

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 559
Committee Substitute Favorable 4/21/15

Short Title: Testing Feedback for Students/Teachers.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 6, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO PROVIDE STUDENT
3 PERFORMANCE DATA TO PARENTS, STUDENTS, AND TEACHERS ON THE
4 RESULTS OF STATEWIDE TESTS AND ASSESSMENTS AND TO INCREASE BY
5 FIVE DAYS THE NUMBER OF DAYS ASSESSMENTS AND FINAL EXAMS CAN BE
6 ADMINISTERED WITHIN THE FINAL INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS BEFORE THE END
7 OF THE SEMESTER OR YEAR.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-174.12 reads as rewritten:

10 "§ 115C-174.12. Responsibilities of agencies.

11 (a) The State Board of Education shall establish policies and guidelines necessary for
12 minimizing the time students spend taking tests administered through State and local testing
13 programs, for minimizing the frequency of field testing at any one school, and for otherwise
14 carrying out the provisions of this Article. These policies and guidelines shall include the
15 following:

- 16 (1) Schools shall devote no more than two days of instructional time per year to
17 the taking of practice tests that do not have the primary purpose of assessing
18 current student ~~learning~~; learning.
- 19 (2) Students in a school shall not be subject to field tests or national tests during
20 the two-week period preceding the administration of end-of-grade tests,
21 end-of-course tests, or the school's regularly scheduled final ~~exams~~;
22 and exams.
- 23 (3) No school shall participate in more than two field tests at any one grade level
24 during a school ~~year~~; year.
- 25 (4) All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board
26 of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(1) and (3) and all final exams
27 for courses shall be administered within the final ~~40~~15 instructional days of
28 the school year for year-long courses and within the final ~~five~~10
29 instructional days of the semester for semester courses. Exceptions shall be
30 permitted to accommodate a student's individualized education program and
31 section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans and for the administration of final exams
32 for courses with national or international curricula required to be held at
33 designated times.

34 These policies shall reflect standard testing practices to insure reliability and validity of the
35 sample testing. The results of the field tests shall be used in the final design of each test. The
36 State Board of Education's policies regarding the testing of children with disabilities shall (i)



1 provide broad accommodations and alternate methods of assessment that are consistent with a
2 student's individualized education program and section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans, (ii)
3 prohibit the use of statewide tests as the sole determinant of decisions about a student's
4 graduation or promotion, and (iii) provide parents with information about the Statewide Testing
5 Program and options for children with disabilities. The State Board shall report its proposed
6 policies and proposed changes in policies to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
7 Committee prior to adoption.

8 The State Board of Education may appoint an Advisory Council on Testing to assist in
9 carrying out its responsibilities under this Article.

10 (b) The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall be responsible, under policies
11 adopted by the State Board of Education, for the statewide administration of the testing
12 program provided by this Article.

13 (b1) The Superintendent shall notify local boards of education by October 1 of each year
14 of any field tests that will be administered in their schools during the school year, the schools at
15 which the field tests will be administered, and the specific field tests that will be administered
16 at each school.

17 (b2) The State Board of Education shall provide student performance data on each
18 statewide assessment and test administered in accordance with this Article for dissemination to
19 local school administrative units, teachers, parents, and students. This data for each assessment
20 and test shall be disseminated within five days of a student taking a test or assessment, if
21 practicable, or within a reasonable amount of time for the protection and integrity of the
22 administration of a statewide test, to students, parents, and teachers as follows:

23 (1) For a student, the student's parent, and the teacher of record for that student,
24 the following information shall be disseminated:

25 a. The standard to which the test item is linked.

26 b. Indication of whether the student's response was correct or incorrect.

27 (2) For all students for which a teacher is the teacher of record, the teacher shall
28 receive the percentage and number of students who responded correctly on a
29 test item correlating with corresponding standards in order to assist the
30 teacher in identifying specific areas in need of improvement for adjustments
31 to instruction and future course lesson plans.

32 (c) Local boards of education shall cooperate with the State Board of Education in
33 implementing the provisions of this Article, including the regulations and policies established
34 by the State Board of Education. Local school administrative units shall use the annual tests to
35 fulfill the purposes set out in this Article. Local school administrative units are encouraged to
36 continue to develop local testing programs designed to diagnose student needs."

37 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
38 the 2015-2016 school year.