

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 755
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/4/21
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H755-PCS40550-TC-35

Short Title: Academic Transparency.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 3, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ENSURE ACADEMIC TRANSPARENCY.

3 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

4 **SECTION 1.** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding
5 a new section to read:

6 "**§ 115C-102.1. Inform the public about instructional materials.**

7 (a) The following definitions apply in this section:

8 (1) Instructional material. – Any material used for instruction, including, but not
9 limited to, all textbooks, other reading materials, videos, digital materials,
10 websites, and other online applications.

11 (2) Lesson plan. – An outline of all of the following:

12 a. The instruction provided by a teacher for a course that includes a list
13 of (i) all instructional materials assigned, distributed, or otherwise
14 presented in the course and (ii) when students must select instructional
15 materials from a defined list, all instructional materials on that list.

16 b. Each grade- or school-wide presentation, assembly, lecture, or other
17 activity or event facilitated by the school during instructional hours
18 outside of an individual teacher's classroom, excluding student
19 presentations. The outline shall include a list of (i) each presenter by
20 name and organization and (ii) any instructional material used or
21 presented.

22 (b) The governing body of a public school unit shall ensure that the following information
23 for each school it governs is prominently displayed on the school website, organized, at a
24 minimum, by subject area and grade level:

25 (1) The lesson plans that were used at the school during the prior school year.
26 Lesson plans shall identify, at a minimum, (i) all instructional materials by the
27 title and the author, organization, or website associated with each material and
28 activity, (ii) a brief descriptor of the instructional material, and (iii) a link to
29 the instructional material, if publicly available on the internet, or information
30 on how to request review of a copy of the instructional material in person. If
31 individual components of instructional materials used throughout the lesson
32 plan are produced as a single volume, that volume may be listed only once in
33 the lesson plan. If the instructional material was created by the teacher, the
34 lesson plan shall identify the teacher as the author. Nothing in this section



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1 shall be construed to require the digital reproduction or posting of copies of
2 the instructional materials themselves.

3 (2) Any procedures for the documentation, review, or approval of the lesson
4 plans, including instructional materials identified in those plans, by the
5 principal, curriculum administrators, or other teachers.

6 (3) The procedure established by the governing board for requesting an in-person
7 review of an instructional material not publicly available on the internet.

8 (c) The governing body shall provide access from the website of the public school unit
9 to the information required by subsection (b) of this section by June 30 of each year either through
10 a website maintained by the public school unit or by a link to another website where the
11 information is publicly accessible. Public access to the information for the school year ending
12 June 30 shall be maintained by the public school unit until June 30 of the following year. The
13 Department of Public Instruction shall make available to public school units one or more
14 templates for providing information as required by this section. A public school unit may exercise
15 flexibility in determining the most effective means of compliance with the requirements of this
16 section, including, but not limited to, utilizing any of the following in its discretion:

17 (1) Providing a template created by the Department of Public Instruction to
18 teachers to facilitate reporting of lesson plans.

19 (2) Creating one or more templates to provide to teachers to facilitate reporting of
20 lesson plans. The public school unit may customize templates for grades or
21 courses and may autopopulate any instructional materials required by the
22 public school unit as part of the curriculum for a particular grade or course.

23 (3) Allowing utilization of online collaborative software, documents, or
24 spreadsheets to allow multiple authorized users to update content.

25 (4) Authorizing updating lesson plans throughout the school year, if all updates
26 are completed by June 30.

27 (d) A governing body that is responsible for the operation of schools with fewer than 400
28 students cumulatively is not required to comply with the requirements of this section."

29 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

30 "(9e) Duty to Inform the Public About Instructional Materials. – The Board shall
31 ensure that information about instructional materials for any school operated
32 under Article 7A and Article 9C of this Chapter is prominently displayed on
33 the website of the school, as required by G.S. 115C-102.1."

34 **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

35 "(58a) To Inform the Public About Instructional Materials. – Local boards of
36 education shall ensure that information about instructional materials for each
37 school in the local school administrative unit is prominently displayed on the
38 website of the school, as required by G.S. 115C-102.1."

39 **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

40 "(11a) Instructional materials. – The board of directors shall ensure that information
41 about instructional materials is prominently displayed on the website of the
42 regional school, in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.1."

43 **SECTION 5** G.S. 115C-218.85 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

44 "(c) Instructional Materials. – A charter school shall ensure that information about
45 instructional materials is prominently displayed on the website of the charter school, in
46 accordance with G.S. 115C-102.1."

47 **SECTION 6.** Article 4 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding
48 a new section to read:

49 **§ 116-69.2. Inform the public about instructional materials.**

1 The Board of Trustees shall ensure that information about instructional materials is
2 prominently displayed on the website of the North Carolina School of the Arts for all elementary,
3 middle, and high school programs, in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.1."

4 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 116-235 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5 "(j) Instructional Materials. – The Board of Trustees shall ensure that information about
6 instructional materials is prominently displayed on the website of the School, in accordance with
7 G.S. 115C-102.1."

8 **SECTION 8.** G.S. 116-239.8(b) reads as rewritten:

9 "(b) The chancellor shall be the administrative head of a laboratory school approved by
10 the Subcommittee and shall provide general direction for the establishment and operation of a
11 laboratory school. The chancellor, with advice and input from the advisory board established in
12 subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall adopt policies, operating procedures, and the courses of
13 study to govern the operation of the laboratory school. The chancellor may designate the duties
14 required by this Article to other personnel as necessary. The chancellor shall also have the
15 following powers and duties:

16 ...

17 (2a) Instructional materials. – The chancellor shall ensure that information about
18 instructional materials is prominently displayed on the website of the
19 laboratory school, in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.1.

20 "

21 **SECTION 9.** Section 6(d) of S.L. 2018-32 is amended by adding a new subdivision
22 to read:

23 "(5a) G.S. 115C-102.1, Inform the public about instructional materials."

24 **SECTION 10.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
25 law and applies beginning with the display of instructional materials used during the 2021-2022
26 school year no later than June 30, 2022.