

TABLED



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

AMENDMENT NO. A8
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 1 of 15

Amends Title [NO]
Second Edition

Date _____, 2024

Senator Hunt

1 moves to amend the bill on page 15, lines 41-42, by rewriting the lines to read:

2
3 "a. Ten percent (10%) of their monthly salary, excluding the supplements
4 provided pursuant to sub-subdivision b. of this subdivision and
5 subsection (c1) of this section."
6

7 and on page 15, line 49, to page 16, line 1, by inserting between the lines the following:

8
9 "SECTION 6.1.(c1) In addition to any salary otherwise received under this schedule,
10 school psychologists shall receive the following salary supplements:

- 11 (1) The sum of six hundred fifty dollars (\$650.00) per month.
12 (2) School psychologists who have a Nationally Certified School Psychologist
13 (NCSP) credential shall receive a salary supplement each month of twelve
14 percent (12%) of their monthly salary."
15

16 and on page 16, lines 1-3, by deleting the lines;

17
18 and on page 16, lines 19-20, by inserting between the lines the following:

19
20 "SECTION 6.1.(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
21 requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection
22 (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the sum of eight million one hundred thousand
23 dollars (\$8,100,000) in recurring funds for the compensation increases for school psychologists
24 provided in subsection (c1) of this section."
25

26 and on page 17, lines 48-50, by deleting the lines;

27
28 and on page 19, lines 16-19, by deleting the lines;

29
30 and on page 20, lines 35-46, by rewriting the lines to read:

31
32 "NONCERTIFIED PERSONNEL SALARIES



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 2 of 15

1 **SECTION 6.6.(a)** Beginning with the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the State Board of
2 Education shall increase the minimum of all salary grades and ranges it maintains for noncertified
3 public school employees, as necessary, to achieve a minimum hourly compensation rate of
4 seventeen dollars (\$17.00) per hour.

5 **SECTION 6.6.(b)** For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, beginning July 1, 2024, the annual
6 salary for noncertified public school employees whose salaries are supported from State funds
7 shall be increased as follows:

8 (1) For permanent, full-time employees on a 12-month contract, by the greater of
9 the following:

- 10 a. Three percent (3%).
11 b. An amount necessary to increase the minimum hourly compensation
12 rate of the employee to seventeen dollars (\$17.00) per hour pursuant
13 to subsection (a) of this section.

14 (2) For the following employees, by an equitable amount based on the amounts
15 specified in subdivision (1) of this subsection:

- 16 a. Permanent, full-time employees on a contract for fewer than 12
17 months.
18 b. Permanent, part-time employees.
19 c. Temporary and permanent hourly employees.

20 **SECTION 6.6.(c)** Funds provided to local school administrative units pursuant to
21 this section may be used to supplement the salaries of noncertified public school employees
22 whose salaries are supported from non-State funds to meet the minimum hourly rate of at least
23 seventeen dollars (\$17.00) per hour required by subsection (a) of this section. These funds shall
24 not be used to supplant State or non-State funds already provided for salaries of noncertified
25 public school employees.

26 **SECTION 6.6.(d)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
27 requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection
28 (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the sum of one hundred forty-five million
29 dollars (\$145,000,000) in recurring funds to implement the minimum hourly rate of at least
30 seventeen dollars (\$17.00) per hour required by subsection (a) of this section.";

31
32 and on page 20, lines 46-47, by inserting between the lines the following:

33
34 **"RESTORE LONGEVITY PAYMENTS FOR EDUCATORS**

35 **SECTION 6.6A.(a)** Section 9.1(d) of S.L. 2014-100 is repealed.

36 **SECTION 6.6A.(b)** For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, annual longevity payments for
37 teachers and instructional support personnel shall be at the rate of one and one-half percent
38 (1.5%) of base salary for 10 to 14 years of State service, two and twenty-five hundredths percent
39 (2.25%) of base salary for 15 to 19 years of State service, three and twenty-five hundredths
40 percent (3.25%) of base salary for 20 to 24 years of State service, and four and one-half percent
41 (4.5%) of base salary for 25 or more years of State service. The longevity payment shall be paid
42 in a lump sum once per year.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 3 of 15

1 **SECTION 6.6A.(c)** For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, longevity payments for principals
2 and assistant principals shall be as provided for State employees under the North Carolina Human
3 Resources Act.

4 **SECTION 6.6A.(d)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
5 requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection
6 (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the sum of one hundred forty million three
7 hundred thousand dollars (\$140,300,000) in recurring funds to restore longevity payments for
8 educators pursuant to this section.

