

1 regional schools, and charter schools that have received a grant for school resource officers
2 pursuant to Section 1 of this act.

3 **SECTION 2.(b)** Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
4 adding a new section to read:

5 "**§ 115C-316.1. Duties of school counselors.**

6 (a) School counselors shall implement a comprehensive developmental school
7 counseling program in their schools. Counselors shall spend at least eighty percent (80%) of
8 their work time providing direct services to students. Direct services do not include the
9 coordination of standardized testing. Direct services shall consist of:

- 10 (1) Delivering the school guidance curriculum through large-group guidance,
11 interdisciplinary curriculum development, group activities, and parent
12 workshops;
- 13 (2) Guiding individual student planning through individual or small-group
14 assistance and individual or small-group advisement;
- 15 (3) Providing responsive services through consultation with students, families,
16 and staff; individual and small-group counseling; crisis counseling; referrals;
17 and peer facilitation; and
- 18 (4) Performing other student services listed in the Department of Public
19 Instruction school counselor job description that has been approved by the
20 State Board of Education.

21 (b) During the remainder of their work time, counselors shall spend adequate time on
22 school counseling program support activities that consist of professional development;
23 consultation, collaboration, and training; and program management and operations. School
24 counseling program support activities do not include the coordination of standardized testing.
25 However, school counselors may assist other staff with the coordination of standardized
26 testing."

27 **SECTION 2.(c)** Prior to the 2013-2014 school year, each local board of education
28 shall develop a transition plan for implementing subsection (b) of this section within existing
29 resources by reassigning duties within its schools.

30 The State Board of Education shall distribute guidelines to all local school
31 administrative units on the implementation of subsection (b) of this section.

32
33 **PART III. PANIC ALARM SYSTEMS**

34 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 115C-47(40) reads as rewritten:

35 "(40) To adopt emergency response plans. – Local boards of education ~~may~~shall,
36 in coordination with local law enforcement agencies, adopt emergency
37 response plans relating to incidents of school violence. These plans are not a
38 public record as the term "public record" is defined under G.S. 132-1 and
39 shall not be subject to inspection and examination under G.S. 132-6."

40 **SECTION 3.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
41 Public Instruction the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year
42 and the sum of two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year to provide grants
43 to local school administrative units, regional schools, and charter schools for panic alarm
44 systems in schools. These funds shall be matched on the basis of one dollar (\$1.00) in State
45 funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in local funds and shall be used to supplement and not to
46 supplant State, local, and federal funds for panic alarm systems.

47 The State Board of Education shall include need-based considerations in its criteria
48 for awarding these grants to local school administrative units, regional schools, and charter
49 schools.

1 **SECTION 3.(c)** Effective July 1, 2015, every public school shall have a panic
2 alarm system that connects with the nearest local law enforcement agency in the local board of
3 education's emergency response plan.
4

5 **PART IV. SCHOOL SAFETY EXERCISES**

6 **SECTION 4.** Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new section to read:

8 **"§ 115C-105.49. School safety exercises.**

9 (a) At least every two years each local school administrative unit shall hold a full
10 systemwide school safety and school lockdown exercise with the local law enforcement
11 agencies that are part of the local board of education's emergency response plan. The purpose
12 of the exercise shall be to permit participants to (i) discuss simulated emergency situations in a
13 low-stress environment, (ii) clarify their roles and responsibilities and the overall logistics of
14 dealing with an emergency, and (iii) identify areas in which the emergency response plan needs
15 to be modified.

16 (b) At least once a year each school shall hold a full school-wide school safety and
17 lockdown exercise with the local law enforcement agencies that are part of the local board of
18 education's emergency response plan."
19

20 **PART V. SCHEMATIC DIAGRAMS OF SCHOOL FACILITIES**

21 **SECTION 5.** Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
22 adding a new section to read:

23 **"§ 115C-105.50. Schematic diagram of school facilities.**

24 (a) Each local school administrative unit shall prepare schematic diagrams of its school
25 facilities and provide (i) the schematic diagrams and (ii) keys to the main entrance of all school
26 facilities to local law enforcement agencies. Each local school administrative unit shall provide
27 updates of the schematic diagrams to local law enforcement agencies when substantial
28 modifications such as new facilities or modifications to doors and windows are made to school
29 facilities.

30 (b) The Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Public
31 Safety, shall develop standards and guidelines for the preparation and content of schematic
32 diagrams and necessary updates.

