

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

H

1

HOUSE BILL 135

Short Title: Technical Changes to Courses of Study Statute. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Elmore, Johnson, and Conrad (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Health, if favorable, Education - K-12, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and  
Operations of the House

February 20, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MAKE ORGANIZATIONAL AND TECHNICAL CHANGES TO THE COURSES  
3 OF STUDY STATUTES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-81 is repealed.

6 SECTION 2. G.S. 115C-81.1 is repealed.

7 SECTION 3. G.S. 115C-81.3 is repealed.

8 SECTION 4. G.S. 115C-81.4 is repealed.

9 SECTION 5. Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended  
10 by adding new sections to read:

11 "**§ 115C-81.5. Standard course of study.**

12 (a) All children can learn. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the mission of the  
13 public school community is to challenge with high expectations each child to learn, to achieve,  
14 and to fulfill his or her potential. With that mission as its guide, the State Board of Education shall  
15 adopt a plan of education and a standard course of study as provided in G.S. 115C-12(9c) for the  
16 public schools of the State. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the focus of State  
17 educational funding shall be to ensure that each student receives a sound basic education. It is  
18 further a goal of the General Assembly to provide supplemental funds to low-wealth counties to  
19 allow those counties to enhance the instructional program and student achievement. Instruction  
20 shall be offered in the areas of arts, communication skills, physical education and personal health  
21 and safety, mathematics, media and computer skills, science, second languages, social studies, and  
22 career and technical education. In addition, instruction shall be offered in all of the areas provided  
23 in this Part.

24 (b) The standard course of study shall provide all of the following:

25 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special needs of  
26 children.

27 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area.

28 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum.

29 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the mastery of  
30 competencies, including standards for graduation, that take into account  
31 children with disabilities and, in particular, include appropriate modifications.

32 (5) A program of remedial education.

33 (6) Required support programs.

34 (7) A definition of the instructional day.



- 1           (8)    Class size recommendations and requirements.
- 2           (9)    Prescribed staffing allotment ratios.
- 3           (10)   Material and equipment allotment ratios.
- 4           (11)   Facilities guidelines that reflect educational program appropriateness, long-term  
5                cost efficiency, and safety considerations.
- 6           (12)   Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary.

7   **§ 115C-81.10. Career and technical education.**

- 8       (a)    Instruction in career and technical education shall include the following:
  - 9           (1)    The integration of academic and career and technical education.
  - 10          (2)    A sequential course of study leading to career and college readiness.
  - 11          (3)    Increased student work skill attainment and job placement.
  - 12          (4)    Increased linkages, where geographically feasible, between public schools and  
13                community colleges, so the public schools can emphasize academic preparation  
14                and the community colleges can emphasize specific job training.
  - 15          (5)    Instruction and experience, to the extent practicable, in all aspects of the  
16                industry the students are prepared to enter.

17   **§ 115C-81.15. Conflict resolution and mediation models.**

18       The State Board of Education shall develop a list of recommended conflict resolution and  
19       mediation materials, models, and curricula that address responsible decision making, the causes  
20       and effects of school violence and harassment, cultural diversity, and nonviolent methods for  
21       resolving conflict, including peer mediation, and shall make the list available to local school  
22       administrative units and school buildings. In developing this list, the Board shall emphasize  
23       materials, models, and curricula that currently are being used in North Carolina and that the Board  
24       determines to be effective. The Board shall include at least one model that includes instruction and  
25       guidance for the voluntary implementation of peer mediation programs and one model that  
26       provides instruction and guidance for teachers concerning the integration of conflict resolution and  
27       mediation lessons into the existing classroom curriculum.

28   **§ 115C-81.20. Alcohol and drug use prevention education.**

- 29       (a)    Instruction shall be provided in alcohol and drug use prevention education at every  
30       grade level from kindergarten through grade 12.
- 31       (b)    The State Board of Education shall develop and maintain a recommended list of  
32       alcohol and drug use prevention education materials that include components for teacher training  
33       and ongoing assessment and evaluation to verify success and ensure the use of up-to-date  
34       information and strategies.
- 35       (c)    The Department of Public Instruction shall do the following:
  - 36           (1)    Work to strengthen instructional offerings in the content and skill areas in  
37                which alcohol and drug use prevention education is addressed.
  - 38           (2)    Develop curricular materials and resources that meet, extend, and supplement  
39                drug and alcohol education as outlined in the standard course of study and the  
40                teacher handbook for the competency-based curriculum.
  - 41           (3)    Recommend to the State Board of Education any drug use prevention education  
42                support materials that should be removed from or added to the recommended  
43                list of curricular resources developed and maintained by the State Board of  
44                Education.
- 45       (d)    Local boards of education may select supplemental alcohol and drug use prevention  
46       education materials from the list maintained by the State Board of Education or develop their own  
47       supplemental materials to be approved by the State Board of Education.
- 48       (e)    Local boards of education shall do the following:
  - 49           (1)    Implement an approved alcohol and drug use prevention education as a primary  
50                part of their comprehensive health education program.