9 **SECTION 6.6A.(e)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2024.";

10
11 and on page 28, lines 49-50, by inserting between the lines the following:

12
13 **"SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS GRANT PROGRAM**

14 **SECTION 6.10A.(a)** Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended
15 by adding a new section to read:

16 **"§ 115C-316.6. School Psychologists Grant Program.**

17 (a) The Department of Public Instruction shall establish the School Psychologists Grant
18 Program (Program) to improve the safety, mental health, and well-being of students by providing
19 grants to public school units to recruit school psychologists, to the extent funds are made
20 available for this purpose, as follows:

21 (1) Grant application. – A public school unit may submit an application to the
22 Superintendent of Public Instruction to receive a grant pursuant to this
23 subdivision. The application shall identify current and ongoing needs for
24 school psychologist services, including needs related to recruitment, and
25 estimated costs associated with those needs.

26 (2) Criteria and guidelines. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall
27 develop criteria and guidelines for the administration and use of the grants
28 under the Program, including any documentation required to be submitted by
29 applicants.

30 (3) Award of funds. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall award grants
31 to public school units to provide signing bonuses to recruit school
32 psychologists, as follows:

33 a. The Department shall prioritize the award of funds to public school
34 units that do not employ a full-time school psychologist at the time the
35 application is submitted.

36 b. No individual bonus shall be greater than five thousand dollars
37 (\$5,000).

38 c. As a condition of accepting a signing bonus, a school psychologist
39 shall agree to remain employed in the public school unit for at least
40 one year.

41 d. Grants provided to public school units pursuant to the Program shall
42 be used to supplement and not to supplant State or non-State funds
43 already provided for these services.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 4 of 15

1 (b) Report. – No later than April 1, 2025, and each subsequent year thereafter in which
2 funds allocated pursuant to this section are awarded, the Superintendent of Public Instruction
3 shall report on the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the
4 Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the identity of each public school unit that
5 received a grant through the Program, the amount of funding provided to the public school unit,
6 and the use of funds by the public school unit."

7 **SECTION 6.10A.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary,
8 the requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in
9 subsection (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the sum of one million seven
10 hundred thousand dollars (\$1,700,000) in recurring funds to establish and implement the School
11 Psychologists Grant Program pursuant to G.S. 115C-316.6, as enacted by this section.

12
13 **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

14 **SECTION 6.10B.(a)** Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended
15 by adding a new section to read:

16 **"§ 115C-316.7. School psychologists internship program.**

17 (a) The Department of Public Instruction shall establish an internship program for school
18 psychologists in public school units. Participants in an approved full-time school psychology
19 preparation program shall receive up to a 10-month stipend during the internship period of the
20 program. The stipend shall be at the beginning salary of a school psychologist. The school
21 psychology preparation program where the intern is enrolled shall provide the Department of
22 Public Instruction with certification that the intern is an eligible full-time student.

23 (b) Field supervisors in public school units providing instruction to school psychology
24 interns receiving stipends in accordance with this section shall be eligible to receive one lump
25 sum salary supplement of between five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and one thousand two hundred
26 dollars (\$1,200) in an amount to be determined by the public school unit."

27 **SECTION 6.10B.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
28 requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection
29 (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in
30 recurring funds to establish and implement the school psychologists internship program pursuant
31 to G.S. 115C-316.7, as enacted by this section.

32
33 **FUNDS FOR A VIRTUAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM**

34 **SECTION 6.10C.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
35 requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection
36 (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in
37 nonrecurring funds to be allocated to Appalachian State University (ASU) to host a virtual school
38 psychology training program at the ASU campus in Hickory, North Carolina.

39
40 **INCREASE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST TRAINING PROGRAMS**

41 **SECTION 6.10D.** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
42 requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection
43 (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the sum of one million six hundred thousand

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 5 of 15

1 dollars (\$1,600,000) in recurring funds to be allocated to the following constituent institutions of
2 The University of North Carolina to support the school psychology programs at those institutions
3 with the goal of doubling the number of school psychologists produced:

- 4 (1) Appalachian State University.
- 5 (2) East Carolina University.
- 6 (3) North Carolina State University.
- 7 (4) The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 8 (5) Western Carolina University.";

9
10 and on page 31, lines 47-48, by inserting between the lines the following new section to read:

11
12 **"REQUIRE AND FUND A NURSE IN EVERY TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOL**

13 **SECTION 6.18.(a)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

14 "(70) To Provide a School Nurse. – Local boards of education shall ensure that each
15 school within the local school administrative unit has a school nurse available
16 to students at all times during the instructional day. Boards may hire full-time
17 or part-time nurses directly or contract with a third party to provide nursing
18 services."

