

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

H

1

HOUSE BILL 1184

Short Title: Voucher School Transparency Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ball, Clark, R. Pierce, and Rubin (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 5, 2026

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING STANDARDS FOR
3 NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AND
4 TO REQUIRE THE STATE AUDITOR TO ANNUALLY REVIEW AUDITS OF AT
5 LEAST THREE NONPUBLIC SCHOOLS RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY
6 SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8
9 **PART I. ACCOUNTABILITY AND REPORTING FOR OPPORTUNITY**
10 **SCHOLARSHIP SCHOOLS**

11 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 115C-562.5 reads as rewritten:

12 **"§ 115C-562.5. Obligations of nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving**
13 **scholarship grants.**

14 (a) A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall
15 comply with the following:

- 16 (1) ~~Provide~~ Annually provide to the Authority documentation for required tuition
17 and fees charged to the student by the nonpublic school.
- 18 (2) Provide to the Authority a criminal background check conducted for the staff
19 member with the highest decision-making authority, as defined by the bylaws,
20 articles of incorporation, or other governing document. For all teachers, the
21 nonpublic school shall adopt a policy requiring criminal history checks under
22 G.S. 115C-332. Each nonpublic school shall apply its policy uniformly in
23 requiring applicants for employment to be checked for a criminal history
24 before the applicant is given an unconditional job offer. A nonpublic school
25 may employ an applicant conditionally while the board is checking the
26 person's criminal history and making a decision based on the results of the
27 check. The nonpublic school may adopt a policy providing for periodic checks
28 of criminal history of teachers. A nonpublic school shall indicate, upon the
29 inquiry by any other public school unit or nonpublic school in the State, as to
30 the reason for an employee's resignation or dismissal, if an employee's
31 criminal history was relevant to the employee's resignation or dismissal.
32 Information provided to the Authority in accordance with this subdivision is
33 otherwise privileged information and is not a public record but is for the
34 exclusive use of the Authority.



* H 1 1 8 4 - V - 1 *

- 1 (3) Provide to the parent or guardian of an eligible student, whose tuition and fees
2 are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant, an annual written
3 explanation of the student's progress, including the student's scores on
4 standardized achievement tests.
- 5 (4) Administer, at least once in each school year, tests as provided in this
6 subdivision. Test performance data shall be submitted to the Authority by July
7 15 of each year. Test performance data reported to the Authority under this
8 subdivision is not a public record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.
9 Tests shall be administered to all eligible students enrolled in grades three and
10 higher whose tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship
11 grant as follows:
- 12 a. The nationally standardized test designated by the Authority in grades
13 three ~~and through~~ eight.
- 14 b. The ACT in grade 11.
- 15 c. A nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized
16 equivalent measurement selected by the chief administrative officer of
17 the nonpublic school in all other grades four and higher. For grades
18 four through seven, the nationally standardized test or other equivalent
19 measurement selected must measure achievement in the areas of
20 English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics. For grades nine,
21 10, and 12, the nationally standardized test or other equivalent
22 measurement selected must measure either (i) achievement in the areas
23 of English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics or (ii)
24 competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas.
- 25 (5) Provide to the Authority graduation rates of the students receiving scholarship
26 ~~grants—grants, including four-year cohort graduation rates, in a manner~~
27 ~~consistent with nationally recognized standards.~~ Title I of the Elementary and
28 Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, and any associated federal
29 regulations.
- 30 (6) Contract with a certified public accountant to perform ~~a financial review, an~~
31 ~~audit,~~ consistent with generally accepted methods of accounting or any other
32 comprehensive basis of accounting recognized by the American Institute of
33 Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) for each school year in which the
34 school enrolls 70 or more students receiving scholarship grants or scholarship
35 funds awarded by the Authority, accepts students receiving one hundred
36 thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more in scholarship grants awarded under this
37 Part. If a school accepts students receiving less than one hundred thousand
38 dollars (\$100,000), it shall contract pursuant to this subdivision for an audit
39 every three years. A nonpublic school shall report the results of an audit
40 conducted under this subdivision to the Authority and the State Auditor by
41 December 31 of the year in which the audit is conducted.
- 42 (7) Maintain a school facility within the State where in-person instruction is
43 provided. This subdivision does not prohibit a school from offering
44 remote-only courses of instruction in addition to in-person instruction.
- 45 (8) Provide the following information annually to the Division:
- 46 a. Name and address of the school, including physical location address.
47 A school with more than one physical location shall establish a
48 separate notice of intent for each physical location and shall provide
49 all information required by this subdivision for each physical location.
- 50 b. The name of the owners and chief administrator.
- 51 c. Number of students in attendance at the school as of October 1.