1           (2)    Provide for ongoing evaluation of drug use prevention education resources, to  
2                   include participation in ongoing evaluations with the Department of Public  
3                   Instruction.

4       (f)    The Department of Public Instruction, in conjunction with local school administrative  
5       units, shall provide for professional development to train educators and support personnel to  
6       implement a comprehensive alcohol and drug use prevention education program.

7       (g)    Sequential, age-appropriate instruction shall be provided that includes all of the  
8       following:

9           (1)    Reaches all students in all grades.

10          (2)    Presents a clear and consistent message that the use of alcohol and unlawful  
11               drugs and the misuse of other drugs are unhealthy and harmful.

12          (3)    Reflects current research and theory.

13          (4)    Includes all abusable substances.

14          (5)    Utilizes information that is current and accurate.

15          (6)    Involves students in active "hands-on" learning experiences.

16          (7)    Integrates substance abuse education with other health and social issues and  
17               other subject and skill areas of the standard course of study.

18          (8)    Promotes understanding and respect for the law and values of society.

19          (9)    Encourages healthy, safe, and responsible attitudes and behaviors.

20          (10)   Includes strategies to involve parents, family members, and the community.

21          (11)   Includes information on intervention and treatment services.

22          (12)   Is continually open to revision, expansion, and improvement.

23    **§ 115C-81.25. Health education.**

24       (a)    Comprehensive health education instruction shall be developed and taught to students  
25       from kindergarten through ninth grade.

26       (b)    The State Board of Education shall do all of the following:

27           (1)    Supervise the development and operation of the statewide comprehensive  
28               school health education program, including curriculum development, teacher  
29               professional development, promotion of training in teacher preparation  
30               programs, learning material review, and assessment and evaluation of local  
31               programs in the same manner as for other programs.

32           (2)    Adopt objectives for the instruction of the subject areas listed in this section  
33               that are appropriate for each grade level.

34           (3)    Approve textbooks and other materials incorporating these objectives that local  
35               school administrative units may purchase with State funds.

36       (c)    The State Board of Education, through the Department of Public Instruction, shall, on a  
37       regular basis, review materials related to these objectives and distribute these reviews to local  
38       school administrative units for their information. This program includes age-appropriate  
39       instruction in the following subject areas, regardless of whether this instruction is described as, or  
40       incorporated into a description of, "family life education," "family health education," "health  
41       education," "family living," "health," "healthful living curriculum," or "self-esteem":

42           (1)    Mental and emotional health.

43           (2)    Drug and alcohol abuse prevention.

44           (3)    Nutrition.

45           (4)    Dental health.

46           (5)    Environmental health.

47           (6)    Family living.

48           (7)    Consumer health.

49           (8)    Disease control.

50           (9)    Growth and development.

1           (10) First aid and emergency care, including the teaching of cardiopulmonary  
2 resuscitation (CPR) and the Heimlich maneuver by using hands-on training  
3 with mannequins so that students pass a test approved by the American Heart  
4 Association or American Red Cross. For the purposes of this subdivision,  
5 schools shall do all of the following:

6           a. Use an instructional program developed by the American Heart  
7 Association, the American Red Cross, or other nationally recognized  
8 programs that is based on the most current national evidence-based  
9 emergency cardiovascular care guidelines for CPR.

10           b. Maintain documentation in an electronic database that students have  
11 successfully completed CPR instruction to meet healthful living  
12 essential standards.

13           c. Require successful completion of instruction in CPR to be a requirement  
14 for high school graduation by the 2014-2015 school year.

15           (11) Preventing sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, and other  
16 communicable diseases. As used in this section, "HIV/AIDS" means Human  
17 Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.

18           (12) Reproductive health and safety education.

19           (13) Bicycle safety.

20           (d) Parental Review. – The State Board of Education shall make available to all local  
21 school administrative units for review by the parents and legal guardians of students enrolled at  
22 those units any State-developed objectives for instruction, any approved textbooks, the list of  
23 reviewed materials, and any other State-developed or approved materials that pertain to or are  
24 intended to impart information or promote discussion or understanding in regard to the prevention  
25 of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, to the avoidance of out-of-wedlock  
26 pregnancy, or to the reproductive health and safety education curriculum. The review period shall  
27 extend for at least 60 days before use.

28           (e) Duty of Local School Administrative Units. – Each local school administrative unit  
29 shall provide a comprehensive school health education program that meets all the requirements of  
30 this section and all the objectives established by the State Board. Each local board of education  
31 may expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives  
32 to be met.