19 **SECTION 6.18.(b)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
20 requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection
21 (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the sum of the sum of eighty-nine million
22 dollars (\$89,000,000) in recurring funds to be allocated to local school administrative units to
23 increase positions for school nurses in accordance with subsection (a) of this section. Funds
24 provided to local school administrative units pursuant to this section shall supplement and not
25 supplant any funds already provided for school nurses.

26 **SECTION 6.18.(c)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2024. Subsection (a) of
27 this section applies beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.";

28
29 and on page 45, lines 43-44, by inserting between the lines the following language to read:

30 **"ESTABLISH SCHOOL WALK ZONES/INCREASE PENALTIES FOR INJURING A**
31 **MINOR IN A CROSSWALK, SCHOOL ZONE, OR SCHOOL WALK ZONE**

32 **SECTION 14.2.(a)** G.S. 20-4.01 reads as rewritten:

33 **"§ 20-4.01. Definitions.**

34 Unless the context requires otherwise, the following definitions apply throughout this
35 Chapter to the defined words and phrases and their cognates:

36 ...
37 (39a) School Walk Zone. – An area within a school zone, identified by the
38 Department pursuant to G.S. 20-141.1, that is likely to sustain pedestrian
39 traffic sufficient to render the speed limits designated in G.S. 20-141 unsafe.

40"

41 **SECTION 14.2.(b)** G.S. 20-141.1 reads as rewritten:

42 **"§ 20-141.1. Speed limits in school ~~zones~~ zones and school walk zones.**

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 6 of 15

1 (a) Optional Lower Speed Limits. – The Board of Transportation or local authorities
2 within their respective jurisdictions may, by ordinance, set speed limits lower than those
3 designated in G.S. 20-141 for areas adjacent to or near a public, private or parochial school.

4 (b) Mandatory Lower Speed Limits. – The Department of Transportation shall annually
5 consult with the governing body of each public school unit and each nonpublic school operating
6 pursuant to Part 1 or Part 2 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes to designate
7 school walk zones. In all designated school walk zones the Department shall (i) set speed limits
8 lower than those designated in G.S. 20-141 and (ii) ensure appropriate actions are taken to
9 effectuate the reduced speed limit.

10 (c) Implementation Requirements. – Limits set pursuant to this section shall become
11 effective when signs are erected giving notice of the school ~~zone~~, or school walk zone, the
12 authorized speed limit, and the days and hours when the lower limit is effective, or by erecting
13 signs giving notice of the school ~~zone~~, or school walk zone, the authorized speed limit and which
14 indicate the days and hours the lower limit is effective by an electronic flasher operated with a
15 time clock. Limits set pursuant to this section may be enforced only on days when school is in
16 session, and no speed limit below 20 miles per hour may be set under the authority of this section.

17 ~~A~~
18 (d) Penalty. – Unless covered under some other provision of law providing greater
19 punishment, a person ~~who drives who:~~

20 (1) Drives a motor vehicle in a school zone or school walk zone at a speed greater
21 than the speed limit set and posted under this section is responsible for an
22 infraction and is required to pay a penalty of two hundred fifty dollars
23 (\$250.00).

24 (2) Drives a motor vehicle in a school zone or school walk zone without due care
25 resulting in injury to a minor is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor."

26 **SECTION 14.2.(c)** G.S. 20-173 reads as rewritten:

27 **"§ 20-173. Pedestrians' right-of-way at crosswalks.**

28 ...

29 (d) Unless covered under some other provision of law providing greater punishment, a
30 person who drives a motor vehicle in a school zone or school walk zone at a speed greater than
31 the speed limit set and posted under this section is responsible for an infraction and is required
32 to pay a penalty of two hundred fifty dollars (\$250.00). If the violation results in injury to a
33 minor, the person is guilty of a Class 3 misdemeanor."

34 **SECTION 14.2.(d)** Subsections (b) and (c) of this section become effective
35 December 1, 2024, and apply to offenses committed on or after that date.

36 **SECTION 14.2.(e)** The Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Fund is established as a
37 special fund within the Department of Transportation to be administered by the Department. The
38 purpose of this fund is to support pedestrian safety initiatives.

