

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 755  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/4/21  
Committee Substitute #2 Favorable 5/4/21

Short Title: Academic Transparency.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 3, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT TO ENSURE ACADEMIC TRANSPARENCY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

**"§ 115C-102.1. Inform the public about instructional materials.**

(a) The following definitions apply in this section:

(1) Instructional material. – Any material used for instruction, including, but not limited to, all textbooks, other reading materials, videos, digital materials, websites, and other online applications.

(2) Lesson plan. – An outline of all of the following:

a. The instruction provided by a teacher for a course that includes a list of (i) all instructional materials assigned, distributed, or otherwise presented in the course and (ii) when students must select instructional materials from a defined list, all instructional materials on that list.

b. Each grade- or school-wide presentation, assembly, lecture, or other activity or event facilitated by the school during instructional hours outside of an individual teacher's classroom, excluding student presentations. The outline shall include a list of (i) each presenter by name and organization and (ii) any instructional material used or presented.

(b) The governing body of a public school unit shall ensure that the following information for each school it governs is prominently displayed on the school website, organized, at a minimum, by subject area and grade level:

(1) The lesson plans that were used at the school during the prior school year. Lesson plans shall identify, at a minimum, (i) all instructional materials by the title and the author, organization, or website associated with each material and activity, (ii) a brief descriptor of the instructional material, and (iii) a link to the instructional material, if publicly available on the internet, or information on how to request review of a copy of the instructional material in person. If individual components of instructional materials used throughout the lesson plan are produced as a single volume, that volume may be listed only once in the lesson plan. If the instructional material was created by the teacher, the lesson plan shall identify the teacher as the author. Nothing in this section



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1                    shall be construed to require the digital reproduction or posting of copies of  
2                    the instructional materials themselves.

3                    (2)    Any procedures for the documentation, review, or approval of the lesson  
4                    plans, including instructional materials identified in those plans, by the  
5                    principal, curriculum administrators, or other teachers.

6                    (3)    The procedure established by the governing board for requesting an in-person  
7                    review of an instructional material not publicly available on the internet.

8                    (c)    The governing body shall provide access from the website of the public school unit  
9                    to the information required by subsection (b) of this section by June 30 of each year either through  
10                   a website maintained by the public school unit or by a link to another website where the  
11                   information is publicly accessible. Public access to the information for the school year ending  
12                   June 30 shall be maintained by the public school unit until June 30 of the following year. The  
13                   Department of Public Instruction shall make available to public school units one or more  
14                   templates for providing information as required by this section. A public school unit may exercise  
15                   flexibility in determining the most effective means of compliance with the requirements of this  
16                   section, including, but not limited to, utilizing any of the following in its discretion:

17                   (1)    Providing a template created by the Department of Public Instruction to  
18                   teachers to facilitate reporting of lesson plans.

19                   (2)    Creating one or more templates to provide to teachers to facilitate reporting of  
20                   lesson plans. The public school unit may customize templates for grades or  
21                   courses and may autopopulate any instructional materials required by the  
22                   public school unit as part of the curriculum for a particular grade or course.

23                   (3)    Allowing utilization of online collaborative software, documents, or  
24                   spreadsheets to allow multiple authorized users to update content.

25                   (4)    Authorizing updating lesson plans throughout the school year, if all updates  
26                   are completed by June 30.

27                   (d)    A governing body that is responsible for the operation of schools with fewer than 400  
28                   students cumulatively is not required to comply with the requirements of this section."

29                   **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

30                   "(9e) Duty to Inform the Public About Instructional Materials. – The Board shall  
31                   ensure that information about instructional materials for any school operated  
32                   under Article 7A and Article 9C of this Chapter is prominently displayed on  
33                   the website of the school, as required by G.S. 115C-102.1."

34                   **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

35                   "(58a) To Inform the Public About Instructional Materials. – Local boards of  
36                   education shall ensure that information about instructional materials for each  
37                   school in the local school administrative unit is prominently displayed on the  
38                   website of the school, as required by G.S. 115C-102.1."

39                   **SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

40                   "(11a) Instructional materials. – The board of directors shall ensure that information  
41                   about instructional materials is prominently displayed on the website of the  
42                   regional school, in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.1."

43                   **SECTION 5** G.S. 115C-218.85 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

44                   "(c)    Instructional Materials. – A charter school shall ensure that information about  
45                   instructional materials is prominently displayed on the website of the charter school, in  
46                   accordance with G.S. 115C-102.1."

47                   **SECTION 6.** Article 4 of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding  
48                   a new section to read:

49                   **"§ 116-69.2. Inform the public about instructional materials.**

1        The Board of Trustees shall ensure that information about instructional materials is  
2 prominently displayed on the website of the North Carolina School of the Arts for all elementary,  
3 middle, and high school programs, in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.1."

4        **SECTION 7.** G.S. 116-235 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

5        "(j) Instructional Materials. – The Board of Trustees shall ensure that information about  
6 instructional materials is prominently displayed on the website of the School, in accordance with  
7 G.S. 115C-102.1."

8        **SECTION 8.** G.S. 116-239.8(b) reads as rewritten:

9        "(b) The chancellor shall be the administrative head of a laboratory school approved by  
10 the Subcommittee and shall provide general direction for the establishment and operation of a  
11 laboratory school. The chancellor, with advice and input from the advisory board established in  
12 subdivision (1) of this subsection, shall adopt policies, operating procedures, and the courses of  
13 study to govern the operation of the laboratory school. The chancellor may designate the duties  
14 required by this Article to other personnel as necessary. The chancellor shall also have the  
15 following powers and duties:

16        ...

17        (2a) Instructional materials. – The chancellor shall ensure that information about  
18 instructional materials is prominently displayed on the website of the  
19 laboratory school, in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.1.

20        ...."

21        **SECTION 9.** Section 6(d) of S.L. 2018-32 is amended by adding a new subdivision  
22 to read:

23        "(5a) G.S. 115C-102.1, Inform the public about instructional materials."

24        **SECTION 10.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
25 law and applies beginning with the display of instructional materials used during the 2021-2022  
26 school year no later than June 30, 2022.