33 **"§ 115C-81.30. Reproductive health and safety education provided by local school**  
34 **administrative units.**

35           (a) Each local school administrative unit shall provide a reproductive health and safety  
36 education program commencing in the seventh grade. Materials used in this instruction shall be  
37 age-appropriate for use with students. Law enforcement agencies, criminal justice agencies, and  
38 nongovernmental organizations with experience in sex-trafficking prevention and awareness may  
39 provide materials and information. Information conveyed during the instruction shall be objective  
40 and based upon scientific research that is peer reviewed and accepted by professionals and  
41 credentialed experts in any of the following fields: sexual health education, adolescent  
42 psychology, behavioral counseling, medicine, human anatomy, biology, ethics, or health  
43 education. Reproductive health and safety instruction provided by the local school administrative  
44 units shall do the following:

45           (1) Teach that abstinence from sexual activity outside of marriage is the expected  
46 standard for all school-age children.

47           (2) Present techniques and strategies to deal with peer pressure and offering  
48 positive reinforcement.

49           (3) Present reasons, skills, and strategies for remaining or becoming abstinent from  
50 sexual activity.

- 1           (4)    Teach that abstinence from sexual activity is the only certain means of avoiding  
2           out-of-wedlock pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases when transmitted  
3           through sexual contact, including HIV/AIDS, and other associated health and  
4           emotional problems. As used in this section, "HIV/AIDS" means Human  
5           Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome.
- 6           (5)    Teach that a mutually faithful monogamous heterosexual relationship in the  
7           context of marriage is the best lifelong means of avoiding sexually transmitted  
8           diseases, including HIV/AIDS.
- 9           (6)    Teach the positive benefits of abstinence until marriage and the risks of  
10          premarital sexual activity.
- 11          (7)    Provide opportunities that allow for interaction between the parent or legal  
12          guardian and the student.
- 13          (8)    Provide factually accurate biological or pathological information that is related  
14          to the human reproductive system.
- 15          (9)    Teach about the preventable risks for preterm birth in subsequent pregnancies,  
16          including induced abortion, smoking, alcohol consumption, the use of illegal  
17          drugs, and inadequate prenatal care.
- 18          (10) Teach about sexually transmitted diseases. Instruction shall include how  
19          sexually transmitted diseases are and are not transmitted, the effectiveness and  
20          safety of all federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved methods of  
21          reducing the risk of contracting sexually transmitted diseases, and information  
22          on local resources for testing and medical care for sexually transmitted diseases.  
23          Instruction shall include the rates of infection among pre-teen and teens of each  
24          known sexually transmitted disease and the effects of contracting each sexually  
25          transmitted disease. In particular, the instruction shall include information about  
26          the effects of contracting the Human Papilloma Virus, including sterility and  
27          cervical cancer.
- 28          (11) Teach about the effectiveness and safety of all FDA-approved contraceptive  
29          methods in preventing pregnancy.
- 30          (12) Teach awareness of sexual assault, sexual abuse, and risk reduction. The  
31          instruction and materials shall:
- 32                a.    Focus on healthy relationships.
- 33                b.    Teach students what constitutes sexual assault and sexual abuse, the  
34                causes of those behaviors, and risk reduction.
- 35                c.    Inform students about resources and reporting procedures if they  
36                experience sexual assault or sexual abuse.
- 37                d.    Examine common misconceptions and stereotypes about sexual assault  
38                and sexual abuse.
- 39          (13) Teach about sex trafficking prevention and awareness. Each local school  
40          administrative unit shall:
- 41                a.    Collaborate with a diverse group of outside consultants where practical,  
42                including law enforcement with expertise in sex-trafficking prevention  
43                education, to address the threats of sex trafficking.
- 44                b.    Collaborate with a diverse group of outside consultants, including law  
45                enforcement with expertise in sex trafficking, on a referral protocol for  
46                high-risk pupils and minors.
- 47          (b)    Each local board of education shall adopt a policy and provide a mechanism to allow a  
48          parent or a legal guardian to withdraw his or her child from instruction required under  
49          subdivisions (10) through (13) of subsection (a) of this section.
- 50          (c)    Parental Review and Consent. – Each school year, before students may participate in  
51          any portion of (i) a program that pertains to or is intended to impart information or promote

1 discussion or understanding in regard to the prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including  
2 HIV/AIDS, or to the avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy or (ii) a reproductive health and  
3 safety education program, whether developed by the State or by the local board of education, the  
4 parents and legal guardians of those students shall be given an opportunity to review the objectives  
5 and materials as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(d). Local boards of education shall adopt policies to  
6 provide opportunities either for parents and legal guardians to consent or for parents and legal  
7 guardians to withhold their consent to the students' participation in any or all of these programs.

