

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 438

Short Title: Excellent Public Schools Act of 2019. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Berger (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 2, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO MODIFY THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NORTH CAROLINA READ TO
3 ACHIEVE PROGRAM IN ORDER TO ATTAIN STATEWIDE READING
4 PROFICIENCY BY THE THIRD GRADE.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6
7 **TITLE**

8 **SECTION 1.** This act shall be known as the "Excellent Public Schools Act of 2019."

9
10 **ESTABLISH INDIVIDUAL READING PLANS AND A DIGITAL CHILDREN'S**
11 **READING INITIATIVE**

12 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-83.6(a) reads as rewritten:

13 "**§ 115C-83.6. Facilitating early grade reading proficiency.**

14 (a) Kindergarten, first, second, and third grade students shall receive high-quality core
15 reading instruction, and shall be assessed with valid, reliable, formative, and universal screening
16 measures for literacy, using valid and reliable formative and diagnostic reading assessments
17 made available to local school administrative units by the State Board of Education pursuant to
18 G.S. 115C-174.11(a). Difficulty with reading development identified through administration of
19 formative and diagnostic assessments shall be addressed with instructional supports and
20 services.services as follows:

21 (1) An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) shall be developed for any student
22 identified to be below grade level based on the results of either (i) the first
23 diagnostic assessment of the school year or (ii) the first diagnostic or
24 formative assessment of the second semester of the school year. The IRP shall
25 be continually adjusted based on multiple data sources as prescribed by the
26 Department of Public Instruction indicating that the student is not progressing
27 toward grade level standards in one or more critical reading skills. Based on
28 the most recently collected data, the IRP shall include the following
29 information, specific to the identified student:

- 30 a. The specific reading skill deficiencies identified by assessment data.
31 b. Goals and benchmarks for growth.
32 c. The means by which progress will be monitored and evaluated.
33 d. The specific additional instructional services and interventions the
34 student will receive.



- 1 e. The evidence-based reading instructional programming the teacher
 2 will implement to address oral language, phonological and phonemic
 3 awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, and comprehension.
 4 f. Any additional services the teacher deems appropriate to accelerate the
 5 student's reading skill and development.
 6 (2) A student's parent or guardian shall be given notice that the student has been
 7 identified to be in need of support due to a deficit in one or more critical
 8 reading skills and that an IRP has been developed. The notice shall provide
 9 the parent or guardian the following:
 10 a. Specific strategies that can be easily understood and implemented to
 11 assist the student in achieving reading competency.
 12 b. Encouragement to select one or more strategies for use at home that
 13 build on the student's interests and are most likely to engage the
 14 student and result in reading improvement.
 15 c. Direction to free online or hardcopy literacy resources that can be
 16 accessed via a prominently displayed area on the home page of the
 17 primary Web site maintained by the Department of Public Instruction
 18 and by the local school administrative unit.

19 Parents or guardians of first and second grade students demonstrating one or more deficits in
 20 critical reading comprehension below grade level skills as identified through assessments
 21 administered pursuant to this subsection shall be encouraged to enroll their student in a reading
 22 camp provided by the local school administrative unit. Parents or guardians of a student identified
 23 as demonstrating one or more deficits in critical reading comprehension below grade level skills
 24 shall make the final decision regarding a student's reading camp attendance.

25 "

26 **SECTION 2.(b)** The Department of Public Instruction shall develop a Digital
 27 Children's Reading Initiative (Initiative) for the purpose of increasing the percentage of school
 28 children throughout the State who are reading proficiently by the end of third grade. The Initiative
 29 shall assist parents, guardians, and family members in cultivating confident, proficient, lifelong
 30 readers by providing free tools and resources that can be easily incorporated into everyday life.

31 The Initiative may utilize existing third-party resources by providing selected links to
 32 thoroughly vetted, high-quality resources. Links shall be specifically categorized by skill
 33 deficiency and grade level so that parents, guardians, and family members can be quickly
 34 connected to effective resources targeted to each student's needs. The Department of Public
 35 Instruction shall frequently monitor all resources linked to the Initiative to ensure that that all
 36 links are up-to-date and that resources remain consistent with the purpose set out in this section.
 37 All resources included in the Initiative shall be available to the public without required login
 38 credentials and shall be accessible directly through a prominently displayed area on the home
 39 page of the Department's Web site. The Initiative shall make home activities, printables, and
 40 games available on the following literacy skills, as appropriate for each grade level:

- 41 (1) Phonemic awareness.
 42 (2) Phonics.
 43 (3) Vocabulary.
 44 (4) Fluency.
 45 (5) Comprehension.
 46 (6) Oral language.

