

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2005

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HOUSE BILL 1151\*  
Committee Substitute Favorable 6/1/05

Short Title: Planning Time & Duty-Free Lunch for Teachers.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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April 7, 2005

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING TIME AND A  
3 DUTY-FREE LUNCH PERIOD FOR TEACHERS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-105.27 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 115C-105.27. Development and approval of school improvement plans.**

7 (a) In order to improve student performance, each school shall develop a school  
8 improvement plan that takes into consideration the annual performance goal for that  
9 school that is set by the State Board under G.S. 115C-105.35. The principal of each  
10 school, representatives of the assistant principals, instructional personnel, instructional  
11 support personnel, and teacher assistants assigned to the school building, and parents of  
12 children enrolled in the school shall constitute a school improvement team to develop a  
13 school improvement plan to improve student performance. Representatives of the  
14 assistant principals, instructional personnel, instructional support personnel, and teacher  
15 assistants shall be elected by their respective groups by secret ballot. Unless the local  
16 board of education has adopted an election policy, parents shall be elected by parents of  
17 children enrolled in the school in an election conducted by the parent and teacher  
18 organization of the school or, if none exists, by the largest organization of parents  
19 formed for this purpose. Parents serving on school improvement teams shall reflect the  
20 racial and socioeconomic composition of the students enrolled in that school and shall  
21 not be members of the building-level staff. Parental involvement is a critical component  
22 of school success and positive student achievement; therefore, it is the intent of the  
23 General Assembly that parents, along with teachers, have a substantial role in  
24 developing school improvement plans. To this end, school improvement team meetings  
25 shall be held at a convenient time to assure substantial parent participation.

26 (b) The strategies for improving student performance:

- 27 (1) Shall include a plan for the use of staff development funds that may be  
28 made available to the school by the local board of education to  
29 implement the school improvement plan. The plan may provide that a

1 portion of these funds is used for mentor training and for release time  
2 and substitute teachers while mentors and teachers mentored are  
3 meeting;

4 (1a) Shall, if the school serves students in kindergarten or first grade,  
5 include a plan for preparing students to read at grade level by the time  
6 they enter second grade. The plan shall require kindergarten and first  
7 grade teachers to notify parents or guardians when their child is not  
8 reading at grade level and is at risk of not reading at grade level by the  
9 time the child enters second grade. The plan may include the use of  
10 assessments to monitor students' progress in learning to read, strategies  
11 for teachers and parents to implement that will help students improve  
12 and expand their reading, and provide for the recognition of teachers  
13 and strategies that appear to be effective at preparing students to read  
14 at grade ~~level~~. level;

15 (2) Shall include a plan to address school safety and discipline concerns in  
16 accordance with the safe school plan developed under Article 8C of  
17 this Chapter;

18 (3) May include a decision to use State funds in accordance with  
19 G.S. 115C-105.25;

20 (4) Shall include a plan that specifies the effective instructional practices  
21 and methods to be used to improve the academic performance of  
22 students identified as at risk of academic failure or at risk of dropping  
23 out of school;

24 (5) May include requests for waivers of State laws, rules, or policies for  
25 that school. A request for a waiver shall meet the requirements of  
26 G.S. ~~115C-105.26~~. 115C-105.26;

27 (6) Shall include a plan to provide a duty-free lunch period for every  
28 teacher on a daily basis or as otherwise approved by the school  
29 improvement team; and

30 (7) Shall include a plan to provide unencumbered instructional planning  
31 time for every teacher, with the goal of providing an average of at least  
32 five hours of planning time per week.

33 (c) Support among affected staff members is essential to successful  
34 implementation of a school improvement plan to address improved student performance  
35 at that school. The principal of the school shall present the proposed school  
36 improvement plan to all of the principals, assistant principals, instructional personnel,  
37 instructional support personnel, and teacher assistants assigned to the school building  
38 for their review and vote. The vote shall be by secret ballot. The principal shall submit  
39 the school improvement plan to the local board of education only if the proposed school  
40 improvement plan has the approval of a majority of the staff who voted on the plan.

41 (d) The local board of education shall accept or reject the school improvement  
42 plan. The local board shall not make any substantive changes in any school  
43 improvement plan that it accepts. If the local board rejects a school improvement plan,  
44 the local board shall state with specificity its reasons for rejecting the plan; the school

1 improvement team may then prepare another plan, present it to the principals, assistant  
2 principals, instructional personnel, instructional support personnel, and teacher  
3 assistants assigned to the school building for a vote, and submit it to the local board to  
4 accept or reject. If no school improvement plan is accepted for a school within 60 days  
5 after its initial submission to the local board, the school or the local board may ask to  
6 use the process to resolve disagreements recommended in the guidelines developed by  
7 the State Board under G.S. 115C-105.20(b)(5). If this request is made, both the school  
8 and local board shall participate in the process to resolve disagreements. If there is no  
9 request to use that process, then the local board may develop a school improvement plan  
10 for the school. The General Assembly urges the local board to utilize the school's  
11 proposed school improvement plan to the maximum extent possible when developing  
12 such a plan.

13 (e) A school improvement plan shall remain in effect for no more than three  
14 years; however, the school improvement team may amend the plan as often as is  
15 necessary or appropriate. If, at any time, any part of a school improvement plan  
16 becomes unlawful or the local board finds that a school improvement plan is impeding  
17 student performance at a school, the local board may vacate the relevant portion of the  
18 plan and may direct the school to revise that portion. The procedures set out in this  
19 subsection shall apply to amendments and revisions to school improvement plans."

20 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-105.26(b) reads as rewritten:

21 "(b) When requested as part of a school improvement plan, the State Board of  
22 Education may grant waivers of:

- 23 (1) State laws pertaining to class ~~size, teacher certification, and the~~  
24 ~~duty free period for classroom teachers under G.S. 115C 301.1; size~~  
25 and teacher certification; and  
26 (2) State rules and policies, except those pertaining to public school State  
27 salary schedules and employee benefits for school employees, the  
28 instructional program that must be offered under the Basic Education  
29 Program, the system of employment for public school teachers and  
30 administrators set out in G.S. 115C-287.1 and G.S. 115C-325, health  
31 and safety codes, compulsory attendance, the minimum lengths of the  
32 school day and year, and the Uniform Education Reporting System."

33 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2005, and applies to school  
34 improvement plans beginning with the 2006-2007 school year.