

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

H.B. 304  
Mar 5, 2025  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH30147-NG-66

Short Title: Allow Flex. for Trades HS in Iredell Co. (Local)

Sponsors: Representative McNeely.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW IREDELL-STATESVILLE SCHOOLS TO OPERATE A TRADES  
3 HIGH SCHOOL AND ISSUE TRADES DIPLOMAS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.(a)** The Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education is permitted to  
6 have one school in the Iredell-Statesville School Administrative Unit operate as a Trades High  
7 School. For purposes of this section, a "Trades High School" is a school serving students in  
8 grades 10 through 12 operating under Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, except for the  
9 flexibilities provided by this act, that focuses primarily on Career and Technical Education.

10 **SECTION 1.(b)** The Trades High School is exempt from the following statutes:

- 11 (1) Part 1 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.  
12 (2) Part 1D of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

13 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Trades High School shall employ and establish the terms of any  
14 new or renewed contract with necessary school administrators and teachers to perform the  
15 particular service for which they are employed in the school, except for those teachers employed  
16 pursuant to G.S. 115C-325. At least fifty percent (50%) of the teachers in a school shall hold  
17 teacher licenses. All teachers who are teaching in the core subject areas of mathematics, science,  
18 social studies, and language arts shall be college graduates. The Trades High School also may  
19 employ necessary employees who are not required to hold teacher licenses to perform duties  
20 other than teaching and may contract for other services. All teachers hired by the Trades High  
21 School who are not licensed as a teacher by the State shall complete preservice training, which  
22 may be offered through an educator preparation program or by a local school administrative unit,  
23 in all of the following areas prior to beginning instruction:

- 24 (1) The identification and education of children with disabilities.  
25 (2) Positive management of student behavior.  
26 (3) Effective communication for defusing and de-escalating disruptive or  
27 dangerous behavior.  
28 (4) Safe and appropriate use of seclusion and restraint.

29 **SECTION 1.(d)** The Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education shall develop  
30 criteria for an alternative Trades Diploma. For purposes of this section, a "Trades Diploma" is  
31 the diploma to be awarded to students graduating from the Trades High School who meet the  
32 criteria set by the Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education. Students shall obtain at least  
33 22 credits to earn a Trades Diploma. The Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of Education shall  
34 submit a list of requirements for students to obtain a Trades Diploma to the State Board of  
35 Education prior to the start of the first school year the Iredell-Statesville Schools Board of  
36 Education intends to offer Trade Diplomas.



1                   **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
2 the 2025-2026 school year.