

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

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SENATE BILL 483

Short Title: NC Comprehensive School Accountability. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Smith-Ingram, Curtis, and Clark (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 30, 2017

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL ACCOUNTABILITY THROUGH  
3 THE REQUIREMENT OF CERTAIN TESTS TO ASSESS PROGRESS OF STUDENTS  
4 RECEIVING OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIPS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-562.5 reads as rewritten:

7 "§ 115C-562.5. **Obligations of nonpublic schools accepting eligible students receiving**  
8 **scholarship grants.**

9 (a) A nonpublic school that accepts eligible students receiving scholarship grants shall  
10 comply with the following:

- 11 (1) Provide to the Authority documentation for required tuition and fees charged  
12 to the student by the nonpublic school.
- 13 (2) Provide to the Authority a criminal background check conducted for the staff  
14 member with the highest decision-making authority, as defined by the  
15 bylaws, articles of incorporation, or other governing document, to ensure  
16 that person has not been convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332.
- 17 (3) Provide to the parent or guardian of an eligible student, whose tuition and  
18 fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant, an annual written  
19 explanation of the student's progress, including the student's scores on  
20 standardized achievement tests.
- 21 (4) Administer, at least once in each school year, ~~a nationally~~ the most recent  
22 edition of one of the following nationally normed standardized test or other  
23 ~~nationally standardized equivalent measurement tests~~ selected by the chief  
24 administrative officer of the nonpublic school to all eligible students whose  
25 tuition and fees are paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant enrolled  
26 in grades three and ~~higher~~ higher:
  - 27 a. Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS): Iowa Assessment Form E.
  - 28 b. California Achievement Test (CAT).
  - 29 c. Stanford Achievement Test.
  - 30 d. Terra Nova Plus.

31 The ~~nationally~~ nationally normed standardized test ~~or other equivalent~~  
32 ~~measurement~~ selected must measure achievement in the areas of English  
33 grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics. Test performance data shall be  
34 submitted to the Authority by July 15 of each year. Test performance data  
35 reported to the Authority under this subdivision is not a public record under  
36 Chapter 132 of the General Statutes.



1           (5) Provide to the Authority graduation rates of the students receiving  
2 scholarship grants in a manner consistent with nationally recognized  
3 standards.

4           (6) Contract with a certified public accountant to perform a financial review,  
5 consistent with generally accepted accounting principles, for each school  
6 year in which the school accepts students receiving more than three hundred  
7 thousand dollars (\$300,000) in scholarship grants awarded under this Part.

8           (b) A nonpublic school that accepts students receiving scholarship grants shall not  
9 require any additional fees based on the status of the student as a scholarship grant recipient.

10          (c) A nonpublic school enrolling more than ~~25~~10 students whose tuition and fees are  
11 paid in whole or in part with a scholarship grant shall report to the Authority on the aggregate  
12 standardized test performance of eligible students. Aggregate test performance data reported to  
13 the Authority which does not contain personally identifiable student data shall be a public  
14 record under Chapter 132 of the General Statutes. Test performance data may be shared with  
15 public or private institutions of higher education located in North Carolina and shall be  
16 provided to an independent research organization selected by the Authority for research  
17 purposes as permitted by the Federal Education Rights and Privacy Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1232g.

18          (c1) A nonpublic school shall not discriminate with respect to the categories listed in 42  
19 U.S.C. § 2000d, as that statute read on January 1, 2014.

20          (d) A nonpublic school accepting students receiving scholarship grants that fails to  
21 comply with the requirements of this section shall be ineligible to receive future scholarship  
22 grants if the Authority determines that the nonpublic school is not in compliance with the  
23 requirements of this section. The nonpublic school shall notify the parent or guardian of any  
24 enrolled student receiving a scholarship grant that the nonpublic school is no longer eligible to  
25 receive future scholarship grants. A nonpublic school may appeal for reconsideration of  
26 eligibility after one year."

27           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
28 the 2017-2018 school year.