

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013

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HOUSE BILL 969  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H969-PCS10361-TB-17

Short Title: Broaden Successful AP Participation.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 18, 2013

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO BROADEN SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION BY STUDENTS IN  
3 ADVANCED COURSES TO HELP ELIMINATE ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCESS  
4 GAPS AND TO CREATE PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR SCHOOLS AND  
5 TEACHERS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE IN ADVANCED COURSES.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12(9)c1. reads as rewritten:

8 "c1. To issue an annual "report card" for the State and for each local  
9 school administrative unit, assessing each unit's efforts to improve  
10 student performance based on the growth in performance of the  
11 students in each school and taking into account progress over the  
12 previous years' level of performance and the State's performance in  
13 comparison with other states. This assessment shall take into account  
14 factors that have been shown to affect student performance and that  
15 the State Board considers relevant to assess the State's efforts to  
16 improve student performance. As a part of the annual "report card"  
17 for each local school administrative unit, the State Board shall award  
18 an overall numerical school performance score on a scale of zero to  
19 100 and a corresponding letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F earned by  
20 each school within the local school administrative unit. The school  
21 performance score and grade shall reflect student performance on  
22 annual subject-specific assessments, college and workplace readiness  
23 measures, and graduation rates. For schools serving students in any  
24 grade from kindergarten to eighth grade, separate performance scores  
25 and grades shall also be awarded based on the school performance in  
26 reading and mathematics respectively. The annual "report card" for  
27 schools serving students in third grade also shall include the number  
28 and percentage of third grade students who (i) take and pass the  
29 alternative assessment of reading comprehension; (ii) were retained  
30 in third grade for not demonstrating reading proficiency as indicated  
31 in G.S. 115C-83.7(a); and (iii) were exempt from mandatory third  
32 grade retention by category of exemption as listed in  
33 G.S. 115C-83.7(b). The annual "report card" for high schools shall  
34 also include measures of Advanced Placement course participation  
35 and International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme participation



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1 and Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate  
2 examination participation and performance."

3 **SECTION 2.** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
4 adding a new section to read:

5 **"§ 115C-83.4A. Advanced courses.**

6 (a) It is the intent of the State to enhance accessibility and encourage students to enroll  
7 in and successfully complete more rigorous advanced courses to enable success in  
8 postsecondary education for all students. For the purpose of this section, an advanced course is  
9 an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course. To attain  
10 this goal, to the extent funds are made available for this purpose, the following shall be  
11 provided:

12 (1) Students enrolled in public schools shall be exempt from paying any fees for  
13 administration of examinations for advanced courses and registration fees  
14 for advanced courses in which the student is enrolled regardless of the score  
15 the student achieves on an examination.

16 (2) Bonuses shall be awarded to teachers of Advanced Placement courses for  
17 students who earn scores of three or higher on Advanced Placement  
18 examinations and to teachers of International Baccalaureate Diploma  
19 Programme courses for students who score four or higher on International  
20 Baccalaureate examinations.

21 (b) Eligible secondary students shall be encouraged to enroll in advanced courses to  
22 expose them to more rigorous coursework while still in secondary school. Successfully  
23 completing advanced courses will increase the quality and level of students' preparation for  
24 postsecondary career paths and their pursuit of higher education.

25 (c) The results of student diagnostic tests administered pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.18  
26 and G.S. 115C-174.22, such as the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying  
27 Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and ACT, shall be used to identify students who are prepared or who  
28 need additional work to be prepared to enroll and be successful in advanced courses.

29 (d) Local boards of education shall provide information to students and parents on  
30 available opportunities and the enrollment process for students to take advanced courses. The  
31 information shall explain the value of advanced courses in preparing students for postsecondary  
32 level coursework, enabling students to gain access to postsecondary opportunities, and  
33 qualifying for scholarships and other financial aid opportunities.

34 (e) Local boards of education shall ensure that all high school students have access to  
35 advanced courses in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Such access may  
36 be provided through enrollment in courses offered through or approved by the North Carolina  
37 Virtual Public School.

38 (f) The State Board of Education shall seek a partner, such as the College Board, to  
39 form the North Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership, hereinafter referred to as  
40 Partnership, to assist in improving college readiness of secondary students and to assist  
41 secondary schools to ensure that students have access to high-quality, rigorous academics with  
42 a focus on access to Advanced Placement courses.

43 In order to implement its responsibilities under this section, the partner selected by the State  
44 Board of Education shall provide staff to do the following:

45 (1) Provide professional development in the form of support and training to  
46 enable teachers of Advanced Placement courses to have the necessary  
47 content knowledge, instructional skills, and materials to prepare students for  
48 success in Advanced Placement courses and examinations and mastery of  
49 postsecondary course content.

- 1           (2) Provide administrators, including principals and counselors, with  
2           professional development that will enable them to create strong and effective  
3           Advanced Placement courses in their schools.  
4           (3) Provide teachers of students in grades seven through 12 with preadvanced  
5           course professional development and materials that prepare students for  
6           success in Advanced Placement courses.  
7           (4) Provide consulting expertise and technical assistance to support  
8           implementation.  
9           (5) Prioritize assistance to schools designated as low-performing by the State  
10           Board of Education and provide for frequent visits to the schools targeted by  
11           the Partnership.

