

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
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SENATE BILL DRS15501-MKa-231

Short Title: CTE Pilot for Guilford Co. Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Garrett and Robinson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS TO  
3 ESTABLISH AND OPERATE AN INNOVATIVE SIGNATURE CAREER ACADEMY  
4 PROGRAM IN ITS TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.(a)** Program Established; Purpose. – There is established the Innovative  
7 Signature Career Academy Program (Program) as a pilot program to be implemented in Guilford  
8 County Schools for the purpose of reforming its current career and technical education (CTE)  
9 program to more deliberately prepare its students for high-wage, high-skills careers. The Program  
10 shall focus on hosting signature career academies at traditional high schools located in the local  
11 school administrative unit that specialize in defined areas of career and technical education.

12 **SECTION 1.(b)** Components of the Program. – The Program shall include at least  
13 the following key components in establishing a minimum of four but no more than six signature  
14 career academies at high schools in the local school administrative unit:

- 15 (1) One school-selected priority career pathway that does not compete with career  
16 pathways at other signature career academies in the local school  
17 administrative unit in addition to CTE courses offered as elective options and  
18 business and computer science courses.
- 19 (2) School and community stakeholder input on the development of the priority  
20 career pathways and the phase-out of other CTE programs.
- 21 (3) Partnerships with higher education institutions and business and industry  
22 entities for specific equipment needs and the design of clearly defined career  
23 pathways.
- 24 (4) The option for eighth grade students to apply to attend a signature career  
25 academy of their choice at a high school located in the local school  
26 administrative unit.
- 27 (5) Reassignment of current CTE teachers to focus on an area of expertise for a  
28 signature career academy and the creation of partnerships with higher  
29 education faculty and employees of industry and business to volunteer to serve  
30 as co-teachers in the specialized areas.

31 **SECTION 1.(c)** Flexibility for Teachers. – Notwithstanding any other provision of  
32 law, in addition to the authority provided to a local board of education to employ adjunct  
33 instructors in career and technical education career clusters pursuant to G.S. 115C-157.1, the  
34 local school administrative unit shall have the flexibility to contract with individuals who have  
35 education and training related to the specific skills and career pathways that are the focus of a  
36 signature career academy. Any individual who has direct contact with students pursuant to the



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1 authority provided by this subsection shall be subject to a criminal history check to ensure that  
2 the person has not been convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332.

3 **SECTION 1.(d)** Reporting. – By June 30 of the first school year of operation of the  
4 Program, and every June 30 thereafter for the duration of the Program operated as a pilot,  
5 Guilford County Schools shall report to the Department of Public Instruction on (i)  
6 implementation and administration of the Program, including the use of additional resources  
7 provided as an appropriation of State funds specifically for the Program, (ii) data from the  
8 Program on student completion rates for career pathways and any other data requested by the  
9 Department, and (iii) any recommendations on the modification of the Program or the potential  
10 application of the Program in other local school administrative units.

11 By August 15 of the first year of reporting by Guilford County Schools under this  
12 subsection, and every August 15 thereafter for the duration of the Program operated as a pilot,  
13 the Department of Public Instruction shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
14 Committee on the information submitted by Guilford County Schools pursuant to this subsection.

15 **SECTION 1.(e)** Term of the Program. – The Program may operate for up to six  
16 school years as a pilot program, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year. Before the end of the  
17 school year in which the Program will expire as a pilot, the Guilford County Board of Education  
18 may apply to the State Board of Education for the Program to be included as an ongoing  
19 component of Guilford County Schools' career and technical education local plan submitted to  
20 the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-154.1. In operating the Program in  
21 subsequent school years, Guilford County Schools shall continue to have flexibility in regard to  
22 teachers as provided in subsection (c) of this section. The Guilford County Board of Education  
23 may request as part of the application that the General Assembly appropriate additional resources  
24 for the operation of the Program but may continue to operate the Program if other sources of  
25 funds are available. The State Board shall consider the data submitted to the Department of Public  
26 Instruction on the operation of the Program pursuant to subsection (d) of this section when  
27 reviewing the Program to become a component of the career and technical education local plan.

28 **SECTION 2.** Funds for the Program. – There is appropriated from the General Fund  
29 to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars  
30 (\$1,500,000) for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to be allocated to Guilford County Schools (GCS) for  
31 the purpose of establishing and operating the Innovative Signature Career Academy Program  
32 (Program) in accordance with this act. It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate  
33 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of one million five  
34 hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to be allocated GCS for the  
35 purpose of operating the second year of the Program.

36 **SECTION 3.** If House Bill 966, 2019 Regular Session, becomes law, then Section  
37 7.44 of that act and the provision of the Committee Report described in Section 42.2 of that act  
38 appropriating funds to implement Section 7.44 of that act are repealed.

39 **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2020.