

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2025

SESSION LAW 2026-20
SENATE BILL 227

AN ACT TO DEMONSTRATE THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S INTENT THAT STUDENTS, TEACHERS, ADMINISTRATORS, AND OTHER SCHOOL EMPLOYEES RECOGNIZE THE EQUALITY AND RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS AND TO PROHIBIT PUBLIC SCHOOL UNITS FROM PROMOTING CERTAIN CONCEPTS THAT ARE CONTRARY TO THAT INTENT.

Whereas, President Trump issued an executive order on January 29, 2025, to protect American students and ensure that K-12 recipients of federal funds comply with all applicable laws prohibiting discrimination and protecting parental rights; and

Whereas, in the last fiscal year, North Carolina received \$3.1 billion in federal funding for K-12 education, demonstrating the importance of ensuring that public schools remain in compliance with federal regulations to protect education funding; and

Whereas, the General Assembly is committed to ensuring all North Carolina public school students receive a meaningful education based on academic excellence, critical thinking, and the free exchange of ideas; and

Whereas, it is the State's role to protect the practice of education for public school students and teachers; and

Whereas, so-called "DEI" programs promote a worldview that demands people, especially young students, to judge others based on their race, sex, or other factors and attack true diversity of thought, stifle opportunity, and stoke division; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-12(9c) is amended by adding a new sub-subdivision to read:

"d. The Board shall not approve, provide, recommend, or require professional development that is prohibited by G.S. 115C-76.210(a)(4)."

SECTION 2. Article 7B of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding the following new sections to read:

"§ 115C-76.200. Intent.

The General Assembly finds that Section 1 of Article I of the Constitution of this State recognizes the equality and rights of all persons. Therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly that students, teachers, administrators, and other school employees respect the dignity of others, acknowledge the right of others to express differing opinions, and foster and defend intellectual honesty, freedom of inquiry and instruction, and freedom of speech and association and that the public schools of this State employ teaching methods and procedures to further that intent.

"§ 115C-76.205. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Part, the following definitions apply:

(1) Discriminatory practice. – Any of the following based on an individual's protected classification under federal law:



- a. Treating an individual differently solely to advantage or disadvantage that individual as compared to other individuals or groups.
- b. Excluding an individual from employment, except as allowed under federal law.
- c. Excluding an individual from participation in an educational program or activity, except as allowed under federal law.
- (2) Divisive concept. – Any of the following concepts:
 - a. One race or sex is inherently superior to another race or sex.
 - b. An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, is inherently racist, sexist, or oppressive.
 - c. An individual should be discriminated against or receive adverse treatment solely or partly because of his or her race or sex.
 - d. An individual's moral character is necessarily determined by his or her race or sex.
 - e. An individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, bears responsibility for actions committed in the past by other members of the same race or sex.
 - f. Any individual, solely by virtue of his or her race or sex, should feel discomfort, guilt, anguish, or any other form of psychological distress.
 - g. A meritocracy is inherently racist or sexist.
 - h. The United States was created by members of a particular race or sex for the purpose of oppressing members of another race or sex.
 - i. Particular character traits, values, moral or ethical codes, privileges, or beliefs should be ascribed to a race or sex or to an individual because of the individual's race or sex.
 - j. The rule of law does not exist but instead is a series of power relationships and struggles among racial or other groups.
 - k. All Americans are not created equal and are not endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 - l. Governments should deny to any person within the government's jurisdiction the equal protection of the law.
- (3) Instruction. – Includes content taught or presented to students by employees, contractors, or individuals otherwise engaged by a public school unit.
- (4) Professional development. – Includes seminars, workshops, and other trainings delivered by employees, contractors, or individuals otherwise engaged by a public school unit.

"§ 115C-76.210. Ensuring dignity and nondiscrimination in schools.

- (a) Public school units shall not do any of the following:
 - (1) Engage in or advocate for discriminatory practices.
 - (2) Compel students, teachers, administrators, or other school employees to affirm or profess belief in divisive concepts.
 - (3) Provide instruction to students on divisive concepts.
 - (4) Engage in any of the following with respect to professional development that includes or advocates for divisive concepts or discriminatory practices:
 - a. Approve, recommend, or require a professional educator to participate in the professional development.
 - b. Develop, purchase, or provide the professional development.
 - c. Contract with an entity for the professional development.
 - d. Provide an entity access for the purpose of delivering the professional development.

