GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2011

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HOUSE BILL 822 PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H822-PCS30379-RQ-19

Short Title: Dropout Recovery Pilot Program.

(Public)

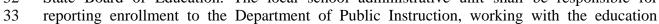
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Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 7, 2011

1	A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2	AN ACT DIRECTING THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO IMPLEMENT A
3	DROPOUT RECOVERY PILOT PROGRAM.
4	Whereas, dropout rates continue to plague North Carolina, limiting career
5	opportunities for dropouts and costing the State billions of dollars in lost wages; and
6	Whereas, high school dropouts are more likely to be incarcerated and more likely to
7	need social welfare assistance; and
8	Whereas, the traditional path to a complete high school education is not for
9	everyone; and
10	Whereas, many students perform best in nontraditional settings, and many students
11	have family and employment obligations that hinder them from following the traditional route
12	to a diploma; and
13	Whereas, these students require flexibility in terms of scheduling and content
14	delivery; and
15	Whereas, there is also a need to close the gap in the graduation rates between
16	minority students and white students; and
17	Whereas, it would be more efficient for North Carolina to reengage students across
18	the State by implementing a statewide pilot program with an initial focus on the districts of
19	highest need to allow the program to be effectively monitored prior to a statewide
20	implementation; and
21	Whereas, North Carolina can implement such a program without additional taxes or
22	appropriations; Now, therefore,
23	The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:
24	SECTION 1. The State Board of Education shall implement a three-year Dropout
25	Recovery Pilot Program in New Hanover County Schools and three other local school
26	administrative units selected by the State Board of Education. The purpose of the pilot program
27	is to reengage students and increase the graduation rates in North Carolina through an
28	educational program that provides flexible scheduling and a blended learning environment with
29	individualized and self-paced learning options.
30	SECTION 2. Under the pilot program, the educational services and programming
31	shall be provided by an education partner that is a nonprofit or for-profit entity approved by the
32	State Board of Education. The local school administrative unit shall be responsible for





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graduation requirements, and issuing diplomas to those students in the program
e necessary graduation requirements.
TION 3. The pilot program shall provide the following:
Facilities that are easily accessible to the students being served.
Flexible scheduling, including at least two different program schedules.
Differentiated instruction that shall include individualized, group, and online
instructional components.
The capacity for assessing, recording, and responding to the students'
academic progress on a daily basis using assessments that are aligned with
State and local standards and requirements.
TION 4. Before the State Board of Education approves an applicant as an
r, the applicant must demonstrate the following:
A history providing dropout recovery services to high school students in
charter or noncharter public schools.
At least two years of relevant experience operating and providing services to
brick-and-mortar public schools.
At least two years of relevant experience providing comprehensive online
learning programs.
Relevant experience serving diverse student populations, including
socioeconomically disadvantaged students.
An explanation of the steps taken by the applicant to ensure that its proposed
instructional content is aligned with State standards.
A plan for the recruitment and hiring of State-certified teachers, including
hiring criteria.
A plan for the recruitment and hiring of qualified administrators, including
hiring criteria.
A detailed description of the applicant's plan to work with the participating
local school administrative units and the State Board of Education to identify
students who need to be served, to reengage those students, and to provide
alternative education options for students at risk of dropping out. Students at
risk of dropping out from their current schools may be transferred into the
pilot program.
An operational plan that includes the following:
a. The number and physical location of proposed sites and a list of the
equipment required.
b. A proposed program calendar and daily schedule and an explanation
of how the calendar and schedule meet the needs of prospective
students. The schedule must include at least four hours per school
day of on-site learning at a physical location.
c. The student-to-teacher ratio.
d. A description of each of the instructional methods to be used and
number of hours per day for each method.
e. A plan for differentiated instruction that must include individualized,
group, and online instructional components.
f. Capacity for assessing, recording, and responding to students'
academic progress on a daily basis using standards-aligned
assessments.
assessments. g. A detailed one-year budget.
assessments.

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1 **SECTION 5.** Data and student performance results shall be collected and compiled 2 from the pilot program and the participating local school administrative units. By 3 implementing a uniform statewide pilot program, the success of the pilot program as a whole 4 can be measured by the State Board of Education. In an effort to provide services to students 5 for the 2011-2012 school year, if a request for proposals is necessary, the process shall be 6 completed within 60 days of the effective date of the legislation.

7 **SECTION 6.** A student attending the pilot program shall be enrolled as a student of 8 the resident local school administrative unit. The student shall be included in the ADM of that 9 unit. The resident local school administrative unit shall retain five percent (5%) of the total per 10 pupil funding for the student to cover administrative costs and shall remit payment to the 11 education partner of the remaining ninety-five percent (95%) within 15 days of receiving 12 payment from the Department of Public Instruction.

13 **SECTION 7.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the State Board of 14 Education shall authorize participating local school administrative units to implement flexible 15 attendance requirements for students participating in the pilot program due to the flexible 16 scheduling and online portions of the pilot program.

17 **SECTION 8.** The pilot program shall be operated through the State Board of 18 Education or as a program of the contracting school administrative unit. The pilot program 19 may be an alternative school.

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SECTION 9. This act becomes effective July 1, 2011.