

April 12, 2001

H 1322. MAKING CHILDREN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN SCHOOLS. TO MAKE CHILDREN THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS. Adds new section GS 115C-105.37A to create the priority school program. Requires that the State Board of Education identify priority schools by Oct. 10 of each year. A priority school is one where 55% or more of the students perform below grade level for two consecutive years. When priority school is identified, principal is assessed by a local assessment team. Principal may be replaced with a principal with at least three years administrative experience. Principal must develop a staffing plan that must provide that all teachers teach in an area they are qualified to teach and that no more than 10% of teachers be initially licensed. The state per pupil allotment is increased by 200%. Additional funds are to be used to reduce class size to no more than 17 and for other school resources. In addition, each licensed staff member shall be required to sign a four-year commitment, be awarded a \$5,000 bonus at the end of each of the first three years, and awarded a \$10,00 supplement at the end of the fourth year. School program must be modified to include programs listed in act, including giving teachers at least an hour of planning time and a duty-free lunch each day and requiring that all staff members set high expectations for all students. Requires action to increase parental involvement, including the issuing of a report card for each school that grades the school based on the number of hours volunteered by parents and community leaders. Effective July 1, 2001.

Intro. by Jeffus.

Ref. to Education	GS 115C
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