

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019**

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**HOUSE BILL 1132**

Short Title: Study on K-12 Student Retention. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ball, Harris, and Brockman (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 18, 2020

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO DIRECT THE STUDY OF KINDERGARTEN THROUGH TWELFTH GRADE  
3 STUDENT RETENTION.

4 Whereas, owing to the need to accommodate extraordinary circumstances due to  
5 coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19), principals have been given the authority to determine the  
6 appropriate 2020-2021 school year grade level for students in all grade levels; and

7 Whereas there will be a continued need in future years to make the most effective and  
8 appropriate policy decisions regarding student retention; and

9 Whereas interventions such as Read to Achieve reading camps, literacy coaches, or  
10 other research-based interventions can provide effective methods of avoiding retention; and

11 Whereas student retention is costly and can lead to lower graduation rates; Now,  
12 therefore,

13 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

14 **SECTION 1.** There is established the Study on K-12 Student Retention (Study). The  
15 purpose of the Study is to make findings and recommendations on the practice of student  
16 retention for grades K-12. In determining its findings and recommendations, the Study shall  
17 examine the following:

- 18 (1) Current data related to student retention, including (i) the number of students  
19 retained for the 2017-2018, 2018-2019, and 2019-2020 school years from all  
20 local school administrative units and charter schools and (ii) the test scores  
21 and other considerations used in determining retention for each student  
22 retained.
- 23 (2) Disaggregated data on student retention that would address matters of equity  
24 and inclusion among different demographic groups.
- 25 (3) Policy recommendations on student retention for each grade level.
- 26 (4) Additional remediation resources recommended for students at risk of  
27 retention.
- 28 (5) Any other information deemed relevant to the Study in determining its  
29 findings and recommendations on K-12 student retention.

30 **SECTION 2.** In order to effectively accomplish its purpose, the Study shall be  
31 carried out by 20 members with relevant expertise on K-12 education appointed by the State  
32 Board of Education as follows:

- 33 (1) One superintendent representing a local school administrative unit located in  
34 each of the eight Department of Public Instruction Regional Services regions



1 as follows: Northeast, Southeast, North Central, Sandhills, Piedmont-Triad,  
2 Southwest, Northwest, and Western.

3 (2) One elementary school principal, one middle school principal, and one high  
4 school principal.

5 (3) One elementary school teacher, one middle school teacher, and one high  
6 school teacher.

7 (4) Two public school counselors.

8 (5) Two public school psychologists.

9 (6) Two faculty members with professional expertise in K-12 academic  
10 performance and K-12 student retention, representing two separate constituent  
11 institutions of The University of North Carolina.

12 **SECTION 3.** Appointments shall be made no later than August 1, 2020. In making  
13 its appointments, the State Board shall consider the geographic and cultural diversity of the State.  
14 The State Board of Education shall designate one member to serve as chair of the Study. The  
15 chair shall call the initial meeting of the Study on or before September 1, 2020. The Study shall  
16 subsequently meet upon such notice and in such manner as its members determine. A majority  
17 of the members of the Study shall constitute a quorum. The State Board and the Department of  
18 Public Instruction shall provide professional clerical staff and other services and supplies,  
19 including meeting space or an electronic platform to facilitate virtual meetings, or both, as needed  
20 for the Study to carry out its purpose.

21 **SECTION 4.** No later than December 31, 2021, the Study shall submit a report to  
22 the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on its findings and recommendations  
23 regarding the efficacy of student retention in grades K-12. The Study shall terminate on  
24 December 31, 2021, or upon the filing of the final report, whichever occurs first.

25 **SECTION 5.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
26 Public Instruction the sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) in nonrecurring funds for  
27 the 2020-2021 fiscal year for the administration of the Study.

28 **SECTION 5.(b)** The provisions of the State Budget Act, Chapter 143C of the  
29 General Statutes, are reenacted and shall remain in full force and effect and are incorporated in  
30 this act by reference.

31 **SECTION 5.(c)** Except where expressly repealed or amended by this act, the  
32 provisions of any other legislation enacted during the 2019 Regular Session of the General  
33 Assembly expressly appropriating funds to an agency, a department, or an institution covered  
34 under this act, shall remain in effect.

35 **SECTION 5.(d)** If House Bill 966, 2019 Regular Session, becomes law, and any  
36 provision of that act or a provision of the Committee Report described in Section 42.2 of that act  
37 conflicts with this act, this act shall control.

38 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2020.