47 No later than January 15, 2020, the Department of Public Instruction shall disseminate
 48 the fully developed Digital Children's Reading Initiative to all local school administrative units.
 49 Each local school administrative unit shall make Initiative resources accessible directly through
 50 a prominently displayed area on the home page of the unit's Web site no later than July 1, 2020.
 51 Local school administrative units may compile and add additional high-quality resources that

1 meet the requirements of this section to those provided to them by the Department of Public
2 Instruction. Printable activities shall be provided in hard copy to students who do not have digital
3 access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources.

4 **SECTION 2.(c)** This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning
5 with the 2020-2021 school year.

6
7 **COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF LITERACY**
8 **INSTRUCTION IN THE NORTH CAROLINA PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

9 **SECTION 3.(a)** The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall convene a task force
10 with members of the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, the State Board
11 of Community Colleges, the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, the State
12 Board of Education, and the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission
13 (PEPSC), or their designees, which may include representatives from their respective agencies,
14 to develop a Comprehensive Plan to Improve Literacy Instruction (Plan) with clear goals to
15 ensure that literacy instruction provided in the North Carolina public schools is evidenced-based,
16 designed to improve outcomes for children in gaining early literacy skills, and consistently
17 delivered by teachers. The Plan shall include strategies on using the latest research on
18 evidence-based instruction that leads to student learning in the public schools and the components
19 essential to early learning success and preparation for educators in literacy instruction. The Plan
20 shall also recommend (i) changes to existing State programs in early childhood education,
21 elementary education, educator preparation, and professional development for teachers and (ii)
22 new initiatives to facilitate the State reaching the goals set forth in the Plan. In developing the
23 Plan, the Superintendent, in consultation with the Board of Governors, the State Board of
24 Community Colleges, the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, the State Board
25 of Education, and the Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission (PEPSC),
26 shall consider at least the following:

- 27 (1) Research on early childhood learning, including early literacy instruction, to
28 define skills and competencies for early learning and literacy educators to
29 improve educator preparation program design.
- 30 (2) Alignment of preservice educator preparation for early learning instruction
31 with actual classroom instruction, including clinical experiences, that reflect
32 well-designed, effective educator preparation programs for early learning
33 instruction.
- 34 (3) Evidence-based methods of training in educator preparation programs that
35 uses individualized learning models, including Individual Reading Plans as
36 described in G.S. 115C-83.6, to support literacy education for all students,
37 including economically disadvantaged students, English language learners,
38 and children with disabilities.
- 39 (4) The minimum number of credit hours in literacy instruction that an educator
40 preparation program shall include in its course of study.
- 41 (5) Professional development models that focus on training educator preparation
42 program faculty and teachers throughout their careers on evidenced-based
43 instruction in literacy that is consistent with the most recent standards and
44 curriculum established by the State and well-designed, effective educator
45 preparation programs.
- 46 (6) The number and type of continuing education credits related to literacy that
47 the State should require for the renewal of a teacher license.
- 48 (7) Implementation by teachers and local school administrative units of the most
49 recent standards and curriculum for evidence-based literacy instruction and
50 resources provided by the Department of Public Instruction for individual
51 schools and local school administrative units.

- 1 (8) Literacy resources and programs for parents and families as part of the
2 delivery of literacy instruction by teachers in the public schools.
- 3 (9) Best practices related to teachers using literacy assessment and diagnostics
4 tools and the use of data systems to monitor students' progress towards literacy
5 goals and identify students at risk of not meeting those goals.
- 6 (10) Best practices for literacy interventions for students in kindergarten through
7 third grade that focus on intentional instruction in foundational literacy skills,
8 including phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension,
9 and oral language.
- 10 (11) Implications for teacher licensure and other teaching credentials, including
11 potential incentives and compensation, related to changes to existing State
12 programs and new initiatives to facilitate the State reaching the goals set forth
13 in the Plan.

14 **SECTION 3.(b)** The Superintendent shall report to the Joint Legislative Education
15 Oversight Committee by March 15, 2020, on the Plan developed in accordance with this section
16 and the legislative changes necessary to implement the plan, including recommendations on
17 requirements for educator preparation programs on using evidence-based literacy instruction in
18 the course of study for the purposes of State Board of Education authorization of programs and
19 State support for well-designed professional development programs in early learning and literacy
20 instruction.

