

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009**

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**SENATE BILL 66\***

Short Title:   Require Arts Educ. Credit for Graduation. (Public)

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Sponsors:   Senators Dorsett, Tillman; Albertson, Allran, Apodaca, Berger of Franklin,  
Bingham, Brown, Brunstetter, Clary, Dannelly, Davis, Foriest, Garrou, Goss,  
Graham, Hoyle, Jacumin, Jenkins, Jones, Malone, Nesbitt, Preston, Purcell,  
Queen, Rand, Shaw, Snow, Soles, Stevens, Swindell, Vaughan, and Weinstein.

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Referred to:   Education/Higher Education.

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February 5, 2009

1                                   A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO REQUIRE ONE ARTS  
3 EDUCATION CREDIT FOR GRADUATION FROM HIGH SCHOOL AS  
4 RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT SELECT COMMITTEE ON ARTS EDUCATION.

5           Whereas, North Carolina's economy needs a workforce that is not only educated but  
6 able to excel in innovation and creativity; and

7           Whereas, arts education has been demonstrated to increase the skills and knowledge  
8 required for graduation; and

9           Whereas, arts education can close achievement gaps, improve academic skills in  
10 reading and language development, and support the math and science curriculum; and

11           Whereas, arts education accelerates student performance, teaches discipline and  
12 teamwork, improves self-esteem, and gives students a reason to stay in school; and

13           Whereas, arts education provides a comprehensive, rigorous, and balanced  
14 education for all children in North Carolina's schools; Now, therefore,

15 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

16           **SECTION 1.** The State Board of Education shall modify the State high school  
17 graduation requirements to include one required credit in arts education. The credit must be  
18 earned in one of the four disciplines in arts education: theatre, music, visual arts, or dance. The  
19 course must be taken at the high school level and must be taught by a licensed arts educator  
20 using the standard course of study.

21           The State Board of Education shall implement this high school arts education  
22 requirement beginning with students entering the ninth grade in 2009.

23           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

