

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 624

Short Title: School Performance Grades Calculation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Meyer and Luebke (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Education - K-12.

April 13, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE CALCULATION OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES  
3 AND TO PROVIDE NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC ON THE METHOD OF  
4 CALCULATION OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

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

22 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-83.15 reads as rewritten:

23 **"§ 115C-83.15. School achievement, growth, performance scores, and grades.**

24 (a) School Scores and Grades. – The State Board of Education shall award school  
25 achievement, growth, and performance scores and an associated performance grade as required  
26 by G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., and calculated as provided in this section. The State Board of  
27 Education shall enter all necessary data into the Education Value-Added Assessment System  
28 (EVAAS) in order to calculate school performance scores and grades.

29 (b) Calculation of the School Achievement Score. – In calculating the overall school  
30 achievement score earned by schools, the State Board of Education shall total the sum of points  
31 earned by a school on all of the following indicators that are measured for that school:

- 32 (1) One point for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on  
33 annual assessments for mathematics in grades three through eight.  
34 (2) One point for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on  
35 annual assessments for reading in grades three through eight.



- 1 (3) One point for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on  
2 annual assessments for science in grades five and eight.
- 3 (4) One point for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on  
4 the Algebra I or Integrated Math I end-of-course test.
- 5 (5) One point for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on  
6 the English II end-of-course test.
- 7 (6) One point for each percent of students who score at or above proficient on  
8 the Biology end-of-course test.
- 9 (7) One point for each percent of students who complete Algebra II or  
10 Integrated Math III with a passing grade.
- 11 (8) One point for each percent of students who achieve the minimum score  
12 required for admission into a constituent institution of The University of  
13 North Carolina on a nationally normed test of college readiness.
- 14 (9) One point for each percent of students enrolled in Career and Technical  
15 Education courses who meet the standard when scoring at Silver, Gold, or  
16 Platinum levels on a nationally normed test of workplace readiness.
- 17 (10) One point for each percent of students who graduate within four years of  
18 entering high school.

19 In calculating the overall school achievement score earned by schools, the State Board of  
20 Education shall (i) use a composite approach to weigh the achievement elements based on the  
21 number of students measured by any given achievement element and (ii) proportionally adjust  
22 the scale to account for the absence of a school achievement element for award of scores to a  
23 school that does not have a measure of one of the school achievement elements annually  
24 assessed for the grades taught at that school. The overall school achievement score shall be  
25 translated to a 100-point scale and used for school reporting purposes as provided in  
26 G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, and 115C-238.66.

27 (c) Calculation of the School Growth Score. – Using EVAAS, the State Board shall  
28 calculate the overall growth score earned by schools. In calculating the total growth score  
29 earned by schools, the State Board of Education shall weight student growth on the  
30 achievement indicators as provided in subsection (b) of this section that have available growth  
31 values. The numerical values used to determine whether a school has met, exceeded, or has not  
32 met expected growth shall be translated to a 100-point scale and used for school reporting  
33 purposes as provided in G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, and 115C-238.66.

34 (c1) Calculation of Student Growth for Lowest Performing Students from the Prior Year.  
35 – Using EVAAS, the State Board of Education shall calculate a student growth score for the  
36 twenty percent (20%) of the lowest performing students at each school based on the percentage  
37 of student growth on the achievement indicators as provided in subsection (b) of this section  
38 that have available growth values for students identified by prior year performance on those  
39 achievement indicators.

40 (c2) Calculation of Additional Criteria Identified by the State Board of Education. – The  
41 State Board of Education shall identify additional criteria for inclusion in the calculation of the  
42 overall school performance grade to adequately represent a school's ability to maintain a safe  
43 and healthy learning environment to all children and to address the strategic goals established  
44 by the State Board of Education to measure school performance. By January 15 of each year,  
45 the State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
46 Committee on the identification of additional criteria and the calculation of scores in relation to  
47 those criteria for inclusion in the total school performance score under subsection (d) of this  
48 section.

49 (d) Calculation of the School Performance Scores and Grades. – The State Board of  
50 Education shall use EVAAS to calculate the school performance score by adding the school  
51 achievement score, as provided in subsection (b) of this ~~section~~, and section, the school growth

1 score, as provided in subsection (c) of this section, the student growth score for the twenty  
2 percent (20%) of the lowest performing students, as provided in subsection (c1) of this section,  
3 and the score for additional criteria as identified by the State Board, as provided in subsection  
4 (c2) of this section, earned by a school. The school achievement score shall account for ~~eighty~~  
5 ~~forty percent (80%),(40%),~~ the student growth score for the lowest performing students shall  
6 account for twenty percent (20%), the score for additional criteria shall account for twenty  
7 percent (20%), and the school growth score shall account for twenty percent (20%) of the total  
8 sum. ~~If a school has met expected growth and inclusion of the school's growth score reduces~~  
9 ~~the school's performance score and grade, a school may choose to use the school achievement~~  
10 ~~score solely to calculate the performance score and grade.~~ For all schools, the total school  
11 performance score shall be converted to a 100-point scale and used to determine a school  
12 performance grade based on the following scale:

- 13 (1) A school performance score of at least 90 is equivalent to an overall school  
14 performance grade of A.
- 15 (2) A school performance score of at least 80 is equivalent to an overall school  
16 performance grade of B.
- 17 (3) A school performance score of at least 70 is equivalent to an overall school  
18 performance grade of C.
- 19 (4) A school performance score of at least 60 is equivalent to an overall school  
20 performance grade of D.
- 21 (5) A school performance score of less than 60 ~~points~~ is equivalent to an overall  
22 school performance grade of F.

23 (e) Elementary and Middle School Reading and Math Achievement Scores. – For  
24 schools serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade, the school achievement scores in  
25 reading and mathematics, respectively, shall be reported separately on the annual school report  
26 card provided under G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, and 115C-238.66.

27 (f) Indication of Growth. – In addition to awarding the overall school scores for  
28 achievement, growth, and performance and the performance grade, using EVAAS, the State  
29 Board shall designate that a school has met, exceeded, or has not met expected growth. The  
30 designation of overall school student growth shall be clearly displayed in the annual school  
31 report card provided under G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, and 115C-238.66."

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

33 "**§ 115C-218.65. North Carolina School Report Cards.**

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

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

- 44 "(11) North Carolina School Report Cards. – A regional school shall ensure that  
45 the report card issued for it by the State Board of Education receives wide  
46 distribution to the local press or is otherwise provided to the public. A  
47 regional school shall ensure that the overall school performance score and  
48 grade earned by the regional school for the current and previous four school  
49 years is prominently displayed on the school Web site. Any publication of  
50 the annual report card shall include an explanation of the method of  
51 calculation and compilation of school performance data and associated

1                    school performance grades with a translation of this explanatory information  
2                    in Spanish. If a regional school is awarded a grade of D or F, the regional  
3                    school shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or guardian  
4                    of all students enrolled in that school."

5                    **SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-83.15(c2), as enacted by this act, by  
6 November 15, 2016, the State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative  
7 Education Oversight Committee on any additional criteria identified by the State Board for  
8 inclusion in the calculation of school performance grades and the method for calculation of  
9 scores in accordance with the purposes set forth in G.S. 115C-83.15.

10                    **SECTION 6.** This act is effective when it becomes law.