

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

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HOUSE BILL 999

Short Title: Healthy and Safe Students in Every School. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ball, Lambeth, Staton-Williams, and White (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 6, 2024

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE AT LEAST ONE SCHOOL NURSE AND AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY OF NALOXONE NASAL SPRAY IN EVERY SCHOOL IN A PUBLIC SCHOOL UNIT AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO MEET THOSE REQUIREMENTS.

Whereas, the health, well-being, and educational success of public school students in North Carolina are top priorities of the General Assembly; and

Whereas, employing school nurses has been shown to have a critical and positive impact on the health, well-being, and educational success of public school students in kindergarten through grade 12 due to services directed toward keeping students healthy, in class, and ready to learn; and

Whereas, since January 2013, 17,212 North Carolinians have died from opioid or fentanyl involved emergencies, an illicit drug that does not discriminate, killing innocent people in all settings in all 100 counties; and

Whereas, having life-saving naloxone easily available in public schools will save lives; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**PART I. A NURSE IN EVERY SCHOOL**

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

"Part 7. Health and Safety Requirements.

**"§ 115C-77.1. A nurse in every school.**

The governing body of a public school unit shall ensure that each school within the public school unit has a school nurse available to students at all times during the instructional day. The governing bodies may hire full-time or part-time nurses directly or contract with a third party to provide nursing services."

**SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year the sum of eighty-nine million dollars (\$89,000,000) in recurring funds to increase the School Health Personnel Allotment in order to provide at least one full-time, permanent school nurse in every school in a public school unit.

**PART II. SUPPLY OF EMERGENCY NALOXONE NASAL SPRAY ON SCHOOL PROPERTY**



1           **SECTION 2.(a)** Part 7 of Article 7B of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, as  
2 enacted by Section 1 of this act, is amended by adding a new section to read:

3 **"§ 115C-77.5. School supply of naloxone nasal spray.**

4           (a) The governing body of each public school unit shall provide for a supply of  
5 emergency naloxone nasal spray on school property for use by trained school personnel to  
6 provide emergency medical aid to persons suffering from an opioid or fentanyl emergency during  
7 the school day and at school-sponsored events on school property. Each school shall store in a  
8 secure, but unlocked and easily accessible location, a minimum of two boxes of 8 milligram  
9 naloxone containing a total of at least four nasal spray doses. For purposes of this section, "school  
10 property" does not include transportation to or from school.

11           (b) For the purposes of this section, "naloxone nasal spray" means a disposable drug  
12 delivery system that disperses a solution of opioid antagonist into the respiratory system through  
13 the nose to provide rapid, critical first aid for persons suffering a potentially fatal opioid or  
14 fentanyl emergency.

15           (c) The principal of each school in a public school unit shall designate one or more school  
16 personnel, as part of the medical care program under G.S. 115C-375.1, to receive initial and  
17 annual retraining from a school nurse or qualified representative of the local health department  
18 regarding the storage and emergency use of naloxone nasal spray. Notwithstanding any other  
19 provision of law to the contrary, the school nurse or other designated school personnel who has  
20 received training under this subsection shall obtain a non-patient specific prescription for  
21 naloxone nasal spray from a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner of the local  
22 health department serving the area in which the school is located.

23           (d) The principal of each school in a public school unit shall collaborate with appropriate  
24 school personnel to develop an emergency action plan for the use of naloxone nasal spray in an  
25 emergency. The plan shall include at least the following components:

26           (1) Standards and procedures for the storage and emergency use of naloxone nasal  
27 spray by trained school personnel.

28           (2) Training of school personnel in recognizing symptoms of an opioid or fentanyl  
29 emergency.

30           (3) Emergency follow-up procedures, including calling emergency services and  
31 contacting a student's parent and physician.

32           (4) Instruction and certification in cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

33           (e) A governing body of a public school unit; its members, employees, designees, agents,  
34 or volunteers; and a physician, physician assistant, or nurse practitioner of the local health  
35 department shall not be liable in civil damages to any party for any act authorized by this section  
36 or for any omission relating to that act unless that act or omission amounts to gross negligence,  
37 wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing."

38           **SECTION 2.(b)** There is appropriated from the Opioid Abatement Reserve to the  
39 Department of Public Instruction the sum of three hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$350,000) in  
40 nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to be allocated to public school units for the  
41 purchase of an initial school supply of naloxone nasal spray and to facilitate the training required  
42 by this section.

43  
44 **PART III. MISCELLANEOUS**

45           **SECTION 3.(a)** Funds appropriated pursuant to this act shall supplement and not  
46 supplant any funds from any source already provided for the same purposes.

47           **SECTION 3.(b)** This act becomes effective July 1, 2024, and applies beginning with  
48 the 2024-2025 school year.