

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 2017

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HOUSE BILL 730

Short Title: Ninth Grade Academy Pilot/Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Quick and Hardister (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations

April 13, 2017

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO ESTABLISH A NINTH GRADE ACADEMY PILOT PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1. Establish; Purpose. - The Department of Public Instruction shall establish a Ninth Grade Academy Pilot Program for up to 10 local school administrative units to establish ninth grade academy programs. The purpose of the pilot program is to provide comprehensive support for ninth grade students transitioning from middle school to high school. The pilot program shall be for five years, beginning with the 2018-2019 school year and ending with the 2022-2023 school year.

SECTION 2. Applications. - By September 15, 2017, the Department of Public Instruction shall develop criteria and procedures for a local school administrative unit to apply to participate in the pilot program. A local school administrative unit shall submit an application that includes at least the following information:

- (1) Model design for the ninth grade academy, including enhanced instructional and support strategies.
(2) Estimated cost of establishing the ninth grade academy, including additional staff, facilities, and support services.

SECTION 3. Selection. - By December 15, 2017, the Department of Public Instruction shall select up to 10 local school administrative units to participate in the pilot program that represent the geographic diversity of North Carolina, including both urban and rural areas, to the extent possible from the pool of applicants.

SECTION 4. Pilot Evaluation; Reports. - The Department of Public Instruction shall contract with an independent research organization for the duration of the pilot program to evaluate the implementation and success of the ninth grade academy programs, including at least the following:

- (1) The use of funds by local school administrative units participating in the pilot program.
(2) Student outcome data, including student proficiency data, change in dropout rates or promotion rates, and attendance.
(3) A comparison among the program models used by participating local school administrative units and ninth grade academy models operated in North Carolina that are not operated as part of the pilot program.
(4) Other information the Department deems necessary.



1 The independent research organization shall report by August 15 of each year,
2 beginning with the initial report by August 15, 2019, and ending with a final report by August
3 15, 2023, to the State Board of Education and the Department of Public Instruction on all
4 aspects of the evaluation of the pilot program. By October 15 of each year, beginning with the
5 initial report by October 15, 2019, and ending with a final report by October 15, 2023, the
6 Department of Public Instruction shall report on the evaluation of the pilot program, and any
7 legislative recommendations, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

8 **SECTION 5.** State Funds. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
9 Department of Public Instruction the sum of one million four hundred forty-two thousand five
10 hundred sixty dollars (\$1,442,560) in recurring funds for the 2017-2018 fiscal year to support
11 implementation of the Ninth Grade Academy Pilot Program established by this act. The
12 Department may use up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) of the funds appropriated
13 in this section to contract with an independent research organization for the pilot evaluations.
14 Any remaining funds may be used to award funds to selected local school administrative units
15 for the implementation of the pilot programs in accordance with this act.

16 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2017.