

May 20, 2008

H 2277. COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS FUNDS. Filed 5/20/08. *TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC., PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND TO PLACE NO FEWER THAN ONE HUNDRED GRADUATION COACHES IN EITHER MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOLS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DROPOUT PREVENTION AND HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION.*

Appropriates \$6,024,091 for 2008-09 in recurring funds from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction to support and expand the programs and services of Communities in Schools of North Carolina, Inc., (CIS). Directs CIS to use the funds (1) to leverage federal and private grants to support local CIS programs in North Carolina, and (2) to place no fewer than 100 graduation coaches in either middle or high schools in the state. Requires that CIS give priority to placing graduation coaches in schools having a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than 65%. Delineates responsibilities of the graduation coaches, including duties to identify appropriate academic assistance and support for students at-risk of dropping out of school, to refer at-risk students to appropriate personnel and programs for assistance, and to encourage parental involvement in student academic endeavors.

Directs that CIS provide annual reports on the activities of the graduation coaches to the Joint Legislative Commission on Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. The first annual report is due by October 15, 2009.

Effective July 1, 2008.

Intro. by Parmon, Fisher, Tarleton.

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