

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 1940*

Short Title: Communities in Schools Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Malone, Queen, Boseman, Jenkins; Apodaca, Atwater, Berger of Franklin, Brunstetter, Cowell, Dorsett, Foriest, Forrester, Goodall, Goss, Graham, Hartsell, Hunt, Jones, McKissick, Nesbitt, Purcell, Rand, Snow, Stevens, and Tillman.

Referred to: Appropriations/Base Budget.

May 22, 2008

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF
3 NORTH CAROLINA, INC., PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND TO PLACE NO
4 FEWER THAN ONE HUNDRED GRADUATION COACHES IN EITHER
5 MIDDLE OR HIGH SCHOOLS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE JOINT
6 LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON DROPOUT PREVENTION AND HIGH
7 SCHOOL GRADUATION.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the
10 Department of Public Instruction the sum of six million twenty-four thousand
11 ninety-one dollars (\$6,024,091) for the 2008-2009 fiscal year in recurring funds to
12 support and expand the programs and services of Communities in Schools of North
13 Carolina, Inc., a public and private partnership that addresses the multiple needs of
14 students at the greatest risk of dropping out of schools. Communities in Schools of
15 North Carolina, Inc., shall use the funds to leverage federal and private grants to support
16 local Communities in Schools programs throughout the State and to place no fewer than
17 100 graduation coaches in either middle or high schools. When placing graduation
18 coaches, Communities in Schools of North Carolina, Inc., shall give priority to schools
19 that have a four-year cohort graduation rate of less than sixty-five percent (65%).

20 The graduation coaches shall:

- 21 (1) Identify and coordinate appropriate academic assistance and support
22 for students at risk of dropping out of school;
23 (2) Refer at-risk students to other school personnel such as counselors,
24 social workers, and nurses who can address problems that might
25 prevent a student from graduating;

- 1 (3) Recruit mentors and tutors from the local community to work with
2 at-risk students to help keep them on track to graduate;
3 (4) Initiate contact with parents and guardians of at-risk students, provide
4 regular updates of the student's academic progress, and encourage
5 parental involvement in student academic endeavors;
6 (5) Provide information to at-risk students and their parents or guardians
7 about graduation requirements, support services to help students not
8 performing at grade level, advanced and honors courses, opportunities
9 for higher education, and worker training after graduation; and
10 (6) Refer students requiring services relating to substance abuse, domestic
11 violence, family planning, or mental health to appropriate providers
12 where medically accurate information will be provided and appropriate
13 services are available.

14 **SECTION 2.** Communities in Schools of North Carolina, Inc., shall report
15 on the activities of the graduation coaches to the Joint Legislative Commission on
16 Dropout Prevention and High School Graduation and the Joint Legislative Education
17 Oversight Committee by October 15, 2009, and annually thereafter.

18 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2008.