8 (d) Information on Contraceptives and Abortion Referral Services. – Students may receive  
9 information about where to obtain contraceptives and abortion referral services only in accordance  
10 with a local board's policy regarding parental consent. Any instruction concerning the use of  
11 contraceptives or prophylactics shall provide accurate statistical information on their effectiveness  
12 and failure rates for preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS,  
13 in actual use among adolescent populations and shall explain clearly the difference between risk  
14 reduction and risk elimination through abstinence. The Department of Health and Human Services  
15 shall provide the most current available information at the beginning of each school year.

16 (e) Prohibition on Distribution of Contraceptives. – Contraceptives, including condoms  
17 and other devices, shall not be made available or distributed on school property.

18 (f) School Health Coordinators. – School health coordinators may be employed to assist in  
19 the instruction of any portion of the comprehensive school health education program. Where  
20 feasible, a school health coordinator should serve more than one local school administrative unit.  
21 Each person initially employed as a State-funded school health coordinator after June 30, 1987,  
22 shall have a degree in health education.

23 (g) Duty of Local School Administrative Units. – Each local school administrative unit  
24 shall provide a comprehensive school health education program that meets all the requirements of  
25 this section and all the objectives established by the State Board. Each local board of education  
26 may expand on the subject areas to be included in the program and on the instructional objectives  
27 to be met.

28 **"§ 115C-81.35. Honors-level courses in healthful living education.**

29 The State Board of Education shall develop or identify academically rigorous honors-level  
30 courses in healthful living education that can be offered at the high school level. These  
31 honors-level courses shall be more rigorous than standard-level courses, include advanced content,  
32 provide multiple opportunities for students to take greater responsibility for their learning, and  
33 require higher quality work from the students than standard courses.

34 **"§ 115C-81.40. North Carolina history and geography.**

35 The standard course of study shall include the requirement that the public schools provide to  
36 all students one yearlong course of instruction on North Carolina history and geography in  
37 elementary school and one yearlong course of instruction in middle school on North Carolina  
38 history with United States history integrated into this instruction. The course of instruction shall  
39 include contributions to the history and geography of the State and the nation by the racial and  
40 ethnic groups that have contributed to the development and diversity of the State and nation. Each  
41 course of instruction may include up to two weeks of instruction relating to the local area in which  
42 the students reside.

43 **"§ 115C-81.45. Classes conducted in English; citizenship; and civic literacy.**

44 (a) Except when a board authorizes teaching in a foreign language in order to comply with  
45 federal law, local boards of education shall require all teachers and principals to conduct classes  
46 except foreign language classes in English. Any teacher or principal who refuses to do so may be  
47 dismissed.

48 (b) Local boards of education shall provide for the efficient teaching at appropriate grade  
49 levels of all materials set forth in the standard course of study, including integrated instruction in  
50 the areas of citizenship in the United States of America, government of the State of North

1 Carolina, government of the United States, fire prevention, the free enterprise system, and the  
2 dangers of harmful or illegal drugs, including alcohol.

3 (c) Democratic Process and Citizenship Education. –

4 (1) The State Board of Education shall include instruction in civic and citizenship  
5 education in the standard course of study for high school social studies. The  
6 State Board of Education is strongly encouraged to include, at a minimum, the  
7 following components in the high school civic and citizenship education  
8 standard course of study:

9 a. That students write to a local, State, or federal elected official about an  
10 issue that is important to them.

11 b. Instruction on the importance of voting and otherwise participating in  
12 the democratic process, including instruction on voter registration.

13 c. Information about current events and governmental structure.

14 d. Information about the democratic process and how laws are made.

15 (2) The State Board of Education shall include instruction in civic and citizenship  
16 education in the standard course of study for middle school social studies. The  
17 State Board of Education is strongly encouraged to include, at a minimum, the  
18 following components in the middle school civic and citizenship education  
19 standard course of study:

20 a. A tour of representative local government facilities, such as the local  
21 jail, the courthouse, or a town hall, to help students understand the way  
22 their community is governed.

23 b. Allowing students to choose and analyze a community problem and  
24 offer public policy recommendations on the problem to local officials.

25 c. Information about getting involved in community groups.

26 (d) Civic Literacy. –

27 (1) The State Board of Education shall require during the high school years the  
28 teaching of a semester course on the Founding Principles of the United States of  
29 America and the State of North Carolina. A passing grade in the course shall be  
30 required for graduation from high school, and the course shall include at least  
31 the following subjects:

32 a. The Creator-endowed inalienable rights of the people.

33 b. Structure of government, separation of powers with checks and  
34 balances.

35 c. Frequent and free elections in a representative government.

36 d. Rule of law.

37 e. Equal justice under the law.

38 f. Private property rights.

39 g. Federalism.