12           (g) The Partnership shall report annually to the Department of Public Instruction on the  
13           Partnership's implementation of its responsibilities under subsection (f) of this section."

14           **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-174.18 reads as rewritten:

15           "**§ 115C-174.18. Opportunity to take ~~Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test.~~Preliminary**  
16           **SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).**

17           Every student in the eighth through tenth grades who has completed Algebra I or who is in  
18           the last month of Algebra I shall be given an opportunity to take a version of ~~the Preliminary~~  
19           ~~Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)~~ either the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship  
20           Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or the ACT Test, at the discretion of the local school  
21           administrative unit, one time at State expense, no cost to the student. The maximum amount of  
22           State funds used for this purpose shall be the cost of the PSAT/NMSQT."

23           **SECTION 4.(a)** For the purposes of this section, the term "advanced courses"  
24           means an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course. The  
25           State Board of Education shall use funds appropriated in this act to do the following:

- 26           (1) Provide incentive funding to local school administrative units to be  
27           distributed to teachers of advanced courses as follows:  
28           a. A bonus in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each student  
29           taught by an advanced course teacher in each advanced course who  
30           receives the following score:  
31           1. For Advanced Placement courses, a score of three or higher  
32           on the College Board Advanced Placement Examination.  
33           2. For International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme courses,  
34           a score of four or higher on the International Baccalaureate  
35           course examination.  
36           b. An additional bonus of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to each  
37           advanced course teacher who teaches in a school identified as  
38           low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37 by the State Board of  
39           Education and who is eligible to receive a bonus under  
40           sub-subdivision a. of this section. The teacher shall be eligible to  
41           receive the additional bonus regardless of the number of classes  
42           taught or the number of students receiving scores which make the  
43           teacher eligible to receive a bonus under sub-subdivision a. of this  
44           section.  
45           c. No teacher shall be awarded a bonus pursuant to this subdivision that  
46           exceeds two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in any given school year. The  
47           bonus awarded to a teacher pursuant to this subdivision shall be in  
48           addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher receives or is  
49           scheduled to receive.  
50           (2) Provide funds to local school administrative units to pay testing fees for  
51           advanced courses for all students.

- 1 (3) Provide funds to the North Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership for  
2 professional development for teachers of Advanced Placement courses.

3 **SECTION 4.(b)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to appropriate the sum of  
4 fourteen million seven hundred sixty thousand six hundred nine dollars (\$14,760,609) for the  
5 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of fifteen million eight hundred two thousand eight hundred  
6 dollars (\$15,802,800) for the 2014-2015 fiscal year from the General Fund to the Department  
7 of Public Instruction to implement this act. Of these amounts, ten million forty-six thousand  
8 one hundred thirty dollars (\$10,046,130) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and ten million eight  
9 hundred thirty-one thousand one hundred eighty-four dollars (\$10,831,184) for the 2014-2015  
10 fiscal year shall be used to fund fees for testing in advanced courses, three million two hundred  
11 fourteen thousand four hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$3,214,479) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year  
12 and three million four hundred seventy-one thousand six hundred sixteen dollars (\$3,471,616)  
13 for the 2014-2015 fiscal year shall be used for teacher bonuses, and one million five hundred  
14 thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for each fiscal year shall be used by the North Carolina  
15 Advanced Placement Partnership to carry out its responsibilities under this act. Funding  
16 appropriated for professional development may be used by the State Board of Education to  
17 contract with an independent evaluator to assess the implementation and impact of advanced  
18 course programs in North Carolina.

19 **SECTION 5.** For the purposes of this section, the term "advanced courses" means  
20 an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course. The State  
21 Board of Education shall report annually beginning July 1, 2014, to the Joint Legislative  
22 Education Oversight Committee on advanced courses in North Carolina. The report shall  
23 include, at a minimum, the following information:

- 24 (1) The North Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership's report to the  
25 Department of Public Instruction on the Partnership's implementation of its  
26 responsibilities under this act and the State Board's assessment of that report.  
27 (2) Number of students enrolled in advanced courses and participating in  
28 advanced course examinations, including demographic information by  
29 gender, race, and free and reduced lunch status.  
30 (3) Student performance on advanced course examinations, including  
31 information by course, local school administrative unit, and school.  
32 (4) Number of students participating in 10th grade PSAT/NMSQT testing.  
33 (5) Number of teachers attending summer institutes offered by the North  
34 Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership.  
35 (6) Number and distribution of teachers awarded bonuses for student advanced  
36 course examination performance.  
37 (7) Distribution of funding appropriated for advanced course testing fees,  
38 bonuses, and professional development by local school administrative unit  
39 and school.  
40 (8) Status and efforts of the North Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership.  
41 (9) Other trends in advanced courses and examinations.

42 **SECTION 6.(a)** Nothing in this act shall require the General Assembly to  
43 appropriate funds to implement it.

44 **SECTION 6.(b)** This act becomes effective only if the General Assembly  
45 appropriates funds to implement it in the amounts set out in Section 4 of this act for the  
46 2013-2015 fiscal biennium. If such funds are appropriated, this act becomes effective July 1,  
47 2013, and applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.