21
22 **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT IN LITERACY INSTRUCTION PROVIDED BY**
23 **NCCAT**

24 **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 115C-296.5 reads as rewritten:

25 **"§ 115C-296.5. North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching; powers and**
26 **duties of trustees; reporting requirement.**

27 (a) The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching (hereinafter called
28 "NCCAT"), through itself or agencies with which it may contract, ~~shall~~ shall ensure that teachers
29 receive professional development programs in accordance with the following:

30 (1) ~~Provide~~ NCCAT shall prioritize the delivery of early learning and literacy
31 instruction services through increasing the number of teachers participating in
32 their evidence-based professional development programs in early learning and
33 literacy instruction that meet the goals for literacy instruction established in
34 the State's Comprehensive Plan to Improve Literacy Instruction as defined in
35 G.S. 115C-269.1.

36 (1a) ~~career~~ NCCAT shall provide teachers with other opportunities to study
37 advanced topics in the sciences, arts, and humanities and to engage in
38 informed discourse, assisted by able mentors and outstanding leaders from all
39 walks of ~~life;~~ and life.

40 (2) ~~Offer~~ NCCAT shall offer additional opportunities for teachers to engage in
41 scholarly pursuits through a center dedicated exclusively to the advancement
42 of teaching as an art and as a profession.

43 (b) ~~Priority for admission to NCCAT opportunities shall be given to teachers with~~
44 ~~teaching experience of 15 years or less.~~

45 (c) NCCAT may also provide training and support for beginning teachers to enhance
46 their skills and in support of the State's effort to recruit and retain beginning teachers.

47 (d) The Board of Trustees of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching
48 shall hold all the powers and duties necessary or appropriate for the effective discharge of the
49 functions of NCCAT.

1 (e) The Executive Director shall submit a copy of the NCCAT annual report to the
2 Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Chair of the State Board of Education at the time of
3 issuance. The report shall include at least the following information:

4 (1) The number of teachers served by NCCAT's professional development
5 programs by the type of program offered, including the number of teachers
6 participating in the early learning and literacy instruction professional
7 development programs and the increase in the number of teachers served from
8 the prior year.

9 (2) Evaluation data on the programs offered by NCCAT, including the
10 satisfaction of the teachers and the local school administrative units with the
11 quality and effectiveness of those programs."

12 **SECTION 4.(b)** The North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching
13 (NCCAT) shall collaborate with the Department of Public Instruction and educator preparation
14 programs selected by The University of North Carolina System Office in designing professional
15 development programs to offer to North Carolina teachers that align with the most recent
16 standards and curriculum for literacy instruction in kindergarten through third grade. NCCAT
17 shall also meet the goals and recommendations set forth in the Comprehensive Plan to Improve
18 Literacy Instruction developed pursuant to Section 3 of this act for the purposes of meeting the
19 requirements of G.S. 115C-296.5, as amended by this section.

20 **SECTION 4.(c)** Subsection (a) of this section becomes effective July 1, 2020, and
21 applies to programs offered by NCCAT on or after that date.

22 23 **LITERACY TRAINING COURSEWORK FOR EDUCATOR PREPARATION** 24 **PROGRAM APPROVAL**

25 **SECTION 5.(a)** G.S. 115C-269.1 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

26 "(9a) Comprehensive Plan to Improve Literacy Instruction. – The comprehensive
27 literacy plan developed by the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in
28 consultation with the Board of Governors of The University of North
29 Carolina, the State Board of Community Colleges, the North Carolina
30 Independent Colleges and Universities, the State Board of Education, and the
31 Professional Educator Preparation and Standards Commission, and utilized by
32 the General Assembly to adopt State law requirements to ensure that the early
33 literacy training provided by educator preparation programs and professional
34 development programs for teachers in the North Carolina public schools is
35 evidenced-based, systemic and explicit, based on the science of reading,
36 designed to improve outcomes for children in gaining early literacy skills, and
37 consistently delivered by those teachers."

38 **SECTION 5.(b)** G.S. 115C-269.20(a) reads as rewritten:

39 "(a) Content and Pedagogy Requirements. – To ensure that EPPs remain current and
40 reflect a rigorous course of study that is aligned to State and national standards, the State Board
41 shall require at least the following minimum requirements with demonstrated competencies in
42 its rules:

43 ...

