

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

H

1

HOUSE BILL 841

Short Title: Testing Transparency. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Blackwell and Johnson (Primary Sponsors).

For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Education - K-12

April 13, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE TRANSPARENCY OF TESTING IN NORTH CAROLINA.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

PART I. NATIONAL STANDARDIZED TESTING REPORT

SECTION 1. The State Superintendent of Public Instruction shall study and make recommendations regarding the extent to which the SAT and ACT tests align with the English language arts and mathematics portions of the Standard Course of Study. By February 1, 2018, the Superintendent shall report findings and recommendations to the Governor, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

PART II. TESTING SCHEDULES PUBLISHED ONLINE

SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-174.12 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-174.12. Responsibilities of agencies.

...

(d) By September 1 of each year, each local board of education shall notify the State Board of Education of any local testing to be administered to students by the local school administrative unit in its schools and the calendar for administering those tests. The local board of education shall include ~~information on the~~ the following information:

- (1) The source of funds supporting the local testing program-program.
- (2) The time allotted to administer each test.
- (3) Whether the test is a computer-based test or a paper-based test.
- (4) The grade level or subject area associated with the test.
- (5) The date the test results are expected to be available to teachers and parents.
- (6) The type of test, the purpose of the test, and the use of the test results.
- (7) Estimates of average time for administering tests required by the local board of education or the State, by grade level.

The local board of education shall meet the requirements of this subsection by inputting the information into the uniform calendar published by the Department of Public Instruction pursuant to subsection (e1) of this section.

(e) By October 15 of each year, the State Board of Education shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee containing information regarding the statewide administration of the testing program, including the number and type of tests and the



1 testing schedule, and a summary of any local testing programs reported by local boards of
2 education to the State Board of Education in accordance with subsection (d) of this section.

3 (e1) By October 15 of each year, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall publish
4 on the Web site of the Department of Public Instruction a uniform calendar that includes
5 schedules for testing and reporting results of tests for at least the next two school years. The
6 uniform calendar shall be provided to local boards of education in an electronic format that
7 allows each local board of education to populate the calendar with, at a minimum, the
8 information required by subsection (d) of this section. The uniform calendar shall denote
9 whether a test on the calendar is required by the State or required by a local board of
10 education."

11 **PART III. REPORTING STUDENT PERFORMANCE**

12 **SECTION 3.** Part 2 of Article 10A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is
13 amended by adding two new sections to read:

14 **"§ 115C-174.15. Report student performance on local tests.**

15 (a) A local board of education shall provide a student's results on tests required by the
16 local board to the following persons and according to the following time lines:

17 (1) To the student's teachers no later than one week after the test is administered.

18 (2) To the student's parents no later than 30 days after the test is administered.

19 (b) If the superintendent of the local school administrative unit determines in writing
20 that extenuating circumstances exist and reports those circumstances to the local board of
21 education, the local board may extend the above time lines in the discretion of the local board
22 of education.

23 **"§ 115C-174.16. Report student performance on statewide, standardized tests.**

24 A local board of education shall report a student's results on all statewide, standardized tests
25 in the subjects of English language arts and mathematics to the student's applicable teacher in a
26 timely manner and in an easy-to-read and understandable format. Before the beginning of the
27 upcoming school year, the local board of education shall report these results to the applicable
28 teacher assigned to the student in the upcoming school year. These reports shall include all of
29 the following information:

30 (1) A clear explanation of the student's performance on the applicable statewide,
31 standardized tests.

32 (2) Information identifying the student's areas of strength and areas in need of
33 improvement.

34 (3) Specific actions that may be taken, and the available resources that may be
35 used, by the student's parent or legal guardian to assist the student based on
36 the student's areas of strength and areas in need of improvement.

37 (4) Longitudinal information, if available, on the student's progress in each
38 subject area based on previous statewide, standardized test data.

39 (5) Comparative information showing the student's score compared to other
40 students in the school district, in the State, or, if available, in other states.

41 (6) Predictive information, if available, showing the linkage between the scores
42 attained by the student on the statewide, standardized tests and the scores he
43 or she may potentially attain on nationally recognized college entrance
44 examinations."

45 **PART IV. COMPETENCY-BASED PROMOTION**

46 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-81(b) reads as rewritten:

47 "(b) The Basic Education Program shall include course requirements and descriptions
48 similar in format to materials previously contained in the standard course of ~~study~~ study, and it
49 shall ~~provide~~ provide all of the following:

- 1 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special needs of
 2 ~~children;~~children.
- 3 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum ~~area;~~area.
- 4 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the ~~curriculum;~~curriculum.
- 5 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the mastery of
 6 competencies, including standards for graduation, that take into account
 7 children with disabilities and, in particular, include appropriate
 8 ~~modifications;~~modifications. These standards shall permit promotion based
 9 on mastery of competencies, at a minimum, in the following subject areas
 10 and grade levels:
- 11 a. For English language arts, at least grades three through eight.
- 12 b. For mathematics, at least grades three through 10.
- 13 (5) A program of remedial ~~education;~~education.
- 14 (6) Required support ~~programs;~~programs.
- 15 (7) A definition of the instructional ~~day;~~day.
- 16 (8) Class size recommendations and ~~requirements;~~requirements.
- 17 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ~~ratios;~~ratios.
- 18 (10) Material and equipment allotment ~~ratios;~~ratios.
- 19 (11) Facilities guidelines that reflect educational program appropriateness,
 20 long-term cost efficiency, and safety ~~considerations;~~ and considerations.
- 21 (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary.

22 The State Board shall not adopt or enforce any rule that requires Algebra I as a graduation
 23 standard or as a requirement for a high school diploma for any student whose individualized
 24 education program (i) identifies the student as learning disabled in the area of mathematics and
 25 (ii) states that this learning disability will prevent the student from mastering Algebra I.

26 The State Board shall not require any student to prepare a high school graduation project as
 27 a condition of graduation from high school; local boards of education may, however, require
 28 their students to complete a high school graduation project."
 29

30 PART V. EFFECTIVE DATE

31 **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
 32 the 2018-2019 school year.