33 (c) The schematic diagrams are not public records under Chapter 132 of the General
34 Statutes."
35

36 **PART VI. ANONYMOUS TIP LINE**

37 **SECTION 6.** Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
38 adding a new section to read:

39 **"§ 115C-105.51. Anonymous tip lines.**

40 (a) Each local school administrative unit shall develop and operate an anonymous tip
41 line, in coordination with local law enforcement and social services agencies, to receive
42 anonymous information on internal or external risks to school buildings and school-related
43 activities.

44 (b) The Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Public
45 Safety, shall develop standards and guidelines for the development, operation, and staffing of
46 tip lines.

47 (c) The Department of Public Instruction shall provide information to local school
48 administrative units on federal, State, local, and private grants available for this purpose."
49

50 **PART VII. SCHOOL SAFETY COMPONENT OF SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLANS**

51 **SECTION 7.(a)** G.S. 115C-105.27 reads as rewritten:

1 **"§ 115C-105.27. Development and approval of school improvement plans.**

2 (a) ~~School Improvement Team. – In order to improve student performance, each school~~
3 ~~shall develop a school improvement plan that takes into consideration the annual performance~~
4 ~~goal for that school that is set by the State Board under G.S. 115C-105.35 and the goals set out~~
5 ~~in the mission statement for the public schools adopted by the State Board of Education. The~~
6 ~~principal of each school, representatives of the assistant principals, instructional personnel,~~
7 ~~instructional support personnel, and teacher assistants assigned to the school building, and~~
8 ~~parents of children enrolled in the school shall constitute a school improvement team to team.~~
9 The team shall develop a school improvement plan to improve student performance.

10 Representatives of the assistant principals, instructional personnel, instructional support
11 personnel, and teacher assistants shall be elected by their respective groups by secret ballot.

12 Unless the local board of education has adopted an election policy, parents shall be elected
13 by parents of children enrolled in the school in an election conducted by the parent and teacher
14 organization of the school or, if none exists, by the largest organization of parents formed for
15 this purpose. Parents serving on school improvement teams shall reflect the racial and
16 socioeconomic composition of the students enrolled in that school and shall not be members of
17 the building-level staff.

18 Parental involvement is a critical component of school success and positive student
19 achievement; therefore, it is the intent of the General Assembly that parents, along with
20 teachers, have a substantial role in developing school improvement plans. To this end, school
21 improvement team meetings shall be held at a convenient time to assure substantial parent
22 participation.

23 ~~All school improvement plans shall be, to the greatest extent possible, data-driven. School~~
24 ~~improvement teams shall use the Education Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) or a~~
25 ~~compatible and comparable system approved by the State Board of Education, to analyze~~
26 ~~student data to identify root causes for problems, to determine actions to address them, and to~~
27 ~~appropriately place students in courses such as Algebra I. School improvement plans shall~~
28 ~~contain clear, unambiguous targets, explicit indicators and actual measures, and expeditious~~
29 ~~time frames for meeting the measurement standards.~~

30 (a1) Open Meetings. – School improvement team meetings are subject to the open
31 meetings requirements of Article 33C of Chapter 143 of the General Statutes. Deliberations on
32 the school safety components of the plan shall be in closed session in accordance with
33 G.S. 143-318.11(a)(8). The principal shall ensure that these requirements are met.

34 (a2) Public Records. – The school improvement plan, except for the school safety
35 components of the plan, is a public record subject to Chapter 132 of the General Statutes and
36 shall be posted on the school Web site. The names of the members of the school improvement
37 team, their positions, and the date of their election to the school improvement team shall also be
38 posted on the Web site.

39 The school safety components of the plan are not public records subject to Chapter 132 of
40 the General Statutes.

41 (b) School Improvement Plan. – In order to improve student performance, the school
42 improvement team at each school shall develop a school improvement plan that takes into
43 consideration the annual performance goal for that school that is set by the State Board under
44 G.S. 115C-105.35 and the goals set out in the mission statement for the public schools adopted
45 by the State Board of Education. All school improvement plans shall be, to the greatest extent
46 possible, data-driven. School improvement teams shall use the Education Value Added
47 Assessment System (EVAAS) or a compatible and comparable system approved by the State
48 Board of Education to (i) analyze student data and identify root causes for problems, (ii)
49 determine actions to address them, and (iii) appropriately place students in courses such as
50 Algebra I. School improvement plans shall contain clear, unambiguous targets, explicit

1 indicators and actual measures, and expeditious time frames for meeting the measurement
2 standards.