39 **SECTION 14.2.(f)** Notwithstanding the Committee Report referenced in Section
40 43.2 of S.L. 2023-134 or any other provision of law to the contrary, of the funds appropriated in
41 this act for 2024-2025 fiscal year from the Highway Fund to the Department of Transportation,
42 Division of Motor Vehicles, the sum of ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) in nonrecurring funds

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 7 of 15

1 are allocated to the Pedestrian Safety Enhancement Fund (PSEF) established in subsection (e) of
2 this section. Funds allocated to the PSEF shall be used as follows:

- 3 (1) Five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for assessing areas likely to be designated
4 school walk zones and for infrastructure improvements within those areas.
5 (2) Two million dollars (\$2,000,000) for developing and implementing training
6 for school crosswalk guards.
7 (3) Three million dollars (\$3,000,000) to increase public awareness regarding
8 pedestrian safety. This public awareness campaign shall (i) focus on educating
9 the public about pending school walk zones and (ii) promote community
10 engagement to raise awareness and encourage responsible driving in school
11 zones and school walk zones.";

12
13 and on page 29, line 33, to page 30, line 34, by rewriting the lines to read:

14
15 **"MORATORIUM AND ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR OPPORTUNITY**
16 **SCHOLARSHIPS**

17 **SECTION 6.15.(a)** Beginning with the 2024-2025 fiscal year, the State Education
18 Assistance Authority shall not award any scholarship grant funds under Part 2A of Article 39 of
19 Chapter 115C of the General Statutes to new persons who did not receive scholarship grant funds
20 in the prior school year. It is the intent of the General Assembly to eliminate the program for
21 awarding scholarship grants under Part 2A of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes
22 beginning in the 2036-2037 school year or once all current recipients become ineligible for the
23 receipt of scholarship grants.

24 **SECTION 6.15.(b)** Subsection (b) of G.S. 115C-562.2 is reenacted.

25 **SECTION 6.15.(c)** G.S. 115C-562.1 reads as rewritten:

26 **"§ 115C-562.1. Definitions.**

27 The following definitions apply in this Part:

28 ...

- 29 (3a) Eligible student. – A student residing in North Carolina who has not yet
30 received a high school diploma and who meets all of the following
31 requirements:
32 a. Is eligible to attend a North Carolina public school pursuant to Article
33 25 of this Chapter. A child who is the age of 4 on or before April 16 is
34 eligible to attend the following school year if the principal, or
35 equivalent, of the school in which the child seeks to enroll finds that
36 the student meets the requirements established by the Authority
37 pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.2(d) and those findings are submitted to the
38 Authority.
39 b. Has not been enrolled in a postsecondary institution as a full-time
40 student taking at least 12 hours of academic credit.
41 c. Has not been placed in a nonpublic school or facility by a public
42 agency at public expense.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 8 of 15

1 d. Received a scholarship grant for the school year prior to the school
2 year for which the student is applying.

3 "

4 **SECTION 6.15.(d)** G.S. 115C-562.2, as amended by subsection (b) of this section,
5 reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 115C-562.2. Scholarship grants.**

7 (a) The Authority shall make available no later than February 1 annually applications to
8 eligible students for the award of scholarship grants to attend any nonpublic school on a full- or
9 part-time basis. Information about scholarship grants and the application process shall be made
10 available on the Authority's ~~Web site.~~ website. Beginning March 15, the Authority shall begin
11 awarding scholarship grants to students who have applied by ~~March 1 in the following order:~~

12 (1) ~~Eligible students who received a scholarship grant for the school year prior to~~
13 ~~the school year for which the students are applying.~~

14 (2) ~~Eligible students qualifying for a scholarship grant in the amount provided~~
15 ~~under subdivision (1) of subsection (b2) of this section.~~

16 (3) ~~Eligible students qualifying for a scholarship grant in the amount provided~~
17 ~~under subdivision (2) of subsection (b2) of this section.~~

18 (4) ~~Eligible students qualifying for a scholarship grant in the amount provided~~
19 ~~under subdivision (3) of subsection (b2) of this section.~~

20 (5) ~~All other students.~~ March 1.

21 (b) Scholarship grants awarded to eligible students residing in households with an income
22 level not in excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or
23 reduced-price lunch program shall be, per year per eligible student, in an amount of up to ninety
24 percent (90%) as a full-time student or up to forty-five percent (45%) as a part-time student of
25 the average State per pupil allocation for average daily membership in the prior fiscal year.
26 Scholarship grants awarded to eligible students residing in households with an income level in
27 excess of the amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch
28 program shall be for amounts of not more than ninety percent (90%) of the required tuition and
29 fees as a full-time student or forty-five percent (45%) of the required tuition and fees as a
30 part-time student for the nonpublic school the eligible child will attend. Tuition and fees for a
31 nonpublic school may include tuition and fees for books, transportation, equipment, or other
32 items required by the nonpublic school. No scholarship grant shall exceed, per year per eligible
33 student, an amount equal to ninety percent (90%) for a full-time student or forty-five percent
34 (45%) for a part-time student of the average State per pupil allocation for average daily
35 membership in the prior fiscal year, and no scholarship grant shall exceed the required tuition
36 and fees for the nonpublic school the eligible student will attend.

