

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 751  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H751-PCS30397-TC-30

Short Title: Career and College Ready/High School Grads.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 13, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL STUDENTS WHO RECEIVE A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA  
3 ENDORSEMENT TO DEMONSTRATE A CERTAIN LEVEL OF READING  
4 ACHIEVEMENT AND TO REQUIRE THE SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC  
5 INSTRUCTION TO STUDY BEST PRACTICES TO ENSURE STUDENTS COMPLETE  
6 HIGH SCHOOL WITH THE NECESSARY LITERACY SKILLS FOR CAREER AND  
7 COLLEGE READINESS.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12(40) reads as rewritten:

10 "(40) To Establish High School Diploma Endorsements. – The State Board of  
11 Education shall establish, implement, and determine the impact of adding (i)  
12 college, (ii) career, and (iii) college and career endorsements to high school  
13 diplomas to encourage students to obtain requisite job skills necessary for  
14 that student to be successful in a wide range of high-quality careers and to  
15 reduce the need for remedial education in institutions of higher education.  
16 These endorsements shall reflect courses completed, overall grade point  
17 average, reading achievement, and other criteria as developed by the State  
18 Board of Education. A student shall only receive a high school diploma  
19 endorsement if that student receives on a nationally norm-referenced college  
20 admissions test for reading, either administered under  
21 G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(4) or as an alternative nationally norm-referenced  
22 college admissions test approved by the State Board, at least the benchmark  
23 score established by the testing organization that represents the level of  
24 achievement required for students to have approximately a fifty percent  
25 (50%) chance of obtaining a grade B or higher or a seventy-five percent  
26 (75%) chance of obtaining a grade C or higher in a corresponding  
27 credit-bearing first-year college course. A student may retake a nationally  
28 norm-referenced test as many times as necessary to achieve the required  
29 benchmark score for reading in order to receive a high school diploma  
30 endorsement prior to the student's graduation. The State Board of Education  
31 shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
32 on (i) the impact of awarding these endorsements on high school graduation,  
33 college acceptance and remediation, and post-high school employment  
34 rates-rates, (ii) the number of students who had to retake a nationally  
35 norm-referenced college admissions test to meet the reading benchmark  
36 score required by this subdivision to receive a high school diploma



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1                   endorsement, and (iii) the number of students who were not awarded a high  
2                   school diploma endorsement solely because of the inability to meet the  
3                   benchmark score for reading as required by this subdivision."

4                   **SECTION 2.** The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall study and make  
5 recommendations on best practices for public schools in the State to improve reading  
6 comprehension, understanding, and application for students in grades four through 12 to ensure  
7 that students complete high school with literacy skills necessary for career and college  
8 readiness. The study shall include recommendations on appropriate methods to monitor student  
9 progress and provide appropriate and timely remediation to students to ensure success on  
10 nationally norm-referenced college admissions tests. The Superintendent may appoint an  
11 advisory group to assist and advise in this study that may include superintendents, principals,  
12 reading instructors, representatives from research institutions, and other individuals as  
13 determined by the Superintendent. The Superintendent may contract with an independent  
14 research organization from funds available to the Department of Public Instruction to assist in  
15 the study. The Superintendent shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
16 Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of  
17 Representatives, and the State Board of Education on the study, including any findings and  
18 recommendations, no later than January 15, 2019. The State Board of Education may use the  
19 findings and recommendations to inform the Board's policies and may submit additional  
20 comments on the report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the President  
21 Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than  
22 February 15, 2019.

23                   **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
24 high school diploma endorsements awarded in the 2019-2020 school year.