

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL DRS35342-MTa-159

Short Title: Fully Fund School Counselors & Psychologists. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators McKissick, Chaudhuri, and Foushee (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO FULLY FUND SCHOOL COUNSELORS AND SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS
3 OVER THREE YEARS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
6 adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 115C-316.2. Appropriation for School Counselors and Psychologists.**

8 (a) Beginning with the 2018-2019 fiscal year, there is appropriated from the General
9 Fund to the Department of Public Instruction for the following fiscal years the following amounts
10 to the instructional support allotment:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Appropriation</u>
<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>\$87,300,000</u>
<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>\$174,700,000</u>
<u>2020-2021 and each subsequent fiscal year thereafter</u>	<u>\$262,000,000.</u>

15 (b) When developing the base budget, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year
16 specified in subsection (a) of this section, the Director of the Budget shall include the
17 appropriated amount for that fiscal year.

18 (c) Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) of this section shall be allocated to local
19 school administrative units to increase positions for school counselors and school psychologists
20 to the following statewide ratios of personnel to students in the following fiscal years:

<u>Fiscal Year</u>	<u>Counselors</u>	<u>Psychologists</u>
<u>2018-2019</u>	<u>1:322</u>	<u>1:1,234</u>
<u>2019-2020</u>	<u>1:282</u>	<u>1:895</u>
<u>2020-2021 and each subsequent fiscal year thereafter</u>	<u>1:250</u>	<u>1:700.</u>

25 (d) School counselors hired from funds provided pursuant to subsection (a) of this section
26 shall have, as a first responsibility, preventative and responsive services, as provided in
27 G.S. 115C-316.1(3), including mental health counseling."

28 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-316.1(a)(3) reads as rewritten:

29 "(3) Providing preventative and responsive services through consultation with
30 students, families, and staff; individual and small group counseling; crisis
31 counseling; referrals; and peer facilitation."

32 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2018.



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