37 ...

38 (b2) ~~Scholarship grants shall be awarded to eligible students as follows:~~

39 (1) ~~For students residing in households with an income level not in excess of the~~
40 ~~amount required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price~~
41 ~~lunch program, per year per eligible student, an amount of up to one hundred~~
42 ~~percent (100%) of the average State per pupil allocation for average daily~~
43 ~~membership in the prior fiscal year.~~

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 9 of 15

- 1 (2) ~~For students residing in households with an income level between the amount~~
2 ~~required for the student to qualify for the federal free or reduced-price lunch~~
3 ~~program and not in excess of two hundred percent (200%) of that amount, per~~
4 ~~year per eligible student, an amount of up to ninety percent (90%) of the~~
5 ~~average State per pupil allocation for average daily membership in the prior~~
6 ~~fiscal year.~~
- 7 (3) ~~For students residing in households with an income level of between two~~
8 ~~hundred percent (200%) of the amount required for the student to qualify for~~
9 ~~the federal free or reduced-price lunch program and not in excess of four~~
10 ~~hundred fifty percent (450%) of that amount, per year per eligible student, an~~
11 ~~amount of up to sixty percent (60%) of the average State per pupil allocation~~
12 ~~for average daily membership in the prior fiscal year.~~
- 13 (4) ~~For all students, per year per eligible student, an amount of up to forty five~~
14 ~~percent (45%) of the average State per pupil allocation for average daily~~
15 ~~membership in the prior fiscal year, unless the student qualifies for a higher~~
16 ~~amount under this subsection.~~
- 17 (b3) ~~Tuition and fees for a nonpublic school may include tuition and fees for books,~~
18 ~~transportation, equipment, or other items required by the nonpublic school.~~
- 19 (b4) ~~No scholarship grant shall exceed, per year per eligible student, an amount equal to~~
20 ~~one hundred percent (100%) of the average State per pupil allocation for average daily~~
21 ~~membership in the prior fiscal year, and no scholarship grant shall exceed the required tuition~~
22 ~~and fees for the nonpublic school the eligible student will attend.~~
- 23 (b5) In addition to the amount of the scholarship grant, for any student receiving a
24 scholarship grant in grades three, eight, or 11, the Authority shall provide to the nonpublic school
25 an amount equal to the cost of the nationally standardized test required to be administered as
26 provided in G.S. 115C-562.5.
27 "

28 **SECTION 6.15.(e)** G.S. 115C-562.5 reads as rewritten:

29 "**§ 115C-562.5. Obligations of nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving**
30 **scholarship grants.**

31 (a) A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall
32 comply with the following:

- 33 (1) ~~Provide~~ Annually provide to the Authority documentation for required tuition
34 and fees charged to the student by the nonpublic school. A nonpublic school
35 that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall not increase
36 tuition in a given year by more than the change in the Consumer Price Index,
37 as calculated and reported by the Federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, that is
38 reported in the calendar year in which the tuition increase would occur.
- 39 (2) Provide to the Authority a criminal background check conducted for the staff
40 member with the highest decision-making authority, as defined by the bylaws,
41 articles of incorporation, or other governing document. Information provided
42 to the Authority in accordance with this subdivision is privileged information
43 and is not a public record but is for the exclusive use of the Authority.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 10 of 15

