

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 1385*

Short Title: School Technology Plans/Fund.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Winner of Mecklenburg; Gunter, Hartsell, Perdue, Sherron, Simpson, Smith, Ward, and Warren.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

May 25, 1994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO IMPLEMENT THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE COMMISSION ON SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE FOR STATE AND LOCAL SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY PLANS, TO ESTABLISH A STATE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY FUND, AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR THE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY COMMISSION AND THE STATE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY FUND.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 115C-102.5(c) reads as rewritten:

"(c) Notwithstanding G.S. 120-123 and subsection (b) of this section, ~~for the 1993-94 fiscal year only,~~ the Commission shall also include one member of the Senate appointed by the President Pro Tempore of the Senate and one member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives. These members shall be voting members. The term of office of these members shall end November 1, 1994."

Sec. 2. G.S. 115C-102.6 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-102.6. Duties. Duty to prepare a requirements analysis and propose a State school technology plan.

The Commission shall prepare a requirements analysis and propose a State school technology plan ~~to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee~~ for improving student performance in the public schools through the use of learning and instructional management technologies.

In developing this plan, the Commission shall:

- 1 (1) Assess factors related to the current use of learning and instructional
2 management technologies in the schools, including what is currently
3 being used, how the current use of technology relates to the standard
4 course of study, how the effectiveness of learning and instructional
5 management technologies is being evaluated, how schools are paying
6 for learning and instructional management technologies, and what
7 training school employees have received in the use of learning and
8 instructional management technology and networks.
- 9 (2) Identify the instructional goals that can be met through the use of
10 learning and instructional management technologies. The goals may
11 include teaching the standard course of study, reaching students with a
12 broad range of abilities, and ensuring that all students have access to a
13 complete curriculum regardless of the geographical location or the
14 financial resources of the school.
- 15 (3) Examine the types of learning and instructional management
16 technologies available to meet the identified instructional goals,
17 including computers, audiovisual aids, science laboratory equipment,
18 vocational education equipment, and distance learning networks. The
19 Commission shall consider the compatibility and accessibility of
20 different types of learning and instructional management technologies,
21 including compatibility with the planned statewide broadband ISDN
22 network, and whether they may be easily communicated from one site
23 to another. The Commission shall also consider linkages between
24 learning and instructional management technologies and existing State
25 and local administrative systems.
- 26 (4) Develop a basic level of learning and instructional management
27 technology for every school in the State. The basic level may include:
 - 28 a. A computer lab with student stations or a specified number of
29 student computer stations in each classroom for the use of
30 instructional software such as computer-assisted instruction,
31 integrated learning systems, instructional management systems,
32 and applications software such as word processing, database,
33 spreadsheet, and desktop publishing.
 - 34 b. A computer workstation in every classroom for teachers to use
35 in preparation and delivery of instruction and for administrative
36 record keeping.
 - 37 c. A television monitor and video cassette-recorder in every
38 classroom to take advantage of open-air broadcast programs,
39 satellite programs, and instructional video tapes available from
40 the library/media center.
 - 41 d. Computer workstations at each elementary and secondary
42 school, housed in the library/media center, for individual
43 students to use for basic skills instructional software.

- 1 e. A telecommunications line, modem, and software in each
2 school's library/media center that will allow students and
3 teachers access to external databases and resources for research
4 purposes.
5 f. The availability of telephones for teachers.
6 g. Initial training for the principal and teachers from each school
7 in the use of the new technology.

- 8 (5) Consider staffing required to operate the learning and instructional
9 management technologies and options for maintaining the equipment.
10 (6) Consider the types of staff development necessary to maximize the
11 benefits of learning and instructional management technologies and
12 determine the appropriate ways to provide the necessary staff
13 development.
14 (7) Develop a cost analysis of any plans and proposals that it develops."