- (5) Maintain an office, division, or other unit (i) promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts or (ii) referred to as or named diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- (6) Employ or assign an employee whose duties for a public school unit include promoting discriminatory practices or divisive concepts.
- (b) This section shall not be construed to limit any of the following:
 - (1) Speech protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.
 - (2) Materials accessed on an individual basis that advocate divisive concepts or discriminatory practices for the purpose of research or independent study.
 - (3) Policies, procedures, or professional development required by State or federal law.
 - (4) Instruction on divisive concepts in accordance with the standard course of study in contexts that make clear the public school unit does not sponsor, approve, or endorse any divisive concepts, including instruction related to the following:
 - a. The history of an ethnic group, as described in textbooks and instructional materials adopted in accordance with Part 3 of Article 8 of this Chapter.
 - b. The impartial discussion of controversial aspects of history.
 - c. The impartial discussion of the historical oppression of a particular group of people based on race, ethnicity, class, nationality, religion, or geographic region.
 - d. Historical documents that are permitted under G.S. 115C-47(29c).
 - (5) Single-sex schools, educational programs, or activities operated in compliance with State or federal law.

(c) Each public school unit shall certify annually in writing by September 1 to the Department of Public Instruction that the public school unit fully complies with the requirements of this section, including any actions taken to achieve compliance. The Department shall summarize the certifications in a consolidated report by January 15 annually to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee."

SECTION 2.5.(a) G.S. 115C-47 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.

In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of education shall have the power or duty:

- ...
- (18) To Make Rules Concerning the Conduct and Duties of Personnel. – Local boards of education, upon the recommendation of the superintendent, shall ~~have full power to make all just and needful rules and regulations adopt policies governing the conduct of teachers, principals, and supervisors, employees,~~ the kind of reports they shall make, and their duties in the care of school property. The policies governing the conduct of employees shall prohibit discrimination based on an individual's protected classification under federal law, including antisemitism as defined in G.S. 12-3.2.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, each local board of education shall identify all reports, including local school required reports, that are required at the local level for the school year and shall, to the maximum extent possible, eliminate any duplicate or obsolete reporting requirements and consolidate remaining reporting requirements. No additional reports shall be required at the local level after the beginning of the school year without the prior approval of the local board of education.

Prior to the beginning of each school year, each local board of education shall also identify software protocols such as NC Wise that could be used to minimize repetitious data entry by teachers and shall make them available to teachers.

Each local board of education shall appoint a person or establish a local paperwork control committee to monitor all reports and other paperwork required of teachers by the central office and to monitor teachers' access to software protocols that minimize repetitious data entry.

...."

SECTION 2.5.(b) G.S. 115C-390.2(b) reads as rewritten:

"(b) Governing body policies shall include or provide for the development of a Code of Student Conduct that notifies students of the standards of behavior expected of them, conduct that may subject them to discipline, and the range of disciplinary measures that may be used by school officials. The Code of Student Conduct shall prohibit discrimination based on an individual's protected classification under federal law, including antisemitism as defined in G.S. 12-3.2."

SECTION 3. G.S. 115C-270.30 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(b2) Professional Educator Licensure Renewal. – No continuing education credit shall be awarded for professional development that is prohibited by G.S. 115C-76.210(a)(4)."

SECTION 4. For the certification due September 1, 2025, as required by G.S. 115C-76.210(c), as enacted by Section 2 of this act, each public school unit shall also include information on the initial implementation of this act, including reductions in force and spending, changes to job titles and position descriptions, and how savings achieved from these actions have been directed.

SECTION 5. If any provision of this act or its application is held invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications of this act that can be given effect without the invalid provisions or application and, to this end, the provisions of this act are severable.

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

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 26th day of June, 2025.

s/ Rachel Hunt
President of the Senate

s/ Destin Hall
Speaker of the House of Representatives

VETO Josh Stein
Governor

Became law notwithstanding the objections of the Governor at 3:11 p.m. this 24th day of June, 2026.

s/ Mr. James White
House Principal Clerk