

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 1032

Short Title: Academic Transparency. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Johnson, Willis, Blackwell, and Chesser (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 7, 2024

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR INCREASED PUBLIC ACCESS TO LESSON PLANS AND  
3 OTHER INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** Article 7B of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
6 adding a new Part to read:

7 "Part 7. Academic Transparency.

8 "**§ 115C-76.75. Inform the public about course materials.**

9 (a) The following definitions apply in this section:

10 (1) Action-oriented civics learning assignments or projects. – Assignments or  
11 projects that require students to contact elected officials or advocate for a  
12 political or social cause or to participate in political or social demonstrations.

13 (2) Course materials. – Any material used for instruction in a course, including,  
14 but not limited to, all instructional materials, supplemental materials,  
15 textbooks, other reading materials, videos, digital materials, websites, and  
16 other online applications.

17 (3) Instructional materials. – Systematically organized material comprehensive  
18 enough to cover the primary objectives outlined in the standard course of  
19 study for a grade or course. Formats for instructional materials may be print  
20 or nonprint, including hardbound books, softbound books, activity-oriented  
21 programs, classroom kits, or digital resources that require the use of electronic  
22 equipment in order to be used in the learning process.

23 (4) Lesson plan. – An outline of all of the following:

24 a. The instruction provided by a teacher for a course that includes a list  
25 of (i) all course materials assigned, distributed, or otherwise presented  
26 in the course and (ii) when students must select course materials from  
27 a defined list, all course materials on that list.

28 b. Each grade- or school-wide presentation, assembly, lecture, or other  
29 activity or event facilitated by the school during instructional hours  
30 outside of an individual teacher's classroom, excluding student  
31 presentations. The outline shall include a list of (i) each presenter by  
32 name and organization and (ii) any course material used or presented.

33 (5) Supplemental materials. – Educational materials that supplement specific  
34 instruction for the standard course of study selected and procured by a local



1 board of education for a grade or course or general education needs of the  
2 school. Supplemental materials may include textbooks, library books,  
3 periodicals, audiovisual materials, action-oriented civics learning assignments  
4 or projects, and other supplemental instructional materials needed for  
5 instructional purposes in the local school administrative unit. Supplemental  
6 materials may be print or nonprint, including hardbound books, softbound  
7 books, activity-oriented programs, classroom kits, or digital resources that  
8 require the use of electronic equipment in order to be used in the learning  
9 process.

10 (b) The governing body of a public school unit shall ensure that the following information  
11 for each school it governs is prominently displayed on the school website, organized, at a  
12 minimum, by subject area and grade level:

13 (1) All lesson plans used shall be posted online no later than 10 days after the  
14 lesson was given. Lesson plans shall include the following, at a minimum:

15 a. The names of all instructional and supplemental materials used by the  
16 school with an electronic link to the instructional materials website.

17 b. Any other course materials used in a course, organized by title, and the  
18 author, organization, or website associated with each material and  
19 activity. These course materials shall include materials created by the  
20 teacher, with the teacher identified as the author. The lesson plan shall  
21 include a brief descriptor of the course materials and a link to the  
22 course material, if publicly available on the internet, or information on  
23 how to request review of a copy of the course material in person.  
24 Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the digital  
25 reproduction or posting of copies of the course materials themselves.

26 (2) For all public school units, any procedures for the documentation, review, or  
27 approval of the lesson plans, including course materials identified in those  
28 plans, by the principal, curriculum administrators, or other teachers.

29 (3) For all public school units, the procedure established by the governing board  
30 for requesting an in-person review of a course material not publicly available  
31 on the internet.

32 (4) For all public school units, a list of teacher and staff training materials and  
33 activities used at each school during the current school year.

34 (c) The governing body shall provide access from the website of the public school unit  
35 to the information required by subsection (b) of this section at all times, either through a website  
36 maintained by the public school unit or by a link to another website where the information is  
37 publicly accessible. Public access to the information shall be maintained by the public school  
38 unit for two calendar years from the date the material is posted. The Department of Public  
39 Instruction shall make available to public school units one or more templates for providing  
40 information as required by this section. A public school unit may exercise flexibility in  
41 determining the most effective means of compliance with the requirements of this section,  
42 including, but not limited to, utilizing any of the following in its discretion:

43 (1) Providing a template created by the Department of Public Instruction to  
44 teachers to facilitate reporting of lesson plans.

45 (2) Creating one or more templates to provide to teachers to facilitate reporting of  
46 lesson plans. The public school unit may customize templates for grades or  
47 courses and may autopopulate any course materials required by the public  
48 school unit as part of the curriculum for a particular grade or course.

49 (3) Allowing utilization of online collaborative software, documents, or  
50 spreadsheets to allow multiple authorized users to update content.

1 (d) A governing body that is responsible for the operation of schools with fewer than 30  
2 students cumulatively is not required to comply with the requirements of this section.

3 (e) For purposes of teacher privacy, a teacher or staff member may request that the school  
4 use the teacher's or staff member's personal title and last initial rather than the teacher's or staff  
5 member's full name when posting materials online to be viewed by the public."

6 **SECTION 1.(b)** Article 4 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by  
7 adding a new section to read:

8 "**§ 116-69.3. Inform the public about course materials.**

9 The Board of Trustees shall ensure that information about course materials is prominently  
10 displayed on the website of the North Carolina School of the Arts for all elementary, middle, and  
11 high school programs, in accordance with G.S. 115C-76.75."

12 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 116-235 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

13 "(k) Course Materials. – The Board of Trustees shall ensure that information about course  
14 materials is prominently displayed on the website of the School, in accordance with  
15 G.S. 115C-76.75."

16 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
17 Public Instruction the sum of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025  
18 fiscal year for oversight and enforcement of the provisions implemented by this act.

19 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
20 the 2024-2025 school year.