44 (2) EPPs providing training for elementary education teachers shall include the
45 following:

46 a. Adequate coursework in the teaching of ~~reading, writing, and~~
47 mathematics.

48 a1. Coursework in the teaching of reading and writing that is approved by
49 the State Board of Education as high-quality, evidence-based training
50 for the preparation of educators that meets the goals for literacy

1 instruction established in the State's Comprehensive Plan to Improve
 2 Literacy Instruction.

3 b. Assessment prior to licensure to determine if a student possesses the
 4 requisite knowledge in scientifically based reading, writing, and
 5 mathematics instruction that is aligned with the State Board's
 6 expectations.

7 c. Instruction in application of formative and summative assessments
 8 within the school and classroom setting through technology-based
 9 assessment systems available in State schools that measure and predict
 10 expected student improvement.

11 (3) EPPs providing training for elementary and special education general
 12 curriculum teachers shall ensure that students receive instruction in early
 13 literacy intervention strategies and practices that are aligned with State and
 14 national reading standards and the goals for literacy instruction established in
 15 the State's Comprehensive Plan to Improve Literacy Instruction and shall
 16 include the following:

17 a. Instruction in the teaching of reading, including a substantive
 18 understanding of reading as a process involving oral language,
 19 phonological and phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary,
 20 and comprehension. Instruction shall include appropriate application
 21 of instructional supports and services and reading interventions to
 22 ensure reading proficiency for all students.

23 b. Instruction in evidence-based assessment and diagnosis of specific
 24 areas of difficulty with reading development and of reading
 25 deficiencies.

26 c. Instruction in appropriate application of instructional supports and
 27 services and reading interventions to ensure reading proficiency for all
 28 students.

29"

30 **SECTION 5.(c)** This section applies to educator preparation programs applying for
 31 approval or renewing approval on or after July 1, 2020.

32 **ALIGN LITERACY CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION WITH READ TO ACHIEVE**

33 **SECTION 6.(a)** The State Board of Education and the Department of Public
 34 Instruction shall develop or identify literacy curriculum and instruction standards to ensure that
 35 methods throughout the State are consistent and closely aligned with the objectives of Part 1A of
 36 Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes (Read To Achieve). Based on the goals and
 37 recommendations of the Comprehensive Plan to Improve Literacy Instruction developed
 38 pursuant to Section 3 of this act, the State Board and the Department shall incorporate only the
 39 most effective evidence-based literacy curriculum and instruction methods into the standards
 40 developed. No later than June 30, 2020, the State Board shall provide to local boards of education
 41 (i) the standards developed, (ii) a model literacy curriculum that meets the standards developed,
 42 and (iii) an example of a literacy curriculum that would not meet the standards developed and
 43 explanatory guidance on why it would not meet the standards.

44 Each local school administrative unit shall evaluate its literacy curriculum and
 45 instruction and shall modify as necessary to adhere to the standards developed by the State Board,
 46 or adopt the model literacy curriculum model provided by the State Board. No later than
 47 December 15, 2020, and in a form prescribed by the State Board, each local school administrative
 48 unit shall submit to the State Board a concise explanation of its literacy curriculum and
 49 instruction, as aligned with the standards developed by the State Board.
 50

1 **SECTION 6.(b)** Service Support Coordinators, or other appropriate staff as
2 determined by the Department of Public Instruction, shall work to ensure that the standards
3 developed by the State Board are implemented statewide by reviewing the curriculum of each
4 local school administrative unit in each service area and by consulting with each local school
5 administrative unit as needed to bring literacy instruction into compliance. Review and
6 modification of all literacy instruction statewide shall be complete no later than November 15,
7 2021. Modifications shall be implemented into curriculum and instruction as soon as possible,
8 and all curriculum and instruction as modified under this section shall be in place beginning with
9 the 2022-2023 school year.

10
11 **APPROVE LOCAL READING CAMP PLANS**

12 **SECTION 7.(a)** The State Board of Education and the Department of Public
13 Instruction shall conduct an analysis of reading camps throughout the state in order to determine
14 which reading camp activities and instructional methods are most effective in furthering reading
15 development. Based on this analysis, the State Board and the Department shall develop reading
16 camp standards that incorporate the most effective activities and instructional methods. No later
17 than December 15, 2019, the State Board shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
18 Committee on the standards developed in accordance with this section and any recommended
19 legislation to further improve the effectiveness of reading camps and shall publish the standards.