- 1 (3) Provide to the parent or guardian of an eligible student, whose tuition and fees
2 are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant, an annual written
3 explanation of the student's progress, including the student's scores on
4 standardized achievement tests.
- 5 (4) ~~Administer, at least once in each school year, tests as provided in this~~
6 ~~subdivision. Administer each school year all tests required by the State Board~~
7 ~~of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c) for students in grades three and~~
8 ~~higher in a local school administrative unit. Test performance data for students~~
9 ~~shall be submitted to the Authority by July 15 of each year. The nonpublic~~
10 ~~school shall retain this data for five years, and the Authority may audit the~~
11 ~~nonpublic school to ensure compliance with the retention requirement. Test~~
12 ~~performance data reported to the Authority or collected by the Authority under~~
13 ~~this subdivision is not a public record under Chapter 132 of the General~~
14 ~~Statutes. Statutes, to the extent the data contains personally identifiable~~
15 ~~information. Tests shall be administered to all eligible students enrolled in~~
16 ~~grades three and higher whose tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part~~
17 ~~with a scholarship grant as follows:~~
- 18 a. ~~The nationally standardized test designated by the Authority in grades~~
19 ~~three and eight.~~
- 20 b. ~~The ACT in grade 11.~~
- 21 c. ~~A nationally standardized test or other nationally standardized~~
22 ~~equivalent measurement selected by the chief administrative officer of~~
23 ~~the nonpublic school in all other grades four and higher. For grades~~
24 ~~four through seven, the nationally standardized test or other equivalent~~
25 ~~measurement selected must measure achievement in the areas of~~
26 ~~English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics. For grades nine,~~
27 ~~10, and 12, the nationally standardized test or other equivalent~~
28 ~~measurement selected must measure either (i) achievement in the areas~~
29 ~~of English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics or (ii)~~
30 ~~competencies in the verbal and quantitative areas. grant. Nothing in~~
31 ~~this subdivision shall prohibit a nonpublic school from administering~~
32 ~~additional tests to its students.~~
- 33 (5) Provide to the Authority graduation rates of the students receiving scholarship
34 ~~grants grants, including four-year cohort graduation rates, in a manner~~
35 ~~consistent with nationally recognized standards. Title I of the Elementary and~~
36 ~~Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, and any associated federal~~
37 ~~regulations.~~
- 38 (6) Contract with a certified public accountant to perform ~~a financial review, an~~
39 ~~audit,~~ consistent with generally accepted methods of accounting or any other
40 comprehensive basis of accounting recognized by the American Institute of
41 Certified Public Accountants (AICPA) for each school year in which the
42 school enrolls 70 or more students receiving scholarship grants or scholarship
43 funds awarded by the Authority. ~~accepts students receiving one hundred~~

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 11 of 15

- 1 thousand dollars (\$100,000) or more in scholarship grants awarded under this
2 Part. If a school accepts students receiving less than one hundred thousand
3 dollars (\$100,000), it shall contract pursuant to this subdivision for an audit
4 every three years. A nonpublic school shall report the results of an audit by
5 December 31 of the year in which the audit is conducted.
6 (7) Maintain a school facility within the State where in-person instruction is
7 provided. This subdivision does not prohibit a school from offering
8 remote-only courses of instruction in addition to in-person instruction.
9 (8) Provide the following information annually to the Division:
10 a. Name and address of the school, including physical location address.
11 A school with more than one physical location shall establish a
12 separate notice of intent for each physical location and shall provide
13 all information required by this subdivision for each physical location.
14 b. The name of the owners and chief ~~administrator~~.administrator,
15 including contact information.
16 c. Number of students in attendance at the school as of October 1.
17 d. All attendance records of students receiving scholarship grants from
18 the previous school year.
19 e. Documentation of a completed fire inspection in the previous 365
20 days.
21 (9) For any child with a disability who is a recipient of scholarship funds, educate
22 that child in accordance with his or her Individualized Education Program
23 (IEP) and in compliance with IDEA, as defined in G.S. 115C-106.3(6), and
24 applicable policies adopted by the State Board of Education for local school
25 administrative units under Article 9 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.
26 (10) Comply with the requirements of Article 8C of this Chapter, including the
27 following:
28 a. School Risk Management Plan. – The nonpublic school, in
29 coordination with local law enforcement agencies, shall adopt a
30 School Risk Management Plan (SRMP) relating to incidents of school
31 violence. In constructing and maintaining these plans, the nonpublic
32 school shall utilize the School Risk and Response Management
33 System established pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.49A. These plans are
34 not considered a public record as the term "public record" is defined
35 under G.S. 132-1 and shall not be subject to inspection and
36 examination under G.S. 132-6.
37 b. Schematic diagrams and school crisis kits. – The nonpublic school
38 shall provide schematic diagrams and keys to the main entrance of
39 school facilities to local law enforcement agencies, in addition to
40 implementing the provisions in G.S. 115C-105.52.
41 c. School safety exercises. – At least once a year, the nonpublic school
42 shall hold a full school-wide lockdown exercise with local law

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 12 of 15

1 enforcement and emergency management agencies that are part of the
2 school's SRMP.

3 d. Safety information provided to the Department of Public Safety,
4 Division of Emergency Management. – The nonpublic school shall
5 provide the following: (i) schematic diagrams, including digital
6 schematic diagrams, and (ii) emergency response information
7 requested by the Division for the SRMP. The schematic diagrams and
8 emergency response information are not considered public records as
9 the term "public record" is defined under G.S. 132-1 and shall not be
10 subject to inspection and examination under G.S. 132-6.