40 h. Due process.

41 i. Individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights.

42 j. Individual responsibility.

43 k. Constitutional limitations on government power to tax and spend, and  
44 prompt payment of public debt.

45 l. Strong defense and supremacy of civil authority over military.

46 m. Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling  
47 alliances with none.

48 (2) The State Board of Education shall require that any high school level  
49 curriculum-based tests for the course required in subdivision (1) of this  
50 subsection developed and administered statewide beginning with the 2016-2017  
51 academic year include questions related to the philosophical foundations of our

1 form of government and the principles underlying the Declaration of  
2 Independence, the United States Constitution and its amendments, and the most  
3 important of the Federalist Papers.

4 (3) The Department of Public Instruction and the local boards of education, as  
5 appropriate, shall provide or cause to be provided curriculum content for the  
6 semester course required in subdivision (1) of this subsection and professional  
7 development to ensure that the intent and provisions of this subsection are  
8 carried out. The curriculum content established shall include a review of the  
9 contributions made by Americans of all races.

10 (4) The Department of Public Instruction shall submit a biennial report by October  
11 15 of each odd-numbered year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
12 Committee covering the implementation of this subsection.

13 **"§ 115C-81.50. Student councils.**

14 All high schools and middle schools shall be encouraged to have elected student councils  
15 through which students have input into policies and decisions that affect them. All other schools  
16 are encouraged to have student councils.

17 The purpose of these student councils is to build civic skills and attitudes such as participation  
18 in elections, discussion and debate of issues, and collaborative decision making. Schools shall  
19 encourage active, broad-based participation in these student councils.

20 **"§ 115C-81.55. Current events.**

21 Schools should encourage discussions of current events in a wide range of classes, especially  
22 social studies and language arts classes. All high schools and middle schools are encouraged to  
23 have at least two classes per grade level to offer interactive current events discussions at least  
24 every four weeks.

25 **"§ 115C-81.60. Character education.**

26 (a) Each local board of education shall develop and implement character education  
27 instruction with input from the local community. The instruction shall be incorporated into the  
28 standard curriculum and should address the following traits:

29 (1) Courage. – Having the determination to do the right thing even when others  
30 don't and the strength to follow your conscience rather than the crowd; and  
31 attempting difficult things that are worthwhile.

32 (2) Good judgment. – Choosing worthy goals and setting proper priorities; thinking  
33 through the consequences of your actions; and basing decisions on practical  
34 wisdom and good sense.

35 (3) Integrity. – Having the inner strength to be truthful, trustworthy, and honest in  
36 all things; acting justly and honorably.

37 (4) Kindness. – Being considerate, courteous, helpful, and understanding of others;  
38 showing care, compassion, friendship, and generosity; and treating others as  
39 you would like to be treated.

40 (5) Perseverance. – Being persistent in the pursuit of worthy objectives in spite of  
41 difficulty, opposition, or discouragement; and exhibiting patience and having  
42 the fortitude to try again when confronted with delays, mistakes, or failures.

43 (6) Respect. – Showing high regard for authority, for other people, for self, for  
44 property, and for country; and understanding that all people have value as  
45 human beings.

46 (7) Responsibility. – Being dependable in carrying out obligations and duties;  
47 showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct; being accountable  
48 for your own actions; and being committed to active involvement in your  
49 community.

50 (8) Self-discipline. – Demonstrating hard work and commitment to purpose;  
51 regulating yourself for improvement and restraining from inappropriate

1 behaviors; being in proper control of your words, actions, impulses, and  
2 desires; choosing abstinence from premarital sex, drugs, alcohol, and other  
3 harmful substances and behaviors; and doing your best in all situations.

4 (b) In addition to the instruction under subsection (a) of this section, local boards of  
5 education are encouraged to include instruction on the following responsibilities:

6 (1) Respect for school personnel. – In the school environment, respect includes  
7 holding teachers, school administrators, and all school personnel in high esteem  
8 and demonstrating in words and deeds that all school personnel deserve to be  
9 treated with courtesy and proper deference.

10 (2) Responsibility for school safety. – Helping to create a harmonious school  
11 atmosphere that is free from threats, weapons, and violent or disruptive  
12 behavior; cultivating an orderly learning environment in which students and  
13 school personnel feel safe and secure; and encouraging the resolution of  
14 conflicts and disagreements through peaceful means, including peer mediation.  
15 Instruction in this responsibility should include a consistent and age-appropriate  
16 antiviolence message and a conflict resolution component for students in  
17 kindergarten through grade 12. These messages should include  
18 media-awareness education to help children recognize stereotypes and  
19 messages portraying violence.

