

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE DRH10228-LE-47A (02/25)

Short Title: Transforming Poverty Schools Pilot Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Cotham.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE TRANSFORMING POVERTY SCHOOLS PILOT
3 PROGRAM.

4 Whereas, research indicates that children in schools in high-poverty areas have more
5 needs than their counterparts in schools in wealthier areas; and

6 Whereas, if children in schools in high-poverty areas are to succeed academically,
7 their schools must work with State and local government agencies and nonprofits to serve the
8 whole child; Now, therefore,

9 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

10 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Department of Public Instruction shall establish and
11 administer the Transforming Poverty Schools Pilot Program. The pilot program shall focus on
12 high-poverty schools and shall be designed to create centers that provide a full-service system
13 of support to students and school communities. These centers may be located in the school or in
14 other settings at which students and the school community can receive services, information,
15 access to computers, and access to a media center. An auxiliary office for a center may be
16 located in a local health department to provide immunizations, vision care, hearing checks, and
17 treatment for minor illnesses. Centers may operate on days and at times when school is not in
18 session.

19 **SECTION 1.(b)** A school is eligible to participate in the pilot program if it meets
20 the following requirements:

- 21 (1) It received an overall school performance grade of F for the 2013-2014
22 school year.
23 (2) Over eighty-five percent (85%) of its students qualified for free or
24 reduced-price lunches for the 2013-2014 school year.
25 (3) The school and the local school administrative unit are committed to
26 providing their employees and other resources to the pilot program.
27 (4) Local government resources, including the health department, law
28 enforcement agencies, and social services agencies; local offices of State
29 agencies such as the Departments of Health and Human Services, Insurance,
30 and Public Safety; and nonprofits such as Communities in Schools of North
31 Carolina, Inc., the Nurse Family Partnership, and Legal Aid of North
32 Carolina; are committed to participate in the pilot program.

33 **SECTION 2.** The Department of Public Instruction shall report to the Joint
34 Legislative Education Oversight Committee by January 1, 2017, on the implementation of this
35 pilot program.

36 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

