

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2013**

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**HOUSE BILL 839
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/1/13**

Short Title: Public School Reporting Reform.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 11, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT TO REDUCE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Whereas, the General Assembly recognizes that local school administrative units have become overburdened with paperwork; and

Whereas, local school administrative units are also overburdened with reporting requirements by the Department of Public Instruction and other various State and federal agencies; and

Whereas, in some cases much of this paperwork is duplicative and nonessential to educational outcomes for our students; and

Whereas, the General Assembly desires to remedy this with input from those closest to the issues; and

Whereas, school superintendents from across North Carolina were asked to work together in regional groups to review 153 current rules and regulations with which they must comply; and

Whereas, the school superintendents working group(s) have reported back recommendations on whether to keep, revise, study, or delete any of these 153 current rules and regulations; and

Whereas, the useful information and data that may have been supplied in these reports will continue to be available through the PowerSchool application coming online in 2013; and

Whereas, a reduction in reporting and/or paperwork will not result in a lack of informed decision making but will allow local school administrative units to operate more efficiently; Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The Department of Public Instruction shall simplify and minimize data entry requirements of local school administrative units to achieve the least burdensome administrative data entry workload possible, particularly as it relates to the implementation of the PowerSchool application and any other component of the Instructional Improvement System.

SECTION 1.(b) The Department of Public Instruction shall comply with G.S. 115C-12(19)(i) and not require as a separate submission at least all of the following reports to reduce unnecessary reporting requirements for local school administrative units:

- (1) The Principal's Monthly Report (PMR) Final, required by the 30th of each month.
- (2) The Teacher Vacancy Report, required by October 20th each year.
- (3) The Professional Personnel Activity Report (PPAR), required annually.



- 1 (4) The Pupils in Membership by Race and Sex, required annually by October
2 31st.
- 3 (5) The Report of School Sales of Textbooks and Used Books, required annually
4 by October 31st.
- 5 (6) The School Activity Report (SAR), required annually.

6 **SECTION 1.(c)** The Department of Public Instruction may collect any information
7 contained in the reports eliminated in accordance with subsection (a) of this section that is
8 necessary for compliance with State or federal law through the implementation of the
9 PowerSchool application or any other component of the Instructional Improvement System.

10 **SECTION 1.(d)** Local school administrative units shall continue to be responsible
11 for required data entry into the PowerSchool application or any other component of the
12 Instructional Improvement System.

13 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-12(18) reads as rewritten:

14 "(18) Duty to Develop and Implement a Uniform Education Reporting System,
15 Which Shall Include Standards and Procedures for Collecting Fiscal and
16 Personnel Information. –

- 17 a. The State Board of Education shall adopt standards and procedures
18 for local school administrative units to provide timely, accurate, and
19 complete fiscal and personnel information, including payroll
20 information, on all school personnel. ~~All local school administrative~~
21 ~~units shall comply with these standards and procedures by the~~
22 ~~beginning of the 1987-88 school year.~~
- 23 b. The State Board of Education shall develop and implement a
24 Uniform Education Reporting System that shall include requirements
25 for collecting, processing, and reporting fiscal, personnel, and student
26 data, by means of electronic transfer of data files from local
27 computers to the State Computer Center through the State
28 Communications Network. ~~All local school administrative units shall~~
29 ~~comply with the requirements of the Uniform Education Reporting~~
30 ~~System by the beginning of the 1989-90 school year.~~
- 31 c. The State Board of Education shall comply with the provisions of
32 G.S. 116-11(10a) to plan and implement an exchange of information
33 between the public schools and the institutions of higher education in
34 the State. The State Board of Education shall require local boards of
35 education to provide to the parents of children at a school all
36 information except for confidential information received about that
37 school from institutions of higher education pursuant to
38 G.S. 116-11(10a) and to make that information available to the
39 general public.
- 40 d. The State Board of Education shall modify the Uniform Education
41 Reporting System to provide clear, accurate, and standard
42 information on the use of funds at the unit and school level. The plan
43 shall provide information that will enable the General Assembly to
44 determine State, local, and federal expenditures for personnel at the
45 unit and school level. The plan also shall allow the tracking of
46 expenditures for textbooks, educational supplies and equipment,
47 capital outlay, at-risk students, and other purposes. ~~The revised~~
48 ~~Uniform Education Reporting System shall be implemented~~
49 ~~beginning with the 1999-2000 school year.~~
- 50 e. When practicable, reporting requirements developed by the State
51 Board of Education as part of the Uniform Education Reporting

1 System under this subdivision shall be incorporated into the
 2 PowerSchool application or any other component of the Instructional
 3 Improvement System to minimize duplicative reporting by local
 4 school administrative units."

5 **SECTION 3.(a)** G.S. 115C-12(19) reads as rewritten:

6 "**§ 115C-12. Powers and duties of the Board generally.**

7 ...

8 (19) Duty to Identify Required Reports and to Eliminate Unnecessary Reports
 9 and Paperwork. – Prior to the beginning of each school year, the State Board
 10 of Education shall identify all reports that are required at the State level for
 11 the school year.

12 The State Board of Education shall adopt policies to ensure that local
 13 school administrative units are not required by the State Board of Education,
 14 the State Superintendent, or the Department of Public Instruction staff to (i)
 15 provide information that is already available on the student information
 16 management system or housed within the Department of Public Instruction;
 17 (ii) provide the same written information more than once during a school
 18 year unless the information has changed during the ensuing period; ~~or~~ (iii)
 19 complete forms, for children with disabilities, that are not necessary to
 20 ensure compliance with the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education
 21 Act ~~(IDEA)~~ (IDEA); or (iv) provide information that is unnecessary to
 22 comply with State or federal law and not relevant to student outcomes and
 23 the efficient operation of the public schools. Notwithstanding the foregoing,
 24 the State Board may require information available on its student information
 25 management system or require the same information twice if the State Board
 26 can demonstrate a compelling need and can demonstrate there is not a more
 27 expeditious manner of getting the information.

28 The State Board shall permit schools and local school administrative
 29 units to submit all reports to the Department of Public Instruction
 30 electronically.

31 The State Board of Education, in collaboration with the education
 32 roundtables within the Department of Public Instruction, shall consolidate all
 33 plans that affect the school community, including school improvement plans.
 34 The consolidated plan shall be posted on each school's Web site for easy
 35 access by the public and by school personnel.

36 The State Board shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
 37 Committee by November 15 of each year on the reports identified that are
 38 required at the State level, the evaluation and determination for continuing
 39 individual reports, including the consideration of whether those reports
 40 exceed what is required by State and federal law, and any reports that it has
 41 consolidated or eliminated for the upcoming school year.

42 "

43 **SECTION 3.(b)** Notwithstanding the requirements of G.S. 115C-12(19), as
 44 enacted by this act, the State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education
 45 Oversight Committee no later than March 15, 2014, on (i) the elimination of reporting
 46 requirements and (ii) reduction or changes in the data entry workload for local school
 47 administrative units as a result of the implementation of the PowerSchool application or any
 48 other component of the Instructional Improvement System. The State Board of Education shall
 49 also include in its report the availability of accurate data and information for decision making
 50 and the justification for the continuation of any reports required to be submitted by local school
 51 administrative units.

1 **SECTION 4.** Sections 1 and 2 of this act are effective upon the implementation of
2 the PowerSchool application or any other component of the Instructional Improvement System
3 by the Department of Public Instruction. The remainder of this act is effective when it becomes
4 law and applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.