20 (3) Service to others. – Engaging in meaningful service to their schools and their  
21 communities. Schools may teach service-learning by (i) incorporating it into  
22 their standard curriculum or (ii) involving a classroom of students or some  
23 other group of students in one or more hands-on community service projects.  
24 All schools are encouraged to provide opportunities for student involvement in  
25 community service or service-learning projects.

26 (4) Good citizenship. – Obeying the laws of the nation and this State; abiding by  
27 school rules; and understanding the rights and responsibilities of a member of a  
28 republic.

29 **§ 115C-81.65. Financial literacy.**

30 (a) Instruction shall be provided in personal financial literacy for all students. In addition  
31 to the requirements in subsection (b) of this section, the State Board of Education shall determine  
32 the other components of personal financial literacy that will be covered in the curriculum. The  
33 State Board shall also review the high school standard course of study to determine into which  
34 courses and grade levels personal financial literacy shall be integrated.

35 (b) Each student shall receive personal financial literacy instruction that shall include:

36 (1) The true cost of credit.

37 (2) Choosing and managing a credit card.

38 (3) Borrowing money for an automobile or other large purchase.

39 (4) Home mortgages.

40 (5) Credit scoring and credit reports.

41 (6) Other relevant financial literacy issues.

42 **§ 115C-81.70. Disability history and awareness.**

43 (a) Each local board of education shall provide instruction on disability, people with  
44 disabilities, and the disability rights movement in conjunction with Disability History and  
45 Awareness Month, established pursuant to G.S. 103-11.

46 (b) This instruction shall be incorporated through measures that include any of the  
47 following:

48 (1) Supplementing existing lesson plans.

49 (2) Holding school assemblies.

50 (3) Hosting disability-focused film festivals.

51 (4) Organizing other school activities.

1 Local boards of education are encouraged to incorporate individuals with disabilities or  
2 knowledgeable guest speakers from the disability community into the delivery of this instruction.

3 **"§ 115C-81.75. Cursive writing.**

4 The standard course of study shall include the requirement that the public schools provide  
5 instruction in cursive writing so that students create readable documents through legible cursive  
6 handwriting by the end of fifth grade.

7 **"§ 115C-81.80. Multiplication tables.**

8 The standard course of study shall include the requirement that students enrolled in public  
9 schools memorize multiplication tables to demonstrate competency in efficiently multiplying  
10 numbers.

11 **"§ 115C-81.85. Instruction in American Sign Language.**

12 (a) The State Board of Education shall encourage schools to offer American Sign  
13 Language classes in high schools as a modern foreign language.

14 (b) The State Board of Education shall adopt and implement standards for the certification  
15 of teachers of American Sign Language and shall set standards for teacher preparation programs  
16 that prepare students for certification as American Sign Language teachers."

17 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

18 **"(1a) To Establish and Maintain Kindergartens. –**

19 a. Local boards of education shall provide for their respective local school  
20 administrative unit kindergartens as a part of the public school system  
21 for all children living in the local school administrative unit who are  
22 eligible for admission pursuant to sub-subdivision c. of this subdivision  
23 provided that funds are available from State, local, federal, or other  
24 sources to operate a kindergarten program as provided in this  
25 subdivision.

26 b. All kindergarten programs so established shall be subject to the  
27 supervision of the Department of Public Instruction and shall be  
28 operated in accordance with the standards adopted by the State Board of  
29 Education, upon recommendation of the Superintendent of Public  
30 Instruction. Among the standards to be adopted by the State Board of  
31 Education shall be a provision that the Board will allocate funds for the  
32 purpose of operating and administering kindergartens to each school  
33 administrative unit in the State based on the average daily membership  
34 for the best continuous three out of the first four school months of pupils  
35 in the kindergarten program during the last school year in that respective  
36 school administrative unit. Such allocations are to be made from funds  
37 appropriated to the State Board of Education for the kindergarten  
38 program.

39 c. Any child who meets the requirements of G.S. 115C-364 shall be  
40 eligible for enrollment in kindergarten. Any child who is enrolled in  
41 kindergarten and not withdrawn by the child's parent or legal guardian  
42 shall attend kindergarten.

43 d. Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, subject to  
44 the approval of the State Board of Education, any local board of  
45 education may elect not to establish and maintain a kindergarten  
46 program. Any funds allocated to a local board of education which does  
47 not operate a kindergarten program may be reallocated by the State  
48 Board of Education, within the discretion of the Board, to a county or  
49 city board of education which will operate such a program."

