

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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HOUSE BILL 73
Committee Substitute Favorable 2/26/19

Short Title: Civic Responsibility Education.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 14, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE INSTRUCTION IN CIVIC RESPONSIBILITY IN ELEMENTARY,
3 MIDDLE, AND HIGH SCHOOL COURSES.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding
6 a new section to read:

7 "**§ 115C-81.46. Civic responsibility.**

8 (a) The State Board of Education shall include instruction on civic responsibility in the
9 standard course of study for both the elementary and middle school courses for North Carolina
10 history and geography, and the high school course on the Founding Principles of the United
11 States of America and the State of North Carolina.

12 (b) The instruction of civic responsibility shall be focused on the following:

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

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

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

32 (4) Good citizenship. – Obeying the laws of the nation and this State, abiding by
33 school rules, and understanding the rights and responsibilities of a member of
34 a republic."

35 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-81.60(a) reads as rewritten:

36 "**§ 115C-81.60. Character education.**



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

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5 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-81.60(b) is repealed.

6 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with
7 the 2020-2021 school year.