- 1 d. All attendance records of students receiving scholarship grants from
2 the previous school year.
- 3 e. The percentage of teachers with a teacher license.
- 4 f. Whether the nonpublic school is accredited and, if so, the identity of
5 that accreditor.
- 6 g. Documentation of a competed fire inspection in the previous 365 days.
- 7 h. Curriculum used by the nonpublic school for each grade level.
- 8 i. The number of students receiving scholarship grants for the first time
9 who attended a public school unit in the previous school year.
- 10 j. The number of students receiving scholarship grants who attended a
11 public school unit in the previous school year.
- 12 (9) To the extent permitted by federal law and to the extent this information can
13 be provided without permitting the personally identifiable information of a
14 student to be revealed, report to the Authority on the following information:
- 15 a. The number of children enrolled at the school who are recipients of
16 scholarship funds and who have a disability and an Individualized
17 Education Plan (IEP).
- 18 b. If there are any children enrolled at the school who are recipients of
19 scholarship funds and who have a disability and an IEP, whether the
20 nonpublic school is educating each child in compliance with his or her
21 IDEA, as defined in G.S. 115C-106.3(6), and applicable policies
22 adopted by the State Board of Education for local school
23 administrative units under Article 9 of Chapter 115C of the General
24 Statutes.
- 25 (10) Comply with the requirements of Article 8C of this Chapter, including the
26 following:
- 27 a. School Risk Management Plan. – The nonpublic school, in
28 coordination with local law enforcement agencies, shall adopt a
29 School Risk Management Plan (SRMP) relating to incidents of school
30 violence. In constructing and maintaining these plans, the nonpublic
31 school shall utilize the School Risk and Response Management
32 System established pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.49A. These plans are
33 not considered a public record as the term "public record" is defined
34 under G.S. 132-1 and shall not be subject to inspection and
35 examination under G.S. 132-6.
- 36 b. Schematic diagrams and school crisis kits. – The nonpublic school
37 shall provide schematic diagrams and keys to the main entrance of
38 school facilities to local law enforcement agencies, in addition to
39 implementing the provisions in G.S. 115C-105.52.
- 40 c. School safety exercises. – At least once a year, the nonpublic school
41 shall hold a full school-wide lockdown exercise with local law
42 enforcement and emergency management agencies that are part of the
43 school's SRMP.
- 44 d. Safety information provided to the Department of Public Safety,
45 Division of Emergency Management. – The nonpublic school shall
46 provide the following: (i) schematic diagrams, including digital
47 schematic diagrams, and (ii) emergency response information
48 requested by the Division for the SRMP. The schematic diagrams and
49 emergency response information are not considered public records as
50 the term "public record" is defined under G.S. 132-1 and shall not be
51 subject to inspection and examination under G.S. 132-6.

1 (b) A nonpublic school that accepts students receiving scholarship grants shall not require
2 any additional fees based on the status of the student as a scholarship grant recipient.

3 (c) A nonpublic school enrolling more than 25 students in any grade whose tuition and
4 fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant shall provide and retain information on
5 student test performance in each grade with more than 25 students, as follows:

- 6 (1) Report to the Authority on the aggregate standardized test performance of
7 eligible students in grades ~~three, eight, three through eight~~ and 11. Aggregate
8 test performance data reported to the Authority which does not contain
9 personally identifiable student data shall be a public record under Chapter 132
10 of the General Statutes. Test performance data may be shared with public or
11 private institutions of higher education located in North Carolina and shall be
12 provided to an independent research organization selected by the Authority
13 for research purposes as permitted by the Federal Education Rights and
14 Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.
- 15 (2) Retain standardized test performance data for eligible students in all other
16 grades and annually certify to the Authority compliance with the requirements
17 of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section.

18"

19 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Office of Learning Research at The University of North
20 Carolina shall study and report the following to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
21 Committee by December 31, 2026:

- 22 (1) For the purpose of comparing student performance, recommendations for
23 nationally standardized tests for use in third grade through eighth grade that
24 would be appropriate for administering to (i) students in nonpublic schools
25 who are receiving Opportunity Scholarships beginning with the 2027-2028
26 school year and (ii) students attending schools in public school units. The
27 Office of Learning Research shall recommend only one test for use in each
28 grade.
- 29 (2) Alignment between the nationally standardized tests selected pursuant to
30 subdivision (1) of this subsection and the standard course of study for third
31 grade through eighth grade, respectively, including a crosswalk between the
32 standards assessed by the nationally standardized tests and the standard course
33 of study.
- 34 (3) Feasibility of developing a through-grade assessment for third through eighth
35 grade that would meet the following criteria:
- 36 a. Assess mastery of the standard course of study.
 - 37 b. Consist of multiple testing events throughout the year that are
38 aggregated into a summative score.
 - 39 c. Replace the current end-of-grade assessments for third and eighth
40 grade.
 - 41 d. Yield data that can be used with the Education Value-Added
42 Assessment System (EVAAS).
 - 43 e. Comply with federal law.

44 **SECTION 1.(c)** The State Education Assistance Authority shall designate as the
45 nationally standardized assessments to be administered by nonpublic schools, in accordance with
46 G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(4), the tests recommended by the Office of Learning Research at The
47 University of North Carolina for use in third grade through eighth grade in accordance with
48 subsection (b) of this section.

49 **SECTION 1.(d)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(1), for the report required
50 pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(1) for the 2026-2027 school year, the nonpublic school shall also
51 provide documentation for required tuition and fees charged to students receiving scholarship

1 grant funds under Part 2A of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes by the nonpublic
2 school for the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 school years.

3 **SECTION 1.(e)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of
4 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2026-2027 fiscal year the sum of fifty
5 thousand dollars (\$50,000) in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to the North Carolina
6 Collaboratory for the Office of Learning Research to conduct the study required by subsection
7 (b) of this section.

8 **SECTION 1.(f)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2026, and applies beginning
9 with the 2026-2027 school year.

10
11 **PART II. REQUIRE THE STATE AUDITOR TO ANNUALLY REVIEW AUDITS OF**
12 **AT LEAST THREE OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP SCHOOLS**

13 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 147-64.6(c) reads as rewritten:

14 "(c) Responsibilities. – The Auditor is responsible for the following acts and activities:

15 ...

16 (25) The Auditor shall review every year at least three completed audits of
17 nonpublic schools that are reported to the Auditor pursuant to
18 G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(6). The Auditor shall report to the Joint Legislative
19 Education Oversight Committee no later than March 15 of each year on the
20 results of this review, including the uses of taxpayer funds by the nonpublic
21 schools and academic outcomes of students receiving scholarship grants under
22 Part 2A of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes."

23
24 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

25 **SECTION 3.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
26 law.