

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2009

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HOUSE BILL 187\*

Short Title: Encourage Policies to Facilitate Graduation. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Parmon, Fisher, Tarleton, Current (Primary Sponsors); Bell, Blue, Bordsen, Bryant, Carney, Cotham, Dickson, England, Faison, Glazier, Harrison, Hughes, Lucas, Luebke, Mackey, Pierce, Rapp, Ross, Weiss, and Womble.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Judiciary II.

February 18, 2009

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL BOARDS OF EDUCATION TO ADOPT POLICIES TO ENCOURAGE LOCAL BUSINESSES TO ADOPT PERSONNEL POLICIES TO PERMIT PARENTS TO ATTEND STUDENT CONFERENCES, IMPLEMENT PROGRAMS THAT ASSIST STUDENTS IN MAKING A SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION BETWEEN THE MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL YEARS, INCREASE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT IN STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, REDUCE SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION RATES AND ENCOURAGE ACADEMIC PROGRESS DURING SUSPENSIONS, AND PROVIDE ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT TO ENCOURAGE PREGNANT AND PARENTING STUDENTS TO GRADUATE, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DROPOUT PREVENTION AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-47(34) is amended to read:

"(34) To Encourage the Business Community to Facilitate Student Achievement. – Local boards of education, in consultation with local business leaders, shall develop voluntary guidelines relating to after-school employment. The guidelines may include an agreement to limit the number of hours a student may work or to tie the number of hours a student may work to his academic performance, school attendance, and economic need. The General Assembly finds that local boards of education do not currently have information regarding how many of their students are employed after school and how many hours they work; the General Assembly urges local boards of education to compile this critical information so that the State can determine to what extent these students' work affects their school performance.

Local boards of education shall work with local business ~~leaders~~leaders, including local chambers of commerce, to encourage employers to include and adopt as part of their stated personnel policies time for employees who are ~~provide~~ parents or guardians ~~with time~~ to attend conferences with their children's teachers.

The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall provide guidance and technical assistance to the local boards of education on carrying out the provisions of this subdivision."



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1           **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding the following new subdivisions  
2 to read:

3           "(53) To Encourage Programs for Successful Transition Between the Middle  
4           School and High School Years. – Local boards of education are encouraged  
5           to adopt policies to implement programs that assist students in making a  
6           successful transition between the middle school and high school years. The  
7           programs may include Ninth Grade Academies, programs to effectively  
8           prepare eighth grade students for the expectations and rigors of high school,  
9           early warning systems to flag students not ready for ninth grade and develop  
10           plans for those students, mentoring programs that pair upperclassmen with  
11           incoming students; and graduation plans for students who have fallen behind  
12           and are off-track for graduation.

13           (54) To Increase Parental Involvement in Student Achievement and Graduation  
14           Preparation. – Local boards of education are encouraged to adopt policies to  
15           promote and support parental involvement in student learning and  
16           achievement at school and at home and to encourage successful progress  
17           toward graduation. These policies may include strategies to increase school  
18           communications with parents regarding expectations for students, graduation  
19           requirements, and available course offerings, to provide increased  
20           opportunities for parental involvement in schools, and to create an  
21           environment in the schools conducive for parental involvement.

22           (55) To Reduce Suspension and Expulsion Rates and Provide for Academic  
23           Progress During Suspensions. – Local boards of education are encouraged to  
24           adopt policies and best practices to reduce short and long-term suspension  
25           and expulsion rates and to provide alternative learning programs for  
26           continued academic progress for students who are short- and long-term  
27           suspended."

28           **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-375.5(b) is amended to read:

29           "(b) Local boards of education shall adopt a policy to ensure that pregnant and parenting  
30 students are not discriminated against or excluded from school or any program, class, or  
31 extracurricular activity because they are pregnant or parenting ~~students.~~ student and to provide  
32 assistance and support to encourage pregnant and parenting students to remain enrolled in  
33 school and graduate. The policy shall include, at a minimum, all of the following:

34           (1) Local school administrative units shall use, as needed, supplemental funds  
35 from the At-Risk Student Services allotment to support programs for  
36 pregnant and parenting students.

37           (2) Notwithstanding Part 1 of Article 26 of this Chapter, pregnant and parenting  
38 students shall be given excused absences from school for pregnancy and  
39 related conditions for the length of time the student's physician finds  
40 medically necessary. This includes absences due to the illness or medical  
41 appointment during school hours of a child of whom the student is the  
42 custodial parent.

43           (3) Homework and make-up work shall be made available to pregnant and  
44 parenting students to ensure that they have the opportunity to keep current  
45 with assignments and avoid losing course credit because of their absence  
46 from school and, to the extent necessary, a homebound teacher shall be  
47 assigned."

48           **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.