



Bill Draft 2019-MVz-175: Education Omnibus/COVID-19.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee:
Introduced by:
Analysis of: 2019-MVz-175

Date: April 16, 2020
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OVERVIEW: *The proposed bill draft would provide relief to K-12 public schools and institutions of higher education related to extraordinary circumstances resulting from COVID-19 during the 2019-2020 school year/academic year.*

BILL ANALYSIS: The provisions are as follows:

- Section 1 Definitions.** - Defines terms used throughout the draft.
- Section 2 Introduction.** - States the purpose of the act as a response to the COVID-19 emergency.
- Section 3.1 Testing Waivers.** - Clarifies or modifies various testing requirements, including EOGs, EOCs, the ACT, diagnostic and formative assessments for grades K-3, and WorkKeys.
- Section 3.2 School Report Card Waivers.** - Waives the requirements for calculation and display of school report cards. Also waives certain requirements related to the evaluation of alternative schools and public school building-level reports.
- Section 3.3 Low-Performing School Waivers.** - Waives identification of new low-performing schools, new continually low-performing schools, and new low-performing local school administrative units. Maintains identifications based on 2018-2019 data.
- Section 3.4 ISD Waivers.** - Repeals the requirement that a new school be selected for the Innovative School District (ISD) based on data from the 2019-2020 school year. Waives the requirement that schools be added to the qualifying list for the ISD based 2019-2020 data, and directs that schools added to the qualifying list based on 2018-2019 data remain on the qualifying list for the 2020-2021 school year.
- Section 3.5 Read to Achieve Waivers:**
- **Subsection (a): Third Grade Retention Determination.** - Allows principals to make third grade promotion decisions in the same manner as for other grades.
 - **Subsection (b): Parental Notice and Interventions.** - Makes the following modifications: (i) directs that statutorily-required notice be provided to parents based on data available up until the school closure period, (ii) waives monthly progress reports during the school closure period for students currently retained in third grade, (iii) requires that third graders retained for 2020-2021 based on principal discretion receive the same statutorily-required interventions they would have had they been retained under mandatory retention.
 - **Subsection (c): Reading Camps.** - Waives reading camps corresponding to the 2019-2020 school year.

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- **Subsection (d): Fourth Grade Reading Assessment.** - Requires a reading assessment to be administered to students entering fourth grade in 2020-2021 within 10 days of the start of the school year.
- **Subsection (e): Reporting Requirements.** - Waives online posting of K-3 reading outcomes. Specifies that reading data collected prior to the school closure period be reported to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

Section 3.6 Advanced Math Placement Waiver. - Waives mandatory advanced math placement based on EOG or EOC scores.

Section 3.7 CPR Graduation Requirement Waiver. - Waives the statutory CPR graduation requirement for students who cannot complete it due to school closure, but are otherwise qualified to graduate.

Section 4.1 Principal Recruitment Supplement Eligibility Continuation. – Would (i) permit eligible schools for purposes of the principal recruitment salary supplement to continue to be eligible schools from the 2019-2020 school year to the 2020-2021 school year and (ii) clarify an incorrect statutory reference.

Section 4.2 Teacher Performance Notification Waiver. – Would waive the requirement for the 2020-2021 school year that principals notify teachers of updated Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) data from the 2019-2020 school year.

Section 4.3 Teacher Effectiveness Reporting Waivers. – Would (i) waive requirements that local school administrative units provide the State Board of Education with teacher performance data from the 2019-2020 school year and that the State Board include such data in its own report and (ii) add a missing statutory heading to G.S. 115C-299.5.

Section 4.4 Revise Teacher Evaluation Requirements and Waive Teacher Observation Requirements. – Would permit annual teacher evaluations from the 2019-2020 school year based on (i) observations completed in the 2019-2020 school year prior to the closure of public schools and (ii) other artifacts and evidence from the 2019-2020 school year. Waives any required observations not completed prior to the closure of public schools.

Section 5.1 Modifications related to Educator Preparation Programs (EPPs):

- **Subsection (a): Waiver of Minimum EPP Admission Requirements.** - Waives the following minimum requirements for EPP admissions for the 2020-2021 academic year: (i) the preprofessional skills test (Praxis Core) requirement, (ii) the individual GPA requirement of at least a 2.7, provided the student has at least a 2.7 before beginning a clinical internship, and (iii) the cohort GPA requirement of at least a 3.0.
- **Subsection (b): Waiver of EPP Student Clinical Internship Requirement.** - Deems the EPP clinical internship requirement under G.S. 115C-269.25(d)(1) completed under certain conditions, including that the student meet the requirements on the certificate of teacher capacity and continues to work with a school to engage in remote learning as practicable.
- **Subsection (c): Waiver of the Report of Certain EPP Performance Data.** - Only requires EPPs to report data to the State Board for the purposes of performance standards that is practicably available during the 2019-2020 academic year due to the lack of student assessment data and the school closure period.

- **Subsection (d): Prohibits Certain EPP Data in Assigning Sanctions.** - Prohibits the State Board from considering data that was not practicably available related to the 2019-2020 school year when assigning sanctions to an EPP under G.S. 115C-269.45(c).
- **Subsection (e): Suspension of EPP Report Card Publication.** - Suspends publication of EPP report cards on the State Board Web site for the 2019-2020 academic year but continues the report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

Section 5.2. Waiver of Certain School Administrator Prep Program Requirements. - Provides that requirements will be deemed completed for (i) the year-long internship requirement under G.S. 115C-284(c2)(7) under certain conditions, including that competencies identified in the certification of capacity are met and the candidate continues to work with a school to engage in administrative duties as practicable and (ii) a portfolio for emerging leaders is finished to the extent practicable prior to completion of the school administrator preparation program.

Section 6.1. Extension of Teacher Licensure Exam Requirements and CEUs for Continuing Licensure. – Provides one-year extensions for teachers to meet licensure examination requirements set by the State Board and for teachers who are required to meet continuing education requirements for continuing licensure by June 30, 2020, provides a one-year extension to meet those requirements.

Section 6.2. Extension of School Administrator and School Professional Licensure Exam Requirements and CEUs for Licensure Renewal. – Provides one-year extensions for school administrators and other school personnel to meet licensure examination requirements set by the State Board and for school administrators who are required to meet continuing education requirements for licensure renewal by June 30, 2020, provides a one-year extension to meet those requirements.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Except as otherwise provided, this act would be effective when it becomes law.

**Leslie Karkanawi and Matt Pagett, staff attorneys in the Bill Drafting Division, substantially contributed to this summary.*