11 (b) A nonpublic school that accepts students receiving scholarship grants shall not require
12 any additional fees based on the status of the student as a scholarship grant recipient.

13 (c) A nonpublic school enrolling more than 25 students in any grade whose tuition and
14 fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant shall provide and retain information on
15 student test performance in each grade with more than 25 students, as follows:

16 (1) Report to the Authority on the aggregate standardized test performance of
17 eligible students in grades ~~three, eight, and 11~~ three and higher pursuant to
18 subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section. Aggregate test performance
19 data reported to the Authority which does not contain personally identifiable
20 student data shall be a public record under Chapter 132 of the General ~~Statutes.~~
21 Statutes, and the Authority shall post this data on its website. Test
22 performance data may be shared with public or private institutions of higher
23 education located in North Carolina and shall be provided to an independent
24 research organization selected by the Authority for research purposes as
25 permitted by the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. §
26 1232g.

27 (2) Retain standardized test performance data for eligible students in all other
28 grades and annually certify to the Authority compliance with the requirements
29 of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section.

30 (c1) A nonpublic school shall not discriminate with respect to the categories listed in 42
31 U.S.C. § 2000d, as that statute read on January 1, ~~2014~~ 2014, or on the basis of disability, as
32 defined in the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. § 12102, as that statute read on January
33 1, 2024.

34 ...

35 (e) If a nonpublic school terminates operation during the school's regular schedule and
36 fails to (i) report the date of the closure to the Division within 14 days and (ii) return funds owed
37 to the Authority in a timely manner for students who received scholarship grants, any other
38 nonpublic school opened during that school year or subsequent school years by an owner or chief
39 administrator listed in the report submitted to the Division under ~~subdivision (7)~~ subdivision (8)
40 of subsection (a) of this section for that closed school shall be ineligible to receive scholarship
41 grants until such time the Authority determines the obligation to return those funds has been
42 satisfied."

43 **SECTION 6.15.(f)** G.S. 115C-562.7 reads as rewritten:

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 13 of 15

1 **"§ 115C-562.7. Reporting requirements.**

- 2 ...
- 3 (b) The Authority shall report annually, no later than October 15, to the Joint Legislative
- 4 Education Oversight Committee on the following information from the prior school year:
- 5 (1) Total number, grade level, race, ethnicity, and sex of eligible students
- 6 receiving scholarship grants.
- 7 (2) Total amount of scholarship grant funding awarded.
- 8 ...
- 9 (4) Nonpublic schools in which scholarship grant recipients are enrolled,
- 10 including numbers of scholarship grant students at each nonpublic school.
- 11 (5) Nonpublic schools deemed ineligible to receive scholarships.
- 12 (6) Compliance with the academic assessments required by
- 13 G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(4).

14 ...

15 (g) No later than September 30 of each year, the Authority, in consultation with the

16 Department of Public Instruction, shall publish on its website school achievement, growth, and

17 performance scores of nonpublic schools accepting more than 25 students in any grade whose

18 tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant. The scores shall be calculated

19 pursuant to the methodology provided in G.S. 115C-83.15."

20 **SECTION 6.15.(g)** G.S. 115C-562.8 reads as rewritten:

21 **"§ 115C-562.8. The Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve.**

22 ...

23 (b) ~~The General Assembly finds that, due to the critical need in this State to provide~~

24 ~~opportunity for school choice for North Carolina students, it is imperative that the State provide~~

25 ~~an increase of funds for 15 years to the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve. Therefore,~~

26 ~~there-There~~ is appropriated from the General Fund to the Reserve the following amounts for each

27 fiscal year to be used for the purposes set forth in this section:

Fiscal Year	Appropriation
...	
2025-2026	<u>\$415,540,000</u> <u>\$174,236,499</u>
2026-2027	<u>\$430,540,000</u> <u>\$166,919,213</u>
2027-2028	<u>\$445,540,000</u> <u>\$158,337,000</u>
2028-2029	<u>\$460,540,000</u> <u>\$147,151,195</u>
2029-2030	<u>\$475,540,000</u> <u>\$134,275,040</u>
2030-2031	<u>\$490,540,000</u> <u>\$119,413,575</u>
2031-2032	<u>\$505,540,000</u> <u>\$105,039,929</u>
<u>2032-2033</u>	<u>\$89,344,633</u>
<u>2033-2034</u>	<u>\$71,034,400</u>
<u>2034-2035</u>	<u>\$48,759,219</u>
<u>2035-2036</u>	<u>\$24,022,254</u>

41 For the ~~2032-2033-2036-2037~~ fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, ~~there is appropriated~~

42 ~~from the General Fund to the Reserve the sum of five hundred twenty million five hundred forty~~

43 ~~thousand dollars (\$520,540,000) to be used for the purposes set forth in this section. no funds~~

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 14 of 15

1 shall be appropriated to the Reserve. When developing the base budget, as defined by
2 G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year specified in this subsection, the Director of the Budget shall
3 include the appropriated amount specified in this subsection for that fiscal year.