20 **SECTION 7.(b)** Beginning with reading camps corresponding to the 2019-2020
21 school year, each local school administrative unit shall submit to the Department of Public
22 Instruction a plan for the operation of its reading camps no later than March 1, 2020. Each plan
23 shall include information about the local school administrative unit's efforts to staff reading
24 camps with the most qualified teachers possible, including the unit's efforts to attract teachers
25 associated with high growth in reading based on EVAAS data and teachers who have earned a
26 reading bonus. As part of their plans, local school administrative units are encouraged to partner
27 with other local school administrative units and with community organizations to enhance
28 reading camps.

29 The Department shall review each local school administrative unit's plan and provide
30 feedback as necessary to ensure that each reading camp throughout the State (i) provides
31 instruction that is closely aligned with the goals of Part 1A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the
32 General Statutes (Read To Achieve), (ii) meets the minimum requirements provided in
33 G.S. 115C-83.3(4a) as amended by subsection (c) of this section, and (iii) complies with the
34 reading camp standards published by the State Board of Education. The Department shall provide
35 feedback to local school administrative units, including feedback on efforts to attract highly
36 qualified teachers, no later than May 15, 2020. The Department may provide a form to local
37 school administrative units for the purpose of submitting their plans for review, and local school
38 administrative units shall submit their plans on the form, if provided by the Department for this
39 purpose.

40 **SECTION 7.(c)** G.S. 115C-83.3(4a) reads as rewritten:

41 "(4a) "Reading camp" means an additional educational program outside of the
42 instructional calendar provided by the local school administrative unit to (i)
43 any third grade student who does not demonstrate reading proficiency and (ii)
44 any first or second grade student who demonstrates reading comprehension
45 below grade level as identified through administration of formative and
46 diagnostic assessments in accordance with G.S. 115C-83.6. Parents or
47 guardians of the student not demonstrating reading proficiency or
48 demonstrating reading comprehension below grade level shall make the final
49 decision regarding the student's reading camp attendance. Reading camps
50 shall (i) offer at least 72 hours of reading instruction to yield positive reading
51 outcomes for participants; (ii) be taught by compensated, licensed teachers

1 selected based on demonstrated student outcomes in reading proficiency or in
2 improvement of difficulties with reading development; and (iii) allow
3 volunteer mentors to read with students at times other than during the 72 hours
4 of reading instruction. ~~The 72 hours of reading instruction shall be provided
5 over no less than three weeks for students in schools using calendars other
6 than year-round calendars."~~

7 **SECTION 7.(d)** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
8 adding a new section to read:

9 **"§ 115C-83.6A. Approval of reading camp plans.**

10 (a) Each local school administrative unit shall submit to the Department of Public
11 Instruction a plan for the operation of its reading camps no later than October 1. Each plan shall
12 include information about the local school administrative unit's efforts to staff reading camps
13 with the most qualified teachers possible, including the unit's efforts to attract teachers associated
14 with high growth in reading based on EVAAS data and teachers who have earned a reading
15 bonus. The plan shall incorporate any feedback received from the Department on the previous
16 year's plan. As part of their plans, local school administrative units are encouraged to partner
17 with other local school administrative units and with community organizations to enhance
18 reading camps.

19 (b) The Department of Public Instruction shall review each local school administrative
20 unit's plan and approve only those reading camps that (i) provide instruction that is closely
21 aligned with the goals in this Part, (ii) meet minimum requirements as provided in
22 G.S. 115C-83.3(4a), and (iii) comply with the reading camp standards published by the State
23 Board of Education. No later than February 15, the Department shall notify each local school
24 administrative unit of approval or denial of its plan and shall provide feedback if the plan is
25 denied. No later than March 15, if its plan was denied, a local school administrative unit may
26 submit an amended plan to the Department of Public Instruction. The Department shall notify
27 the local school administrative unit if the amended plan is approved or denied no later than April
28 15.

29 (c) State-provided reading camp funds shall not be released to any local school
30 administrative unit for which a reading camp plan has not been approved by the Department of
31 Public Instruction by April 15. Any local school administrative unit denied approval shall use
32 local funds to fulfill the requirement to provide a reading camp as provided in this Part."

33 **SECTION 7.(e)** Subsection (d) of this section applies beginning with the 2020-2021
34 school year to reading camps corresponding to that school year.

