

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE BILL 2277\***

Short Title: Communities in Schools Funds. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Parmon, Fisher, Tarleton, Bryant (Primary Sponsors); Adams, Alexander, Bell, Carney, Coates, Coleman, Cotham, Daughtridge, Dockham, Earle, England, Faison, Farmer-Butterfield, Frye, Glazier, Goodwin, Harrison, Hughes, Hurley, Johnson, Justice, Lucas, Luebke, McAllister, McElraft, McLawhorn, Mobley, Moore, Neumann, Pate, Pierce, Ross, Samuelson, Underhill, Wainwright, Walker, Weiss, Wiley, Womble, and Wray.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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May 21, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF  
3 NORTH CAROLINA, INC., PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND TO PLACE NO  
4 FEWER THAN ONE HUNDRED GRADUATION COACHES IN EITHER  
5 MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOLS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT  
6 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DROPOUT PREVENTION AND HIGH  
7 SCHOOL GRADUATION.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
10 Department of Public Instruction the sum of six million twenty-four thousand  
11 ninety-one dollars (\$6,024,091) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year in recurring funds to  
12 support and expand the programs and services of Communities in Schools of North  
13 Carolina, Inc., a public and private partnership that addresses the multiple needs of  
14 students at the greatest risk of dropping out of schools. Communities in Schools of  
15 North Carolina, Inc., shall use the funds to leverage federal and private grants to support  
16 local Communities in Schools programs throughout the State and to place no fewer than  
17 100 graduation coaches in either middle or high schools. When placing graduation  
18 coaches, Communities in Schools of North Carolina, Inc., shall give priority to schools  
19 that have a four-year cohort graduation rate of less than sixty-five percent (65%).

20 The graduation coaches shall:

- 21 (1) Identify and coordinate appropriate academic assistance and support  
22 for students at risk of dropping out of school;

- 1           (2) Refer at-risk students to other school personnel such as counselors,  
2           social workers, and nurses who can address problems that might  
3           prevent a student from graduating;  
4           (3) Recruit mentors and tutors from the local community to work with  
5           at-risk students to help keep them on track to graduate;  
6           (4) Initiate contact with parents and guardians of at-risk students, provide  
7           regular updates of the student's academic progress, and encourage  
8           parental involvement in student academic endeavors;  
9           (5) Provide information to at-risk students and their parents or guardians  
10          about graduation requirements, support services to help students not  
11          performing at grade level, advanced and honors courses, opportunities  
12          for higher education, and worker training after graduation; and  
13          (6) Refer students requiring services relating to substance abuse, domestic  
14          violence, family planning, or mental health to appropriate providers  
15          where medically accurate information will be provided and appropriate  
16          services are available.

17           **SECTION 2.** Communities in Schools of North Carolina, Inc., shall report  
18          on the activities of the graduation coaches to the Joint Legislative Commission on  
19          Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative Education  
20          Oversight Committee by October 15, 2009, and annually thereafter.

21           **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.