3 The strategies for improving student performance:

- 4 (1) Shall include a plan for the use of staff development funds that may be made
5 available to the school by the local board of education to implement the
6 school improvement plan. The plan may provide that a portion of these
7 funds is used for mentor training and for release time and substitute teachers
8 while mentors and teachers mentored are meeting;
- 9 (1a) Repealed by Session Laws 2012-142, s. 7A.1(c), effective July 2, 2012.
- 10 (2) Shall include a plan to address school safety and discipline concerns;
- 11 (3) May include a decision to use State funds in accordance with
12 G.S. 115C-105.25;
- 13 (4) Shall include a plan that specifies the effective instructional practices and
14 methods to be used to improve the academic performance of students
15 identified as at risk of academic failure or at risk of dropping out of school;
- 16 (5) May include requests for waivers of State laws, rules, or policies for that
17 school. A request for a waiver shall meet the requirements of
18 G.S. 115C-105.26;
- 19 (6) Shall include a plan to provide a duty-free lunch period for every teacher on
20 a daily basis or as otherwise approved by the school improvement team; and
- 21 (7) Shall include a plan to provide duty-free instructional planning time for
22 every teacher under G.S. 115C-301.1, with the goal of providing an average
23 of at least five hours of planning time per week.

24 (c) School Vote on the Plan. – Support among affected staff members is essential to
25 successful implementation of a school improvement plan to address improved student
26 performance at that school. The principal of the school shall present the proposed school
27 improvement plan to all of the principals, assistant principals, instructional personnel,
28 instructional support personnel, and teacher assistants assigned to the school building for their
29 review and vote. The vote shall be by secret ballot. The principal shall submit the school
30 improvement plan to the local board of education only if the proposed school improvement
31 plan has the approval of a majority of the staff who voted on the plan.

32 (c1) Consideration of the School Safety Components of the Plan. – The superintendent
33 shall review the school safety components of the school improvement plans and make written
34 recommendations on them to the local board of education. Prior to a vote to accept a school's
35 improvement plan in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.25(d), the local board of education shall
36 review the school safety components of the plan for that school in closed session. The board
37 shall make findings on the safety components of the plan. Neither the safety components of the
38 plan nor the board's findings on the safety components of the plan shall be set out in the
39 minutes of the board.

40 (d) Adoption of the Plan. – The local board of education shall accept or reject the
41 school improvement plan. The local board shall not make any substantive changes in any
42 school improvement plan that it accepts. If the local board rejects a school improvement plan,
43 the local board shall state with specificity its reasons for rejecting the plan; the school
44 improvement team may then prepare another plan, present it to the principals, assistant
45 principals, instructional personnel, instructional support personnel, and teacher assistants
46 assigned to the school building for a vote, and submit it to the local board to accept or reject. If
47 no school improvement plan is accepted for a school within 60 days after its initial submission
48 to the local board, the school or the local board may ask to use the process to resolve
49 disagreements recommended in the guidelines developed by the State Board under
50 G.S. 115C-105.20(b)(5). If this request is made, both the school and local board shall
51 participate in the process to resolve disagreements. If there is no request to use that process,

1 then the local board may develop a school improvement plan for the school. The General
2 Assembly urges the local board to utilize the school's proposed school improvement plan to the
3 maximum extent possible when developing such a plan.

4 (e) Effective Period of the Plan. – A school improvement plan shall remain in effect for
5 no more than two years; however, the school improvement team may amend the plan as often
6 as is necessary or appropriate. If, at any time, any part of a school improvement plan becomes
7 unlawful or the local board finds that a school improvement plan is impeding student
8 performance at a school, the local board may vacate the relevant portion of the plan and may
9 direct the school to revise that portion. The procedures set out in this subsection shall apply to
10 amendments and revisions to school improvement plans.

11 (f) Elimination of Other Unnecessary Plans. – If a local board of education finds that a
12 school improvement plan adequately covers another plan that the local school administrative
13 unit is otherwise required to prepare, the local school administrative unit shall not be required
14 to prepare an additional plan on the matter.

15 (g) Compliance With Requirements. – Any employee, parent, or other interested
16 individual or organization is encouraged to notify the principal of any concerns regarding
17 compliance with this section. In addition, any employee, parent, or other interested individual
18 or organization may submit in writing to the superintendent concerns regarding compliance
19 with this section. The superintendent shall make a good-faith effort to investigate the concern.
20 The superintendent shall upon request provide a written response to the concern."

21 **SECTION 7.(b)** G.S. 143-318.11(a)(8) reads as rewritten:

22 "(a) Permitted Purposes. – It is the policy of this State that closed sessions shall be held
23 only when required to permit a public body to act in the public interest as permitted in this
24 section. A public body may hold a closed session and exclude the public only when a closed
25 session is required:

26 ...
27 (8) To formulate plans by a local board of education relating to emergency
28 response to incidents of school violence or to formulate and adopt the school
29 safety components of school improvement plans by a local board of
30 education or a school improvement team.

