

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

H

3

HOUSE BILL 187*
Committee Substitute Favorable 3/4/09
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 3/19/09

Short Title: Encourage Policies to Facilitate Graduation.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

February 18, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO DIRECT LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL BUSINESSES TO ADOPT PERSONNEL POLICIES TO PERMIT PARENTS TO ATTEND STUDENT CONFERENCES, AND TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT POLICIES TO IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST STUDENTS IN MAKING A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION BETWEEN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YEARS, INCREASE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, AND REDUCE SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION RATES AND ENCOURAGE ACADEMIC PROGRESS DURING SUSPENSIONS, AND TO DIRECT LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO MODIFY POLICIES ON PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO ENCOURAGE PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS TO GRADUATE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DROPOUT PREVENTION AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-47(34) reads as rewritten:

"(34) To Encourage the Business Community to Facilitate Student Achievement. – Local boards of education, in consultation with local business leaders, shall develop voluntary guidelines relating to after-school employment. The guidelines may include an agreement to limit the number of hours a student may work or to tie the number of hours a student may work to his academic performance, school attendance, and economic need. The General Assembly finds that local boards of education do not currently have information regarding how many of their students are employed after school and how many hours they work; the General Assembly urges local boards of education to compile this critical information so that the State can determine to what extent these students' work affects their school performance.

Local boards of education shall work with local business ~~leaders~~ leaders, including local chambers of commerce, to encourage employers to include and adopt as part of their stated personnel policies time for employees who are ~~provide~~ parents or guardians ~~with time~~ to attend conferences with their children's teachers.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall provide guidance and technical assistance to the local boards of education on carrying out the provisions of this subdivision."



* H 1 8 7 - V - 3 *

1 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding the following new subdivisions
2 to read:

3 "(53) To Encourage Programs for Successful Transition Between the Middle
4 School and High School Years. – Local boards of education are encouraged
5 to adopt policies to implement programs that assist students in making a
6 successful transition between the middle school and high school years. The
7 programs may include Ninth Grade Academies, programs to effectively
8 prepare eighth grade students for the expectations and rigors of high school,
9 early warning systems to flag students not ready for ninth grade and develop
10 plans for those students, mentoring programs that pair upperclassmen with
11 incoming students, and graduation plans for students who have fallen behind
12 and are off track for graduation.

13 (54) To Increase Parental Involvement in Student Achievement and Graduation
14 Preparation. – Local boards of education are encouraged to adopt policies to
15 promote and support parental involvement in student learning and
16 achievement at school and at home and to encourage successful progress
17 toward graduation. These policies may include strategies to increase school
18 communications with parents regarding expectations for students and student
19 progress, graduation requirements, and available course offerings, to provide
20 increased opportunities for parental involvement in schools, and to create an
21 environment in the schools conducive for parental involvement.

22 (55) To Reduce Suspension and Expulsion Rates and Provide for Academic
23 Progress During Suspensions. – Local boards of education are encouraged to
24 adopt policies and best practices to reduce suspension and expulsion rates
25 and to provide alternative learning programs for continued academic
26 progress for students who have been suspended."

27 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-375.5(b) reads as rewritten:

28 "(b) Local boards of education shall adopt a policy to ensure that pregnant and parenting
29 students are not discriminated against or excluded from school or any program, class, or
30 extracurricular activity because they are pregnant or parenting ~~students~~ students and to provide
31 assistance and support to encourage pregnant and parenting students to remain enrolled in
32 school and graduate. The policy shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

- 33 (1) Local school administrative units shall use, as needed, supplemental funds
34 from the At-Risk Student Services allotment to support programs for
35 pregnant and parenting students.
- 36 (2) Notwithstanding Part 1 of Article 26 of this Chapter, pregnant and parenting
37 students shall be given excused absences from school for pregnancy and
38 related conditions for the length of time the student's physician finds
39 medically necessary. This includes absences due to the illness or medical
40 appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the
41 custodial parent.
- 42 (3) Homework and make-up work shall be made available to pregnant and
43 parenting students to ensure that they have the opportunity to keep current
44 with assignments and avoid losing course credit because of their absence
45 from school and, to the extent necessary, a homebound teacher shall be
46 assigned."

47 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.