

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1997

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HOUSE BILL 977

Senate Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/21/97

Short Title: Parents on School Improvement Teams.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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April 17, 1997

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ALLOW PARENTS TO ELECT THE PARENTS WHO SERVE ON  
2 SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TEAMS.  
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4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. G.S. 115C-105.27 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 115C-105.27. Development and approval of school improvement plans.**

7 In order to improve student performance, each school shall develop a school  
8 improvement plan that takes into consideration the annual performance goal for that  
9 school that is set by the State Board under G.S. 115C-105.35. The principal of each  
10 school, representatives of the assistant principals, instructional personnel, instructional  
11 support personnel, and teacher assistants assigned to the school building, and parents of  
12 children enrolled in the school shall constitute a school improvement team to develop a  
13 school improvement plan to improve student performance. Unless the local board of  
14 education has adopted an election policy, parents shall be elected by parents of children  
15 enrolled in the school in an election conducted by the parent and teacher organization of  
16 the school or, if none exists, by the largest organization of parents formed for this  
17 purpose. Parents serving on school improvement teams shall reflect the racial and  
18 socioeconomic composition of the students enrolled in that school and shall not be  
19 members of the building-level staff. Parental involvement is a critical component of  
20 school success and positive student achievement; therefore, it is the intent of the  
21 General Assembly that parents, along with teachers, have a substantial role in  
22 developing school improvement plans. To this end, school improvement team meetings  
23 shall be held at a convenient time to assure substantial parent participation. The

1 strategies for improving student performance shall include a plan for the use of staff  
2 development funds that may be made available to the school by the local board of  
3 education to implement the school improvement plan. The strategies may include a  
4 decision to use State funds in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.25. The strategies may  
5 also include requests for waivers of State laws, rules, or policies for that school. A  
6 request for a waiver shall meet the requirements of G.S. 115C-105.26.

7 Support among affected staff members is essential to successful implementation of a  
8 school improvement plan to address improved student performance at that school. The  
9 principal of the school shall present the proposed school improvement plan to all of the  
10 principals, assistant principals, instructional personnel, instructional support personnel,  
11 and teacher assistants assigned to the school building for their review and vote. The vote  
12 shall be by secret ballot. The principal shall submit the school improvement plan to the  
13 local board of education only if the proposed school improvement plan has the approval  
14 of a majority of the staff who voted on the plan.

15 The local board of education shall accept or reject the school improvement plan. The  
16 local board shall not make any substantive changes in any school improvement plan that  
17 it accepts. If the local board rejects a school improvement plan, the local board shall  
18 state with specificity its reasons for rejecting the plan; the school improvement team  
19 may then prepare another plan, present it to the principals, assistant principals,  
20 instructional personnel, instructional support personnel, and teacher assistants assigned  
21 to the school building for a vote, and submit it to the local board to accept or reject. If  
22 no school improvement plan is accepted for a school within 60 days after its initial  
23 submission to the local board, the school or the local board may ask to use the process  
24 to resolve disagreements recommended in the guidelines developed by the State Board  
25 under G.S. 115C-105.20(b)(5). If this request is made, both the school and local board  
26 shall participate in the process to resolve disagreements. If there is no request to use that  
27 process, then the local board may develop a school improvement plan for the school.  
28 The General Assembly urges the local board to utilize the school's proposed school  
29 improvement plan to the maximum extent possible when developing such a plan.

30 A school improvement plan shall remain in effect for no more than three years;  
31 however, the school improvement team may amend the plan as often as is necessary or  
32 appropriate. If, at any time, any part of a school improvement plan becomes unlawful or  
33 the local board finds that a school improvement plan is impeding student performance at  
34 a school, the local board may vacate the relevant portion of the plan and may direct the  
35 school to revise that portion. The procedures set out in this subsection shall apply to  
36 amendments and revisions to school improvement plans."

37 Section 2. This act becomes effective July 1, 1997, and applies beginning  
38 with the 1997-98 school year.