

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 863*

Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/5/93

Short Title: Exc. Child Graduation Requirements.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 14, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER
2 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WHEN IT ADOPTS RULES SETTING
3 GRADUATION STANDARDS, TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF
4 EDUCATION TO CONDUCT AN INDEPENDENT STUDY OF HIGH SCHOOL
5 GRADUATION STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS, AND
6 TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO SUSPEND THE
7 APPLICATION OF ITS RULE REQUIRING ALGEBRA I FOR A HIGH
8 SCHOOL DIPLOMA TO CHILDREN IDENTIFIED AS LEARNING DISABLED
9 PENDING ITS REEVALUATION OF GRADUATION STANDARDS FOR
10 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.
11

12 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

13 Section 1. G.S. 115C-81(b) reads as rewritten:

14 "(b) The Basic Education Program shall include course requirements and
15 descriptions similar in format to materials previously contained in the standard course of
16 study and it shall provide:

- 17 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special
18 needs of children and includes appropriate modifications for the
19 learning disabled, the academically gifted, and the students with
20 discipline and emotional problems;
21 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area;
22 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum;

- 1 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the
- 2 mastery of competencies, including standards for ~~graduation;~~
- 3 graduation, that take into account children with special needs and, in
- 4 particular, include appropriate modifications;
- 5 (5) A program of remedial education;
- 6
- 7 (6) Required support programs;
- 8 (7) A definition of the instructional day;
- 9 (8) Class size recommendations and requirements;
- 10 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ratios;
- 11 (10) Material and equipment allotment ratios;
- 12 (11) Facilities standards; and
- 13 (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary."

14 Sec. 2. The State Board of Education shall, within existing funds, contract
15 with the Clinical Center for Study of Development and Learning in the School of
16 Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill to conduct a study of, and
17 make recommendations concerning, graduation standards for children with special
18 needs, with a particular focus on appropriate modifications of these standards for these
19 children. The study shall include a review and evaluation of other states' graduation
20 standards and how they are modified for these children, the appropriateness of an
21 alternative diploma for these children, the appropriateness of course substitutions or
22 waivers for these children, the need for raised expectations for these children in
23 conjunction with alternative teaching methods, the admissions policies at the constituent
24 institutions of The University of North Carolina as they apply to these students, and any
25 other issue the Clinical Center for Study of Development and Learning considers
26 appropriate. The study shall be completed and a written report filed with the State
27 Board of Education and the North Carolina Education Standards and Accountability
28 Commission, if established, no later than December 15, 1993. Upon its receipt of the
29 report, the State Board of Education shall file a copy with the chair of the Commission
30 on Children with Special Needs and the chairs of the Joint Legislative Education
31 Oversight Committee.

32 Sec. 3. The effective date of the rule adopted by the State Board of Education
33 in 1991 that established Algebra I as a requirement for a high school diploma is hereby
34 suspended in its application to any student who is identified as learning disabled and
35 whose individualized education program states that the student's learning disability
36 requires course substitutions or other modifications in the area of mathematics. The
37 State Board of Education may establish a new effective date after it completes its
38 reevaluation required by Section 4 of this act.

39 Sec. 4. Upon its receipt of the report authorized under Section 2 of this act,
40 and based on its recommendations, the State Board of Education shall reevaluate its rule
41 that established Algebra I as a requirement for a high school diploma. The State Board
42 of Education shall complete its reevaluation and establish any modifications to its rules
43 on or before March 15, 1994. Upon completion of this process, the State Board of
44 Education shall file a written report with the chair of the Commission on Children with

- 1 Special Needs and the chairs of the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee no
- 2 later than April 1, 1994.
- 3 Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.