4"

5 **SECTION 6.15.(h)** Subsections (i) and (j) of Section 8A.6 of S.L. 2023-134 are
6 repealed.

7 **SECTION 6.15.(i)** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
8 requirements for the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina for Related
9 Educational Programs for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection (a) of Section 2.1 of this act
10 shall be decreased as follows:

11 (1) By the sum of three hundred eighty-nine million six hundred thirty-one
12 thousand, seven hundred twenty-nine dollars (\$389,631,729) in recurring
13 funds to reflect a decrease in the Opportunity Scholarship Grant Fund Reserve
14 so that the total recurring appropriation to the Reserve is one hundred eighty
15 million three hundred sixty-eight thousand two hundred seventy-one dollars
16 (\$180,368,271).

17 (2) By the sum of two hundred forty-eight million dollars (\$248,000,000) in
18 nonrecurring funds to reflect the requirement in subsection (a) of this section
19 that the State Education Assistance Authority shall not award any scholarship
20 grant funds under Part 2A of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General
21 Statutes to new persons who did not receive scholarship grant funds in the
22 prior school year.

23 **SECTION 6.15.(j)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2024, and applies
24 beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.";

25
26 and on page 31, lines 37-38, by inserting between the lines the following:

27
28 **"ACCOUNTABILITY MEASURES FOR PERSONAL EDUCATION STUDENT**
29 **ACCOUNTS**

30 **SECTION 6.16A.(a)** Article 41 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended
31 by adding the following new section to read:

32 **"§ 115C-593.5. Academic assessments.**

33 (a) A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship funds shall
34 administer, at least once in each school year, all tests required by the State Board of Education
35 pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c) for students in grades three through 12 in a local school
36 administrative unit.

37 (b) Test performance data for students shall be submitted to the Authority by July 15 of
38 each year. The nonpublic school shall retain this data for five years, and the Authority may audit
39 the nonpublic school to ensure compliance with the retention requirement. Test performance data
40 reported to the Authority or collected by the Authority under this section is not a public record
41 under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes, to the extent the data contains personally identifiable
42 information.

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
AMENDMENT
House Bill 317

TABLED

AMENDMENT NO. **A8**
(to be filled in by
Principal Clerk)

H317-AMTa-65 [v.7]

Page 15 of 15

1 (c) Tests shall be administered to all eligible students enrolled in grades three and higher
2 whose tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part with scholarship funds.

3 (d) The Authority shall provide the parent or guardian of an eligible student, whose
4 tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part with scholarship funds, an annual written explanation
5 of the student's progress, including the student's scores on standardized achievement tests. If an
6 eligible student received a written assessment pursuant to G.S. 115C-562.5(a)(3) for a school
7 year, the written assessment may be used to meet the requirements of this subsection.

8 (d) Nothing in this section shall prohibit a nonpublic school from administering
9 additional tests to its students."

10 **SECTION 6.16A.(b)** G.S. 115C-598 reads as rewritten:

11 "**§ 115C-598. Reporting requirements.**

12 (a) The Authority shall report annually, no later than October 15, to the Joint Legislative
13 Education Oversight Committee on the following information from the prior school year:

14 ...

15 (6) Compliance with the academic assessments required by G.S. 115C-593.5.

16"

17 **SECTION 6.16A.(c)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2024, and applies
18 beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.";

19
20 and on page 31, lines 46-47, by inserting between the lines the following:

21
22 **"SOME OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS TO BE ALLOCATED TO PUBLIC**
23 **SCHOOLS**

24 **SECTION 6.18** Notwithstanding any other provision of law to the contrary, the
25 requirements for the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year in subsection
26 (a) of Section 2.1 of this act shall be increased by the amount of funding made available from the
27 Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina pursuant to Section 6.15(i) of this act
28 that are not otherwise allocated pursuant to a provision of this act. The State Board of Education
29 shall allocate these funds to all public school units on the basis of average daily membership.";

30
31 and by adjusting the appropriate totals accordingly.

SIGNED _____
Amendment Sponsor

SIGNED _____
Committee Chair if Senate Committee Amendment

ADOPTED _____ FAILED _____ TABLED _____