50 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

- 1            "(29c) To Allow and Encourage the Reading and Posting of Documents on the History  
2            of the United States and With Historical Significance for the United States. –  
3            a.        Local boards of education shall allow and may encourage any public  
4            school teacher or administrator to read or post in a public school  
5            building, classroom, or event excerpts or portions of writings,  
6            documents, and records that reflect the history of the United States,  
7            including, but not limited to:  
8            1.        The preamble to the North Carolina Constitution.  
9            2.        The Declaration of Independence.  
10           3.        The United States Constitution.  
11           4.        The Mayflower Compact.  
12           5.        The national motto.  
13           6.        The National Anthem.  
14           7.        The Pledge of Allegiance.  
15           8.        The writings, speeches, documents, and proclamations of the  
16           founding fathers and Presidents of the United States.  
17           9.        Decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States.  
18           10.       Acts of the Congress of the United States, including the  
19           published text of the Congressional Record.  
20           b.        Local boards, superintendents, principals, and supervisors shall not  
21           allow content-based censorship of American history in the public  
22           schools of this State, including religious references in these writings,  
23           documents, and records. Local boards and professional school personnel  
24           may develop curricula and use materials that are limited to specified  
25           topics, provided the curricula and materials are aligned with the  
26           standard course of study or are grade level appropriate.  
27           c.        A local school administrative unit may display on real property  
28           controlled by that local school administrative unit documents and  
29           objects of historical significance that have formed and influenced the  
30           United States legal or governmental system and that exemplify the  
31           development of the rule of law, such as the Magna Carta, the  
32           Mecklenburg Declaration, the Ten Commandments, the Justinian Code,  
33           and documents set out in sub-subdivision a. of this subdivision. Such  
34           displays are subject to the following requirements:  
35           1.        The display may include, but shall not be limited to, documents  
36           that contain words associated with a religion; provided,  
37           however, no display shall seek to establish or promote religion  
38           or to persuade any person to embrace a particular religion,  
39           denomination of a religion, or other philosophy.  
40           2.        The display of a document containing words associated with a  
41           religion shall be in the same manner and appearance generally as  
42           other documents and objects displayed and shall not be  
43           presented or displayed in any fashion that results in calling  
44           attention to it apart from the other displayed documents and  
45           objects. The display also shall be accompanied by a prominent  
46           sign quoting the First Amendment of the United States  
47           Constitution as follows: "Congress shall make no law respecting  
48           an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise  
49           thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or  
50           the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the  
51           government for a redress of grievances.""

1           **SECTION 8.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

2           "(49a) To Address Science Safety Requirements. –

3           a. Each local board of education shall certify annually to the State Board  
4           of Education that its high school and middle school science laboratories  
5           are equipped with appropriate personal protective equipment for  
6           students and teachers.

7           b. Each local board of education shall ensure that its high schools and  
8           middle schools comply with all State Board of Education policies  
9           related to science laboratory safety."

10          **SECTION 9.** G.S. 115C-12(9c) reads as rewritten:

11          "(9c) Power to Develop Content Standards and Exit Standards. –

12          a. The Board shall develop a comprehensive plan to revise content  
13          standards and the standard course of study in the core academic areas of  
14          reading, writing, mathematics, science, history, geography, and civics.  
15          The Board shall involve and survey a representative sample of parents,  
16          teachers, and the public to help determine academic content standard  
17          priorities and usefulness of the content standards. A full review of  
18          available and relevant academic content standards that are rigorous,  
19          specific, sequenced, clear, focused, and measurable, whenever possible,  
20          shall be a part of the process of the development of content standards.  
21          The revised content standards developed in the core academic areas  
22          shall (i) reflect high expectations for students and an in-depth mastery of  
23          the content; (ii) be clearly grounded in the content of each academic  
24          area; (iii) be defined grade-by-grade and course-by-course; (iv) be  
25          understandable to parents and teachers; (v) be developed in full  
26          recognition of the time available to teach the core academic areas at  
27          each grade level; and (vi) be measurable, whenever possible, in a  
28          reliable, valid, and efficient manner for accountability purposes.

29          b. High school course content standards shall include the knowledge and  
30          skills necessary to pursue further postsecondary education or to attain  
31          employment in the 21st century economy. The high school course  
32          content standards also shall be aligned with the minimum undergraduate  
33          course requirements for admission to the constituent institutions of The  
34          University of North Carolina. ~~The Board may develop exit standards~~  
35          ~~that will be required for high school graduation.~~

36          c. The Board also shall develop and implement an ongoing process to  
37          align State programs and support materials with the revised academic  
38          content standards for each core academic area on a regular basis.  
39          Alignment shall include revising textbook criteria, support materials,  
40          State tests, teacher and school administrator preparation, and ongoing  
41          professional development programs to be compatible with content  
42          standards. The Board shall develop and make available to teachers and  
43          parents support materials, including teacher and parent guides, for  
44          academic content standards. The State Board of Education shall work in  
45          collaboration with the Board of Governors of The University of North  
46          Carolina to ensure that teacher and school administrator degree  
47          programs, ongoing professional development, and other university  
48          activity in the State's public schools align with the State Board's  
49          priorities."