15 Sec. 3. Part 3A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is
16 amended by adding four new sections to read:

17 **"§ 115C-102.6A. Elements of the State school technology plan.**

18 (a) The State school technology plan shall be a long-term State implementation
19 plan for using funds from the State School Technology Fund and other sources to
20 improve student performance in the public schools through the use of learning and
21 instructional management technologies. The plan shall provide for a foundation of
22 flexible and long-lasting technology that will result in the achievement of substantial
23 gains in student performance in a cost-effective manner.

24 (b) Components of the State school technology plan shall include:

- 25 (1) Common technical standards and uniform practices and procedures
26 that provide statewide economies of scale in procurements, training,
27 support, planning, and operations.
28 (2) Conceptual technical architecture that includes:
29 a. Principles. – Statements of direction, goals, and concepts to
30 guide the development of technical architecture;
31 b. Standards. – Detailed specifications to ensure hardware,
32 software, databases, and other products that may have been
33 developed independently or purchased from different vendors
34 will work together; and
35 c. Implementation strategies. – Approaches or guidelines for
36 developing and installing the components of the technical
37 infrastructure.
38 (3) A quality assurance policy for all school technology projects, training
39 programs, systems documentation, and maintenance plans.
40 (4) Policies and procedures for the fair and competitive procurement of
41 school technology that provide local school administrative units with a
42 vendor-neutral operating environment in which different school
43 technology hardware, software, and networks operate together easily

1 and reliably, to the extent feasible consistent with meeting
2 instructional goals.

3 (5) A comprehensive policy for inventory control.

4 (6) Parameters for continuous, ongoing training for all personnel involved
5 in the use of school technology. Training shall focus on the integration
6 of technology and instruction and on the use of particular applications.

7 (7) Recommendations to the State Board of Education of requirements for
8 preservice teacher training on the integration of teaching and school
9 technology.

10 (8) Proposals for leadership training on the use of school technology to
11 improve instruction and as a management tool.

12 (9) Development of expertise at the State and regional levels on school
13 technology.

14 (10) Flexibility to enable local school administrative units and individual
15 schools to meet individual school unit and building needs.

16 (11) Flexibility to meet the needs of all students, allow support to students
17 with a wide range of abilities, and ensure access to challenging
18 curricula and instruction for children at risk of school failure.

19 (12) Use of technologies to support challenging State and local educational
20 performance goals.

21 (13) Effective and integrated use of technologies compatible with (i) the
22 standard course of study, (ii) the State assessment program, and (iii)
23 related student data management.

24 (14) Use of technologies as a communication, instructional, and
25 management tool and for problem-solving, exploration, and advanced
26 skills.

27 (15) Proposals for addressing equipment needs for vocational education,
28 Tech Prep, and science instruction.

29 (16) Specifications for minimum components of local school technology
30 plans.

31 **§ 115C-102.6B. Approval of State school technology plan.**

32 (a) The Commission shall present the State school technology plan it develops to
33 the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative
34 Education Oversight Committee for their comments prior to January 1, 1995. At least
35 every two years thereafter, the Commission shall develop any necessary modifications
36 to the State school technology plan and present them to the Joint Legislative
37 Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education
38 Oversight Committee.

39 (b) After presenting the plan or any proposed modifications to the plan to the
40 Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative
41 Education Oversight Committee, the Commission shall submit the plan or any proposed
42 modifications to (i) the Information Resources Management Commission for its
43 approval of the technical components of the plan set out in G.S. 115C-102.6A(1)

1 through (4), and (ii) the State Board of Education for its approval of the components of
2 the plan set out in G.S. 115C-102.6A(5) through (16).

3 (c) If no changes are made to the plan or the proposed modifications to the plan
4 after the submission to the Information Resources Management Commission and the
5 State Board of Education, the plan or the proposed modifications shall take effect upon
6 approval by the Information Resources Management Commission and the State Board
7 of Education.

