

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL DRS45097-MK-82 (02/15)

Short Title: Modify School Performance Grades. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Waddell, J. Jackson, and McKissick (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE CALCULATION OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE GRADES AND  
3 TO DIRECT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION TO STUDY POTENTIAL  
4 FACTORS TO INCLUDE IN THE CALCULATION OF GRADES.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-83.15 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 115C-83.15. School achievement, growth, performance scores, and grades.

8 ...  
9 (d) Calculation of the School Performance Scores and Grades. – The State Board of  
10 Education shall use EVAAS to calculate the school performance score by adding the school  
11 achievement score, as provided in subsection (b) of this section, and the school growth score, as  
12 provided in subsection (c) of this section, earned by a school. The school achievement score shall  
13 account for ~~eighty percent (80%)~~, ~~fifty percent (50%)~~, and the school growth score shall account  
14 for ~~twenty percent (20%)~~ fifty percent (50%) of the total sum. If a school has met expected growth  
15 and inclusion of the school's growth score reduces the school's performance score and grade, a  
16 school may choose to use the school achievement score solely to calculate the performance score  
17 and grade. For all schools, the total school performance score shall be converted to a 100-point  
18 scale and used to determine a school performance grade based on the following scale:

- 19 (1) A school performance score of at least 90 is equivalent to an overall school  
20 performance grade of A.  
21 (2) A school performance score of at least 80 is equivalent to an overall school  
22 performance grade of B.  
23 (3) A school performance score of at least 70 is equivalent to an overall school  
24 performance grade of C.  
25 (4) A school performance score of at least 60 is equivalent to an overall school  
26 performance grade of D.  
27 (5) A school performance score of less than 60 points is equivalent to an overall  
28 school performance grade of F.

29 (e) Elementary and Middle School Reading and Math Achievement Scores. – For schools  
30 serving students in kindergarten through eighth grade, the school achievement scores in reading  
31 and mathematics, respectively, shall be reported separately on the annual school report card  
32 provided under G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, 115C-238.66, and 116-239.8.

33 (f) Indication and Significance of Growth. – In addition to awarding the overall school  
34 scores for achievement, growth, and performance and the performance grade, using EVAAS, the  
35 State Board shall designate that a school has met, exceeded, or has not met expected growth. The  
36 designation of student growth shall be clearly displayed in the annual school report card provided



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1 under G.S. 115C-12(9)c1., 115C-218.65, 115C-238.66, and 116-239.8. For schools that receive a  
2 letter grade of B or lower, if the school has exceeded growth, the State Board shall assign a  
3 performance grade one letter grade higher than the school performance grade determined for the  
4 school under subsection (d) of this section."

5 **SECTION 2.(a)** The State Board of Education shall create a task force within the  
6 Department of Public Instruction to study the school performance grading system calculation  
7 method and distribution of those grades under G.S. 115C-83.15. The task force shall consider the  
8 method of calculation of school performance grades in other states and the inclusion of additional  
9 school performance indicators in the school performance grading system calculation method that  
10 may more accurately reflect the overall performance of a school, including the number of a  
11 school's accelerated courses and industry certifications, points for advanced placement courses,  
12 graduation rate, at-risk graduation rate, and scores of students taking SAT and ACT.

13 **SECTION 2.(b)** By December 15, 2017, the State Board of Education shall report to  
14 the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the findings of the study, including  
15 recommendations and any legislative proposals for modifications to the school performance  
16 grading system.

17 **SECTION 3.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the  
18 2017-2018 school year.