35
36 **PHASE OUT CERTAIN ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENTS**

37 **SECTION 8.** Based on data collected pursuant to G.S. 115C-83.10, as amended by
38 Section 7.24(a) of S.L. 2018-5, and any other data useful for this purpose, the State Board of
39 Education shall analyze the passage rates for alternative assessments in order to determine the
40 comparative utility of each alternative assessment. No later than January 15, 2020, the State
41 Board shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the results
42 of its analysis, along with any recommendations to eliminate certain alternative assessments.

43
44 **ENHANCE DATA COLLECTION**

45 **SECTION 9.(a)** The Department of Public Instruction shall create a uniform
46 template for all data collected pursuant to Part 1A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General
47 Statutes (Read to Achieve), beginning with data collected during the 2013-2014 school year and
48 for each school year thereafter. The template shall include clear designations for each data
49 component reported. A numerical value shall be provided for all data values pertaining to
50 school-wide measures, including those data values reporting fewer than 10 students. Where a
51 measure is disaggregated in a manner that may allow the identity of a student to be disclosed,

1 data values reporting 10 or fewer students may be suppressed to protect student privacy. Data
2 values that are suppressed for this purpose shall be denoted in a different manner than data values
3 left incomplete or unreported. Data values shall be compiled for each data component for each
4 school year and shall be provided to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee in the
5 uniform template created pursuant to this subsection no later than April 15, 2020.

6 **SECTION 9.(b)** G.S. 115C-83.6(a2) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a2) The Department of Public Instruction shall provide for EVAAS analysis all formative
8 and diagnostic assessment data collected pursuant to this section for kindergarten through third
9 grade. The Department shall use a uniform template for all data collected and the template shall
10 be used each time data is provided. The template shall include clear designations for each data
11 component reported. Data values for the prior three consecutive years shall be provided."

12 **SECTION 9.(c)** This section applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year and
13 shall include the reporting of required data from the 2018-2019 school year.
14

15 **ALLOW CEUS AND RETIREES FOR READING CAMP INSTRUCTION**

16 **SECTION 10.(a)** A teacher who has earned a reading bonus and who provides
17 instruction throughout a full reading camp shall be deemed to have completed two continuing
18 education credits related to literacy as required by G.S. 115C-270.30(b)(2).

19 **SECTION 10.(b)** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-83.3(4a), for reading camps
20 corresponding to the 2019-2020 school year, students attending reading camp may be taught by
21 unlicensed retired classroom teachers of kindergarten through third grade, based on demonstrated
22 outcomes in reading proficiency or in improvement of difficulties with reading development. A
23 retired teacher may begin providing reading camp instruction at the conclusion of the six-month
24 period immediately following the effective date of retirement and shall be compensated at a rate
25 of two thousand dollars (\$2,000) upon completion of the camp.
26

27 **EXPAND WOLFPACK WORKS PROGRAM**

28 **SECTION 11.(a)** From the funds appropriated to the Department of Public
29 Instruction for the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium for the Excellent Public Schools Act, Read to
30 Achieve Program, the Department of Public Instruction shall contract with North Carolina State
31 University to continue the Wolfpack WORKS pilot program (Wolfpack WORKS) during the
32 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 school years and may include in the contract expansion of Wolfpack
33 WORKS, in accordance with the best interests of the students of the State, as determined by the
34 Department. The Department of Public Instruction may also use funds appropriated for the
35 Excellent Public Schools Act, Read to Achieve Program, to expand Wolfpack WORKS by
36 collaborating with any other constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina, in
37 accordance with the best interests of the students of the State, as determined by the Department.

38 Constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina participating in activities
39 under this section shall not charge indirect facilities and administrative costs against the funding
40 provided pursuant to this section.

41 By March 15 of each year that funds are used for the purposes described in this
42 section, the Department of Public Instruction shall submit a report to the Joint Legislative
43 Education Oversight Committee that includes the following:

- 44 (1) A list of the local school administrative units and the schools within each unit
45 that participated, along with the total number of local school administrative
46 units and schools participating.
- 47 (2) The total number of elementary school teachers that participated.
- 48 (3) A summary of activities completed.
- 49 (4) The results of any evaluations performed on the Wolfpack WORKS pilot
50 program.

51 **SECTION 11.(b)** This section is effective July 1, 2019.

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EFFECTIVE DATE

SECTION 12. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.