

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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SENATE BILL 1186

Short Title: Respectful Forms of Address/Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Perdue; Albertson, Ballance, Carter, Cooper, Dalton, Dannelly, Garrou, Harris, Hoyle, Jordan, Kinnaird, Lee, Lucas, Martin of Guilford, Martin of Pitt, Metcalf, Miller, Odom, Phillips, Purcell, Rand, Reeves, Robinson, Shaw of Cumberland, Soles, Warren, Weinstein, and Wellons.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

May 9, 2000

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ADDRESSING TEACHERS AND OTHER
2 SCHOOL EMPLOYEES USE RESPECTFUL FORMS OF ADDRESS SUCH AS
3 "MA'AM", "SIR", OR AN APPROPRIATE TITLE FOLLOWED BY A SURNAME
4 AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE AND ENHANCE
5 INSTRUCTION IN CHARACTER EDUCATION.
6

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 Section 1. G.S. 115C-81(h) reads as rewritten:

9 "(h) Character Education. – Local boards of education may require the teaching of
10 the following character traits in the public schools:

- 11 (1) Courage. – Having the determination to do the right thing even when
12 others don't and the strength to follow your conscience rather than the
13 crowd; and attempting difficult things that are worthwhile.
14 (2) Good judgment. – Choosing worthy goals and setting proper priorities;
15 thinking through the consequences of your actions; and basing decisions
16 on practical wisdom and good sense.

- 1 (3) Integrity. – Having the inner strength to be truthful, trustworthy, and
2 honest in all things; acting justly and honorably.
- 3 (4) Kindness. – Being considerate, courteous, helpful, and understanding of
4 others; showing care, compassion, friendship, and generosity; and
5 treating others as you would like to be treated.
- 6 (5) Perseverance. – Being persistent in the pursuit of worthy objectives in
7 spite of difficulty, opposition, or discouragement; and exhibiting
8 patience and having the fortitude to try again when confronted with
9 delays, mistakes, or failures.
- 10 (6) Respect. – Showing high regard for authority, for other people, for self,
11 for property, and for country; and understanding that all people have
12 value as human beings. As an aspect of this character trait, public
13 schools shall include instruction on respectful forms of address students
14 should use in addressing school employees on school property. The
15 forms of address shall include but not be limited to the use of 'Yes,
16 Ma'am', 'No, Ma'am', 'Yes, Sir', 'No, Sir', and the use of an appropriate
17 title such as 'Mr.' or Mrs.' followed by a surname.
- 18 (7) Responsibility. – Being dependable in carrying out obligations and
19 duties; showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct; being
20 accountable for your own actions; and being committed to active
21 involvement in your community.
- 22 (8) Self-Discipline. – Demonstrating hard work and commitment to
23 purpose; regulating yourself for improvement and restraining from
24 inappropriate behaviors; being in proper control of your words, actions,
25 impulses, and desires; choosing abstinence from premarital sex, drugs,
26 alcohol, and other harmful substances and behaviors; and doing your
27 best in all situations."

28 Section 2. G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

29 **"§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.**

30 In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of
31 education shall have the power or duty:

32 ...

33 (29c) To Adopt Policies Requiring Public School Students to Address School
34 Employees in a Respectful Manner. – The General Assembly urges
35 local boards of education to develop programs and provide instruction
36 to students on the forms of address that students should use in
37 addressing teachers and other school employees on school property and
38 at school-sponsored activities. These forms of address should include
39 but not be limited to the use of 'Yes, Ma'am', 'No, Ma'am', 'Yes, Sir',
40 'No, Sir', and the use an appropriate title such as 'Mr. or Mrs.' followed
41 by a surname.

42 The policies should provide that students who fail to use appropriate,
43 respectful forms of address, are required to attend an extracurricular

1 program on respectful address outside of the regular school day. The
2 policies should also provide for parental involvement if attendance at an
3 extracurricular program does not resolve the problem."

4 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
5 Education the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2000-2001 fiscal
6 year. The State Board shall allocate these funds to local boards of education to
7 implement the provisions of this act.

8 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 2000.