



HOUSE BILL 26: Education Omnibus.

2023-2024 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Appropriations. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	January 31, 2023
Introduced by:	Reps. Torbett, Blackwell, Clampitt	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn
Analysis of:	PCS to Filed Edition H26-CSBE-1		Committee Co-Counsel

OVERVIEW: *House Bill 26 would do the following:*

- *Revise the governance structure and admissions standards for the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (NCCAT)*
- *Require the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to contract with Gooru Inc., to provide software that would help evaluate and improve student learning and performance in response to the COVID-19 pandemic*
- *Require DPI to purchase and share attainment data from the National Student Clearinghouse*
- *Require the Superintendent of Public Instruction and DPI to study and recommend changes to the system for evaluating schools*

The PCS would make various clarifying and technical changes.

PART I. REVISE THE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE AND ADMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR NCCAT

CURRENT LAW: NCCAT, a State entity governed by a 14-member board of trustees, provides career teachers with professional development opportunities, including priority admission for teachers with 15 or fewer years of experience. Additionally, NCCAT can provide training and support for beginning teachers. The chief administrative officer of NCCAT is an executive director appointed by the NCCAT Board of Trustees. See G.S. 115C-296.5 and 115C-296.6.

Section 9.13 of S.L. 2009-451 requires NCCAT to be administratively located under the State Board of Education, but exercise its powers and duties independently through the NCCAT Board of Trustees.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 would remove career teacher limitation and make admission to NCCAT available to all teachers regardless of years of teaching experience. Additionally, this section would put the Superintendent of Public Instruction in charge of the powers and duties of NCCAT. The NCCAT Board of Trustees would be renamed the NCCAT Board of Advisors and would advise the Superintendent on NCCAT's activities. NCCAT's executive director would be appointed by and report directly to the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

PART II. CONTRACT WITH GOORU FOR PANDEMIC LEARNING LOSS

CURRENT LAW: Section 3.5(a)(10) of S.L. 2021-25, as amended by Sec. 7.27 of S.L. 2021-180, requires DPI to use \$9 million in federal COVID-19 relief funds to contract with a third-party entity for a period of up

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to three years for a new software platform, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to evaluate and improve student learning and performance and to provide students with an individualized roadmap for improving learning and performance.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 2 requires DPI to use the federal funds allocated to it in Section 3.5(a)(10) of S.L. 2021-25 to contract with Gooru, Inc., for a period of up to three years to provide the software program Gooru Navigator to schools in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Gooru Navigator would be used to evaluate and improve student learning and performance.

PART III. NATIONAL STUDENT CLEARINGHOUSE DATA

CURRENT LAW: Item number 70 of the Committee Report for S.L. 2022-74 appropriates \$160,000 in recurring funds for the 2022-2023 fiscal year to DPI to enter into an agreement with the Belk Center for Community College Leadership and Research at North Carolina State University to purchase attainment data from the National Student Clearinghouse and share the data annually with DPI and MyFutureNC.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 3 requires DPI to purchase attainment data directly from the National Student Clearinghouse and share the data annually with eligible and appropriate sectors, partners, and individuals rather than acquiring the data by entering into an agreement with the Belk Center for Community College and Research.

PART IV. STUDY AND EVALUATION OF SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENT SCORES AND METRICS

CURRENT LAW: Part 1B of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes establishes an evaluation system for public schools. G.S. 115C-83.15 requires the State Board of Education to award school achievement, growth, and performance scores, as well as assign an associated performance grade. The performance score is calculated using 80% of the achievement score and 20% of the growth score. G.S. 115C-83.16 requires the individual performance indicators that make up the achievement and growth scores to be calculated in a way that complies with federal law.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 4 requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to study the school achievement scores, growth scores, performance scores, and corresponding performance grades, as well as study individual school performance indicators to ensure compliance with federal law. By April 15, 2023, the Superintendent must report on the study to the House Committee on Education – K-12, the Senate Committee on Education/Higher Education, and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee (JLEOC). The report must include the following:

- Any efforts by DPI to review the statewide model of evaluating school achievement, growth, performance scores, and grades.
- The results of any research regarding external school accountability systems in states comparable to North Carolina and how those states were determined to be comparable.

By February 15, 2024, DPI must report to JLEOC on any suggested changes to the school evaluation model, including the following:

- Potential indicators to be considered when evaluating schools.
- The differences between the potential indicators and the current school performance indicators.
- An analysis of whether the potential indicators will comply with federal law.
- Recommended legislative changes to school performance indicators, scores, and grades.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The PCS would be effective when it becomes law.