

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 884

Short Title: Dropout Prev./Recovery Pilot W/Charters. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Jeter, R. Moore, Blackwell, and Cotham (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

April 15, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY PILOT PROGRAM FOR LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION AND CHARTER SCHOOLS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** S.L. 2011-259 reads as rewritten:

**"SECTION 1.** The State Board of Education shall implement a ~~three-year~~ Dropout Prevention and Recovery Pilot Program in New Hanover County Schools and three other local school administrative units selected by the State Board of Education. The State Board shall also select four charter schools approved by the State Board under G.S.115C-238.29D, at least one of which shall be located in Mecklenburg County, to establish Dropout Prevention and Recovery Pilot Programs. The purpose of the pilot program is to reengage students and increase the graduation rates in North Carolina through an educational program that provides flexible scheduling and a blended learning environment with individualized and self-paced learning options.

**"SECTION 2.** Under the pilot program, the educational services and programming shall be provided by an education partner that is a nonprofit or for-profit entity approved by the State Board of Education. The local school administrative ~~units~~ and charter schools shall be responsible for reporting enrollment to the Department of Public Instruction, working with the education partner to align graduation requirements, and issuing diplomas to those students in the program who complete the necessary graduation requirements. The participating schools shall be accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as an indicator of quality instructional programming.

**"SECTION 3.** The pilot program shall provide at least the following:

- (1) Facilities that are easily accessible to the students being served.
- (2) Flexible scheduling, including at least two different program schedules.
- (3) Differentiated instruction that shall include individualized, group, and online instructional components.
- (4) The capacity for assessing, recording, and responding to the students' academic progress on a daily basis using assessments that are aligned with State and local standards and requirements.
- (5) A focus on serving a defined population of at-risk students who have dropped out or are likely to drop out of school in the foreseeable future without some type of intervention.



1           (6) Support services, including social workers and crisis intervention  
2           professionals who are trained to assist students in removing barriers to  
3           attending school and graduating.

4           (7) Instructional models that are self-paced and mastery-based.

5           (8) Individualized graduation plans to guide students to graduation with a  
6           standard high school diploma.

7           **"SECTION 4.** Before the State Board of Education approves an applicant as an education  
8 partner, the applicant must demonstrate the following:

9           (1) A history providing dropout recovery services to high school students in  
10           charter or noncharter public schools.

11           (2) At least two years of relevant experience operating and providing services to  
12           brick-and-mortar public schools.

13           (3) At least two years of relevant experience providing comprehensive online  
14           learning programs.

15           (4) Relevant experience serving diverse student populations, including  
16           socioeconomically disadvantaged students.

17           (5) An explanation of the steps taken by the applicant to ensure that its proposed  
18           instructional content is aligned with State standards.

19           (6) A plan for the recruitment and hiring of State-certified teachers, including  
20           hiring criteria.

21           (7) A plan for the recruitment and hiring of qualified administrators, including  
22           hiring criteria.

23           (8) A detailed description of the applicant's plan to work with the participating  
24           local school administrative ~~units~~units, charter schools, and the State Board of  
25           Education to identify students who need to be served, to reengage those  
26           students, and to provide alternative education options for students at risk of  
27           dropping out. Students at risk of dropping out from their current schools may  
28           be transferred into the pilot program.

29           (9) An operational plan that includes the following:

30           a. The number and physical location of proposed sites and a list of the  
31           equipment required.

32           b. A proposed program calendar and daily schedule and an explanation  
33           of how the calendar and schedule meet the needs of prospective  
34           students. The schedule must include at least four hours per school  
35           day of on-site learning at a physical location.

36           c. The student-to-teacher ratio.

37           d. A description of each of the instructional methods to be used and  
38           number of hours per day for each method.

39           e. A plan for differentiated instruction that must include individualized,  
40           group, and online instructional components.

41           f. Capacity for assessing, recording, and responding to students'  
42           academic progress on a daily basis using standards-aligned  
43           assessments.

44           g. A detailed one-year budget.

45           h. A system of competency-based credit.

46           i. A plan for aggregation and reporting of student performance data and  
47           reporting of financial activity.

48           ~~**"SECTION 5.** Data and student performance results shall be collected and compiled from~~  
49           ~~the pilot program and the participating local school administrative units. By implementing a~~  
50           ~~uniform statewide pilot program, the success of the pilot program as a whole can be measured~~  
51           ~~by the State Board of Education. In an effort to provide services to students for the 2011-2012~~

1 school year, if a request for proposals is necessary, the process shall be completed within 60  
2 days of the effective date of the legislation.

3 **"SECTION 5A.** Data to inform student performance evaluation shall be gathered and  
4 analyzed by the pilot program provider according to State Board of Education policies on the  
5 accountability model provided for alternative learning programs. This data shall be used by the  
6 State Board of Education to (i) report on the success of the pilot program to the Joint  
7 Legislative Education Oversight Committee and (ii) make continuation funding decisions about  
8 the pilot program.

9 **"SECTION 6.** A student attending the pilot program shall be enrolled as a student of the  
10 resident local school administrative unit or charter school. The student shall be included in the  
11 ADM of that unit or charter school. The resident local school administrative unit or charter  
12 schools shall retain five percent (5%) of the total per pupil funding for the student to cover  
13 administrative costs and shall remit payment to the education partner of the remaining  
14 ninety-five percent (95%) within 15 days of receiving payment from the Department of Public  
15 Instruction.

16 The State Board shall provide from funds available in the ADM Contingency Reserve an  
17 additional per pupil funding allotment to local school administrative units to transfer schools  
18 participating in the pilot program, or to charter schools participating in the program that  
19 demonstrate that the average daily membership is at least thirty percent (30%) higher than the  
20 average daily membership of the first month of the school year. The additional allotment shall  
21 be made on a nondiscretionary basis and shall be based on December average daily  
22 membership.

23 If the State Board does not have sufficient resources in the ADM Contingency Reserve line  
24 item to make all allotment adjustments in accordance with this section, the State Board of  
25 Education may use funds appropriated to the State Aid for Public Schools for this purpose.

26 **"SECTION 7.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of Education  
27 shall authorize participating local school administrative units and charter schools to implement  
28 flexible attendance requirements for students participating in the pilot program due to the  
29 flexible scheduling and online portions of the pilot program.

30 **"SECTION 8.** The pilot program shall be operated through the State Board of  
31 ~~Education~~ Education, a charter school authorized by the State Board, or as a program of the  
32 contracting local school administrative unit. The pilot program may be an alternative  
33 school-school within the local school administrative unit.

34 **"SECTION 9.** This act becomes effective ~~July 1, 2014~~ July 1, 2013."

35 **SECTION 2.** The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative  
36 Education Oversight Committee on the implementation and success of the pilot programs on or  
37 before March 15, 2014.

38 **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of  
39 Education the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in recurring funds to provide additional  
40 funds for the ADM Contingency Reserve.

41 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies to schools  
42 selected by the State Board of Education on or after July 1, 2013.