

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

H.B. 262  
Mar 2, 2023  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40139-TC-26A

Short Title: School Assignment Zones. (Local)

Sponsors: Representative Shepard.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE SCHOOL ASSIGNMENT ZONES THAT ALLOW STUDENTS THE  
3 OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND THE SCHOOLS CLOSEST TO THEIR PLACE OF  
4 RESIDENCE IN ONSLOW COUNTY SCHOOLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-366(b) reads as rewritten:

7 "(b) Each local board of education shall assign to a public school each student qualified  
8 for assignment under this section. For students in middle and high schools, the local board of  
9 education shall establish zones of attendance reflecting the capacity of each school building and  
10 shall assign students to the geographically closest middle or high school to that student's  
11 residence. In the event that a school building has reached capacity, a local board of education  
12 shall reassign students to the next school with capacity geographically closest to that student's  
13 residence. The local board of education may assign students to attend other middle or high  
14 schools to participate in magnet or other special programs offered at those schools with parental  
15 consent. Except as otherwise provided by law, the authority of each board of education in the  
16 matter of assignment of children to the public schools shall be full and complete, and its decision  
17 as to the assignment of any child to any school shall be final."

18 **SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-366(b), as amended by this act, students  
19 enrolled in a middle or high school in Onslow County in the 2022-2023 school year may, in the  
20 discretion of that student's parents, remain enrolled in that school until the student completes the  
21 grades offered at that school, rather than attend the school with capacity that is geographically  
22 closest to that student's residence. Except as provided in this section, Onslow County Schools  
23 shall assign students to the geographically closest school in accordance with G.S. 115C-366(b),  
24 as amended by this act, beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

25 **SECTION 3.** This act applies only to Onslow County Schools.

26 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.