31"

32 **PART VIII. CRISIS KITS**

33 **SECTION 8.** Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
34 adding a new section to read:

35 **"§ 115C-105.52. School crisis kits.**

36 The Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety
37 through the North Carolina Center for Safer Schools, shall adopt policies on the placement of
38 school crisis kits in schools and on the contents of those kits. The kits shall include at a
39 minimum basic first-aid supplies, communications devices, and other items recommended by
40 the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

41 The principal of each school, in coordination with the law enforcement agencies that are
42 part of the local board of education's emergency response plan, shall place one or more crisis
43 kits at appropriate locations in the school."
44

45 **PART IX. CONFORMING CHANGES FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS AND REGIONAL SCHOOLS**

46 **SECTION 9.(a)** G.S. 115C-238.29F is amended by adding a new subsection to
47 read:

48 "(a1) Emergency Response Plan. – A charter school shall, in coordination with local law
49 enforcement agencies, adopt an emergency response plan relating to incidents of school
50 enforcement agencies, adopt an emergency response plan relating to incidents of school
51

1 violence. These plans are not a public record as the term "public record" is defined under
2 G.S. 132-1 and shall not be subject to inspection and examination under G.S. 132-6.

3 Charter schools shall also comply with the provisions in G.S. 115C-105.49(b),
4 115C-105.50, and 115C-105.52."

5 **SECTION 9.(b)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to
6 read:

7 "(7a) Emergency Response Plan. – A regional school shall, in coordination with local law
8 enforcement agencies, adopt an emergency response plan relating to incidents of school
9 violence. These plans are not a public record as the term "public record" is defined under
10 G.S. 132-1 and shall not be subject to inspection and examination under G.S. 132-6.

11 Regional schools shall also comply with the provisions in G.S. 115C-105.49(b),
12 115C-105.50, and 115C-105.52."

13 14 **PART X. EMERGENCY AND CRISIS TRAINING**

15 **SECTION 10.** The Department of Public Safety, through the North Carolina
16 Center for Safer Schools and in conjunction with the Department of Justice and the Department
17 of Public Instruction, shall develop school emergency and crisis training modules for school
18 employees and provide them to schools as soon as practicable.

19 20 **PART XI. VOLUNTEER SCHOOL SAFETY RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM**

21 **SECTION 11.** G.S. 14-269.2(a) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

22 "(3a) Volunteer school safety resource officer. – A person who volunteers as a
23 school safety resource officer as provided by G.S. 162-25 or
24 G.S. 160A-288.4."

25 **SECTION 12.** G.S. 14-269.2(g) is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

26 "(g) This section shall not apply to any of the following:

27 ...

28 (7) A volunteer school safety resource officer providing security at a school
29 pursuant to an agreement as provided in G.S. 115C-47(61) and either
30 G.S. 162-25 or G.S. 160A-288.4, provided that the volunteer school safety
31 resource officer is acting in the discharge of the person's official duties and
32 is on the educational property of the school that the officer was assigned to
33 by the head of the appropriate local law enforcement agency."

34 **SECTION 13.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

35 "**§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.**

36 In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of education
37 shall have the power or duty:

38 ...

39 (61) To Provide a Safe School Environment. – Local boards of education may
40 enter into an agreement with the sheriff, chief of police of a local police
41 department, or chief of police of a county police department to provide
42 security at the schools by assigning volunteer school safety resource officers
43 who meet the selection standards and criteria developed by the head of the
44 appropriate local law enforcement agency and the criteria set out in
45 G.S. 162-25 or G.S. 160A-288.4, as appropriate."

46 **SECTION 14.** G.S. 160A-282(c) reads as rewritten:

47 "(c) The board of commissioners of any county may provide that persons who are
48 deputized by the sheriff of the county as special deputy sheriffs or persons who are serving as
49 volunteer law-enforcement officers at the request of the sheriff and under his authority, while
50 undergoing official training and while performing duties on behalf of the county pursuant to

1 orders or instructions of the sheriff, shall be entitled to benefits under the North Carolina
2 Workers' Compensation Act and to any fringe benefits for which such persons qualify.

3 This subsection shall not apply to volunteer school safety resource officers as described in
4 G.S. 162-25."

5 **SECTION 15.** Chapter 162 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new
6 section to read:

7 **"§ 162-25. Sheriff may establish volunteer school safety resource officer program.**

8 (a) The sheriff may establish a volunteer school safety resource officer program to
9 provide nonsalaried special deputies to serve as school safety resource officers in public
10 schools. To be a volunteer in the program, a person must have prior experience as either (i) a
11 sworn law enforcement officer or (ii) as a military police officer with a minimum of two years'
12 service. If a person with experience as a military police officer is no longer in the armed
13 services, the person must also have an honorable discharge. A program volunteer must receive
14 training on research into the social and cognitive development of elementary, middle, and high
15 school children and must also meet the selection standards and any additional criteria
16 established by the sheriff.

