

February 17, 1999

S 118. COMMUNITY-BASED SCHOOL ASSIGNMENTS. TO PERMIT CHILDREN TO ATTEND COMMUNITY SCHOOLS. Adds to GS 115C-369 provisions specifying that if the school (other than a magnet school) to which a student is assigned by a local board of education is not the nonmagnet school closest to the student's domicile, then the parent, guardian, or person standing in loco parentis may apply to the board for reassignment to the closest nonmagnet school. The application must be made within 10 days of notification of assignment, and must be made in accordance with rules adopted by the board. The board must approve the reassignment unless (1) the closest school is overcrowded with students who live closer, (2) the reassignment would violate a federal law, a court order, or the conditions of a federal grant, or (3) the local board finds that the school is not grade-appropriate for the student or the student needs a school of a specialized kind (such as a school that can implement the student's individual education plan) or provide a suitable alternative learning program. If assignment to the closest nonmagnet school is not possible, the board must consider assignment to the second closest. If the reassignment is disapproved, the applicant may appeal the decision. The appeal may be heard by a panel of the board containing at least two board members. Following a hearing, the board must make findings of fact and conclusions of law and notify the applicant of its decision.

Adds similar provisions with respect applications for admission to magnet schools.

Directs the State Board of Education to adopt rules for implementation of these changes.

Adds new GS 115C-364.1 citing the General Assembly's determination that community-based schools improve community commitment to schools, make schools more responsive to community needs, facilitate parental participation, provide services to families, provide after-school services, improve communication with parents, and respect parents. Directs local boards to review their school attendance districts and to establish a process for modifying them to promote community-based schools. Directs local boards to review the relative merits of schools within their units to consider reallocating resources, if appropriate, to enhance parental satisfaction with schools within each community.

Applies to schools beginning with the 1999-2000 school year.

Intro. by Rucho.

Ref. to Education

GS 115C