8 If changes are made to the plan or the proposed modifications after the submission to
9 the Information Resources Management Commission and the State Board of Education,
10 the plan or the proposed modifications shall take effect after the Commission (i)
11 reports the changes to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental
12 Operations and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, and (ii) considers
13 the comments of the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations and the
14 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

15 **"§ 115C-102.6C. Approval of local school technology plans.**

16 (a) Each local board of education shall develop a local school technology plan
17 that meets the requirements of the State school technology plan and shall submit the
18 local plan to the State Board of Education for its approval. The Department of Public
19 Instruction shall evaluate the local plans and advise the State Board as to whether the
20 local plans comply with the requirements of the State school technology plan.

21 (b) After a local school technology plan is approved by the State Board of
22 Education, the local board of education may use funds in the State School Technology
23 Fund that are allocated to the local school administrative unit to implement the plan.

24 **"§ 115C-102.6D. Establishment of the State School Technology Fund; allocation**
25 **and use of funds.**

26 (a) There is established under the control and direction of the State Board of
27 Education the State School Technology Fund. This fund shall be a nonreverting special
28 revenue fund consisting of any monies appropriated to it by the General Assembly.

29 (b) Funds in the State School Technology Fund shall be allocated to local school
30 administrative units as directed by the General Assembly. Funds allocated to each local
31 school administrative unit shall be credited with interest by the State Treasurer pursuant
32 to G.S. 147-69.2 and G.S. 147-69.3.

33 (c) Each local school administrative unit with a local school technology plan
34 approved by the State Board of Education may use funds allocated to it to implement its
35 local plan or as otherwise specified by the General Assembly."

36 Sec. 4. G.S. 115C-102.7 reads as rewritten:

37 **"§ 115C-102.7. Reports.—Monitoring and evaluation of State and local school**
38 **technology plans; reports.**

39 (a) The Commission shall monitor and evaluate the development and
40 implementation of the State and local school technology plans. The evaluation shall
41 consider the effects of technology on student learning, the effects of technology on
42 students' workforce readiness, the effects of technology on teacher productivity, and the
43 cost-effectiveness of the technology. The Commission shall make a progress report prior to
44 March 15, 1994, and a final report prior to May 15, 1994, on the plan it develops to
~~The~~

1 Commission shall report in October of each year to the State Board of Education, the
2 Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental ~~Operations~~ Operations, and the Joint
3 Legislative Education Oversight ~~Committee~~ Committee on the development and the
4 implementation of State and local school technology plans. (a1) The Joint Legislative
5 Commission on Governmental Operations and the Joint Legislative Education
6 Oversight Committee may meet jointly to consider ~~the~~ reports from the Commission on
7 School Technology and they may appoint subcommittees to jointly consider the reports.

8 (b) The Commission shall provide notice of meetings, copies of minutes, and
9 periodic briefings to the chair of the Information Resources Management Commission
10 and the chair of the Technical Committee of the Information Resources Management
11 Commission."

12 Sec. 5. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Commission on
13 School Technology the sum of one hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) for the
14 1994-95 fiscal year to complete the development of the State school technology plan, to
15 develop a mechanism for monitoring and evaluating the State and local school
16 technology plans, and to otherwise carry out the duties of the Commission.

17 Sec. 6. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State School
18 Technology Fund the sum of seventy-five million dollars (\$75,000,000) for the 1994-95
19 fiscal year. Before a local school technology plan is approved by the State Board of
20 Education, a local board of education may use up to ten percent (10%) of the funds
21 allocated to it from the fund to develop its local school technology plan or, to the extent
22 that these funds are not needed to develop the local school technology plan, for staff
23 development to improve the use of instructional technology. After a local school
24 technology plan is approved by the State Board of Education, a local board of education
25 may use the remainder of these funds for nonrecurring expenses to implement its local
26 school technology plan, including staff development, hardware, software, and
27 maintenance contracts.

28 Two or more local school administrative units may jointly expend funds to
29 develop their individual local school technology plans, for staff development, or to
30 implement their individual local school technology plans.

31 Sec. 7. Section 1 of this act becomes effective June 30, 1994. G.S. 115C-
32 102.6B, which is enacted in Section 3 of this act, becomes effective November 1, 1994.
33 The remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 1994.