17 (b) Each volunteer shall report to the sheriff and shall work under the direction and
18 supervision of the sheriff or the sheriff's designee when carrying out the volunteer's duties as a
19 school safety resource officer. No volunteer may be assigned to a school as a school safety
20 resource officer until the volunteer has updated or renewed the volunteer's law enforcement
21 training and has been certified by the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training
22 Standards Commission as meeting the educational and firearms proficiency standards required
23 of persons serving as special deputy sheriffs. A volunteer is not required to meet the physical
24 standards required by the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standards
25 Commission but must have a standard medical exam to ensure the volunteer is in good health.
26 A person selected by the sheriff to serve as a volunteer under this section shall have the power
27 of arrest while performing official duties as a volunteer school safety resource officer.

28 (c) The sheriff may enter into an agreement with the local board of education to provide
29 volunteer school safety resource officers who meet both the criteria established by this section
30 and the selection and training requirements set by the sheriff of the county for the schools. The
31 sheriff shall be responsible for the assignment of any volunteer school safety resource officer
32 assigned to a public school and for the supervision of the officer.

33 (d) There shall be no liability on the part of and no cause of action shall arise against a
34 volunteer school safety resource officer, the Sheriff or employees of the sheriff supervising a
35 volunteer school safety officer, or the public school system or its employees for any good faith
36 action taken by them in the performance of their duties with regard to the volunteer school
37 safety resource officer program established pursuant to this section."

38 **SECTION 16.** Article 13 of Chapter 160A of the General Statutes is amended by
39 adding a new section to read:

40 **"§ 160A-288.4. Police chief may establish volunteer school safety resource officer**
41 **program.**

42 (a) The chief of police of a local police department or of a county police department
43 may establish a volunteer school safety resource officer program to provide nonsalaried special
44 law enforcement officers to serve as school safety resource officers in public schools. To be a
45 volunteer in the program, a person must have prior experience as either (i) a sworn law
46 enforcement officer or (ii) as a military police officer with a minimum of two years' service. If
47 a person with experience as a military police officer is no longer in the armed services, the
48 person must also have an honorable discharge. A program volunteer must receive training on
49 research into the social and cognitive development of elementary, middle, and high school
50 children and must also meet the selection standards and any additional criteria established by
51 the chief of police.

1 **(b)** Each volunteer shall report to the chief of police and shall work under the direction
2 and supervision of the chief of police or the chief's designee when carrying out the volunteer's
3 duties as a school safety resource officer. No volunteer may be assigned to a school as a school
4 safety resource officer until the volunteer has updated or renewed the volunteer's law
5 enforcement training and has been certified by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education
6 and Training Standards Commission as meeting the educational and firearms proficiency
7 standards required of persons serving as criminal justice officers. A volunteer is not required to
8 meet the physical standards required by the North Carolina Criminal Justice Education and
9 Training Standards Commission but must have a standard medical exam to ensure the volunteer
10 is in good health. A person selected by the chief of police to serve as a volunteer under this
11 section shall have the power of arrest while performing official duties as a volunteer school
12 safety resource officer.

13 **(c)** The chief of police may enter into an agreement with the local board of education to
14 provide volunteer school safety resource officers who meet both the criteria established by this
15 section and the selection and training requirements set by the chief of police of the municipality
16 or county in which the schools are located. The chief of police shall be responsible for the
17 assignment of any volunteer school safety resource officer assigned to a public school and for
18 the supervision of the officer.

19 **(d)** There shall be no liability on the part of and no cause of action shall arise against a
20 volunteer school safety resource officer, the chief of police or employees of the local law
21 enforcement agency supervising a volunteer school safety officer, or the public school system
22 or its employees for any good faith action taken by them in the performance of their duties with
23 regard to the volunteer school safety resource officer program established pursuant to this
24 section."

25 **PART XII. EFFECTIVE DATE**

26 **SECTION 17.** Sections 1 through 10 of this act become effective July 1, 2013.
27 Sections 11 through 16 of this act become effective December 1, 2013. Sections 4 through 9 of
28 this act apply beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. The schematic diagrams and keys to
29 the main entrance of all school facilities referenced in Section 5 of this act shall be provided to
30 local law enforcement prior to January 1, 2014.
31