent (20%),~~ and the school growth score shall account for ~~twenty percent (20%) eighty percent (80%)~~ of the total sum. If a school has met expected growth and inclusion of the school's growth score reduces the school's performance score and grade, a school may choose to use the school achievement score solely to calculate the performance score and grade. For all schools, the total school performance score shall be converted to a 100-point scale and used to determine a school performance grade based on the following scale:

- (1) A school performance score of at least 90 is equivalent to an overall school performance grade of A.
- (2) A school performance score of at least 80 is equivalent to an overall school performance grade of B.



- 1 (3) A school performance score of at least 70 is equivalent to an overall school
2 performance grade of C.
3 (4) A school performance score of at least 60 is equivalent to an overall school
4 performance grade of D.
5 (5) A school performance score of less than 60 points is equivalent to an overall
6 school performance grade of F."

7 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-218.65 reads as rewritten:

8 **"§ 115C-218.65. North Carolina School Report Cards.**

9 A charter school shall ensure that the report card issued for it by the State Board of
10 Education receives wide distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A
11 charter school shall ensure that the overall school performance score and grade earned by the
12 charter school for the current and previous four school years is prominently displayed on the
13 school Web site. Any publication of the annual report card shall include an explanation of the
14 method of calculation and compilation of school performance data and associated school
15 performance grades, with a translation of this explanatory information in Spanish. If a charter
16 school is awarded a grade of D or F, the charter school shall provide notice of the grade in
17 writing to the parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that school."

18 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-238.66(11) reads as rewritten:

19 "(11) North Carolina School Report Cards. – A regional school shall ensure that
20 the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide
21 distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A
22 regional school shall ensure that the overall school performance score and
23 grade earned by the regional school for the current and previous four school
24 years is prominently displayed on the school Web site. Any publication of
25 the annual report card shall include an explanation of the method of
26 calculation and compilation of school performance data and associated
27 school performance grades, with a translation of this explanatory
28 information in Spanish. If a regional school is awarded a grade of D or F, the
29 regional school shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or
30 guardian of all students enrolled in that school."

31 **SECTION 5.** The State Board of Education shall create a task force within the
32 Department of Public Instruction to study the school performance grading system calculation
33 method and distribution of those grades under G.S. 115C-83.15. By December 15, 2016, the
34 State Board shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the findings
35 from the study, including recommendations and any legislative proposals for modifications to
36 the school performance grading system.

37 **SECTION 6.(a)** The North Carolina School Performance Improvement Task Force
38 (Task Force) is established to study the impact on schools that are awarded a grade of F for two
39 or more years under the State school performance grading system and the support and
40 interventions necessary for those schools to improve performance.

41 **SECTION 6.(b)** The Task Force shall be composed of 11 members as follows:

- 42 (1) Four members appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate as
43 follows:
44 a. Two persons who are members of the Senate at the time of
45 appointment.
46 b. A local school board member.
47 c. A school system superintendent.
48 (2) Four members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as
49 follows:
50 a. Two persons who are members of the House of Representatives at
51 the time of appointment.

1 b. A public school teacher.

2 c. A principal.

3 (3) One member appointed by the Governor.

4 (4) The Chairperson of the State Board of Education or designee.

5 (5) The Superintendent of Public Instruction or designee.

6 **SECTION 6.(c)** The Speaker of the House of Representatives shall designate one
7 Representative as cochair and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate shall designate one
8 Senator as cochair. Vacancies on the Task Force shall be filled by the same appointing
9 authority that made the initial appointment. A quorum of the Task Force shall be a majority of
10 its members.

11 **SECTION 6.(d)** The Task Force shall study ways to provide local and State
12 support to help transform a school that receives a grade of F under the State school
13 performance system for two years or more with a focus on best school practices, school
14 leadership, school culture, and support measures for school staff including, but not limited to,
15 professional development, financial resources, paraprofessionals, upgrading school technology,
16 and engaging in public-private partnerships.

17 **SECTION 6.(e)** The Task Force, while in the discharge of its official duties, may
18 exercise all powers provided for under G.S. 120-19 and G.S. 120-19.1 through G.S. 120-19.4.
19 The Task Force may meet at any time upon the joint call of the cochairs. The Task Force may
20 meet in the Legislative Building or the Legislative Office Building.

21 With approval of the Legislative Services Commission, the Legislative Services
22 Officer shall assign professional staff to assist the Task Force in its work. The House of
23 Representatives' and the Senate's Directors of Legislative Assistants shall assign clerical staff to
24 the Task Force, and the expenses relating to the clerical employees shall be borne by the Task
25 Force. The Task Force may contract for professional, clerical, or consultant services as
26 provided by G.S. 120-32.02. If the Task Force hires a consultant, the consultant shall not be a
27 State employee or a person currently under contract with the State to provide services.

28 All State departments and agencies and local governments and their subdivisions
29 shall furnish the Task Force with any information in their possession or available to them.

30 **SECTION 6.(f)** The Task Force shall submit a final report of the results of its
31 study and its recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Joint Legislative
32 Education Oversight Committee by March 1, 2016. The Task Force shall terminate on March 1,
33 2016, or upon the filing of its final report, whichever occurs first.

34 **SECTION 7.** This act is effective when it becomes law.