50          **SECTION 10.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

51          "(9d) Power to Develop Exit Standards and Graduation Requirements. –

- 1           a.     The Board may develop exit standards that shall be required for high  
 2           school graduation. The Board shall require the following for high school  
 3           graduation:  
 4           1.     Successful completion of instruction in cardiopulmonary  
 5           resuscitation as provided in G.S. 115C-81.25(c)(10).  
 6           2.     A passing grade in the semester course on the Founding  
 7           Principles of the United States of America and the State of North  
 8           Carolina described in G.S. 115C-81.45(d)(1).  
 9           b.     The following restrictions apply to the Board regarding Algebra I and  
 10          high school graduation projects:  
 11          1.     The Board shall not adopt or enforce any rule that requires  
 12          Algebra I as a graduation standard or as a requirement for a high  
 13          school diploma for any student whose individualized education  
 14          program (i) identifies the student as learning disabled in the area  
 15          of mathematics and (ii) states that this learning disability will  
 16          prevent the student from mastering Algebra I.  
 17          2.     The Board shall not require any student to prepare a high school  
 18          graduation project as a condition of graduation from high school;  
 19          local boards of education may, however, require their students to  
 20          complete a high school graduation project."

21           **SECTION 11.** G.S. 115C-12(9)c. is repealed.

22           **SECTION 12.** G.S. 115C-47(12) is repealed.

23           **SECTION 13.** G.S. 115C-105.32 reads as rewritten:

24   "**§ 115C-105.32. Parent involvement programs and conflict resolution programs as part of**  
 25   **school improvement plans.**

26       A school is encouraged to include a comprehensive parent involvement program as part of its  
 27   school improvement plan under G.S. 115C-105.27. The State Board of Education shall develop a  
 28   list of recommended strategies that it determines to be effective, which building level committees  
 29   may use to establish parent involvement programs designed to meet the specific needs of their  
 30   schools. The Board shall make the list available to local school administrative units and school  
 31   buildings by the beginning of the 1994-95 school year.

32       A school is encouraged to review its need for a comprehensive conflict resolution program as  
 33   part of the development of its school improvement plan under G.S. 115C-105.27. If a school  
 34   determines that this program is needed, it may select from the list developed by the State Board of  
 35   Education under ~~G.S. 115C-81(a4)~~G.S. 115C-81.15 or may develop its own materials and  
 36   curricula to be approved by the local board of education."

37           **SECTION 14.** G.S. 115C-174.11(a) reads as rewritten:

38       "(a)   Assessment Instruments for Kindergarten, First, Second, and Third Grades. – The State  
 39   Board of Education shall develop, adopt, and provide to the local school administrative units  
 40   developmentally appropriate individualized assessment instruments ~~consistent with the Basic~~  
 41   ~~Education Program~~ aligned with the standard course of study and Part 1A of Article 8 of this  
 42   Chapter for the kindergarten, first, second, and third grades. Local school administrative units  
 43   shall use these assessment instruments provided to them by the State Board for kindergarten, first,  
 44   second, and third grade students to assess progress, diagnose difficulties, and inform instruction  
 45   and remediation needs. Local school administrative units shall not use standardized tests for  
 46   summative assessment of kindergarten, first, and second grade students except as required as a  
 47   condition of receiving federal grants."

48           **SECTION 15.** G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4) reads as rewritten:

49       "(4)   To the extent funds are made available, the State Board of Education shall plan  
 50   for and require the administration of the ACT test for all students in the  
 51   eleventh grade unless the student has already taken a comparable test and

1 scored at or above a level set by the State Board. The State Board of Education  
2 shall require the administration of an alternate to the ACT or an alternate to the  
3 PLAN precursor test to the ACT to a student who (i) exhibits severe and  
4 pervasive delays in all areas of conceptual, linguistic, and academic  
5 development and in adaptive behaviors, including communication, daily living  
6 skills, and self-care, (ii) is following the extended content standards of the  
7 Standard Course of Study as provided in ~~G.S. 115C-81~~, G.S. 115C-81.5, or is  
8 following a course of study that, upon completing high school, may not lead to  
9 admission into a college-level course of study resulting in a college degree, and  
10 (iii) has a written parental request for an alternate assessment.

11 The State Board of Education shall ensure that parents of students enrolled  
12 in all public schools, including charter and regional schools, have the necessary  
13 information to make informed decisions regarding participation in the ACT and  
14 the PLAN precursor test to the ACT.

15 Alternate assessment and ACT assessment results of students with  
16 disabilities shall be included in school accountability reports, including charter  
17 and regional schools, provided by the State Board of Education."

18 **SECTION 16.** G.S. 120-70.81(a)(2) is repealed.

19 **SECTION 17.** This act is effective when it becomes law.