

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 449  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE S449-PCS15315-BN-5

Short Title: Fiscal Responsibility and K-20 Tech Planning.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 25, 2025

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS, COMMUNITY COLLEGES, AND  
3 CONSTITUENT INSTITUTIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA TO  
4 EVALUATE CERTAIN CONSIDERATIONS ON TECHNOLOGY COSTS AND TO  
5 REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO REPORT ON BREAK/FIX RATE.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** Part 3A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is  
8 amended by adding the following new sections to read:

9 **"§ 115C-102.10. Technology costs considerations.**

10 The State Board of Education shall adopt rules requiring all public school units to evaluate  
11 the following when acquiring technology, computer hardware, and software:

- 12 (1) The long-term cost of ownership, including costs of repairing the technology,  
13 computer hardware, or software.  
14 (2) Any flexibility for innovation during the life of the technology, computer  
15 hardware, or software.  
16 (3) Any anticipated resale or salvage value at the end of the target life cycle for  
17 the technology, computer hardware, or software based on the average resale  
18 or salvage value of similar technology, computer hardware, or software as a  
19 percentage of the initial cost of purchase.

20 **"§ 115C-102.11. Break/fix rate reporting requirement.**

21 (a) Definitions. – The following definitions apply in this section:

- 22 (1) Break/fix rate. – The percentage obtained by dividing the number of school  
23 technology devices reported as malfunctioning or needing repair due to  
24 physical damage, hardware failure, or other breakage incidents prior to the  
25 stated life cycle period, not covered by insurance or a policy plan period, by  
26 the total number of school technology devices in operation during that period.  
27 (2) School technology device. – Any electronic or computerized equipment  
28 provided for educational purposes in a public school unit, including  
29 computers, tablets, interactive whiteboards, and similar devices or anything  
30 considered a digital device for purposes of the digital learning dashboard  
31 pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.9.

32 (b) Each governing body of a public school unit shall submit a report on the following  
33 information to the State Board of Education by August 15 annually:

- 34 (1) The break/fix rate of the school technology devices in the public school unit  
35 for the previous school year.



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- 1           (2)    The total number of school technology devices currently in operation in the  
2           public school unit.
- 3           (3)    The total number of school technology devices in the public school unit  
4           requiring repair that (i) underwent repair or (ii) were no longer in service  
5           during the previous school year.
- 6           (4)    The total amount of funds spent to repair or replace school technology devices  
7           during the previous school year.

8           (c)    The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
9           Committee by November 15 annually on the break/fix rate of school technology devices across  
10          all public school units based on the reports submitted by the governing bodies in accordance with  
11          subsection (b) of this section. This report shall include a summary of the data reported by each  
12          governing body and recommendations to reduce break/fix rates in the future."

13          **SECTION 1.(b)** The first reports from governing bodies of public school units  
14          required by G.S. 115C-102.11(b), as enacted by this section, shall be submitted no later than  
15          August 15, 2026, based on data collected during the 2025-2026 school year. The first report from  
16          the State Board of Education required by G.S. 115C-102.11(c), as enacted by this section, shall  
17          be submitted no later than November 15, 2026.

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

19          "(50) To Require Evaluation of Technology Costs. – The State Board shall adopt  
20          rules governing public school units evaluating technology costs in accordance  
21          with G.S. 115C-102.10."

22          **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding the following new subdivisions  
23          to read:

24          "(70) To Evaluate Technology Costs. – A local board of education shall adopt a  
25          policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by  
26          the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

27          "(71) To Report on Break/Fix Rate. – A local board of education shall report  
28          annually to the State Board of Education on the break/fix rate of school  
29          technology devices in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.11."

30          **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 115C-150.12C is amended by adding the following new  
31          subdivisions to read:

32          "(37) Evaluate technology costs. – The board of trustees shall adopt a policy  
33          requiring the evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the  
34          State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

35          "(38) Report on break/fix rate. – The board of trustees shall report annually to the  
36          State Board of Education on the break/fix rate of school technology devices  
37          used in the school in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.11."

38          **SECTION 2.(d)** Part 2 of Article 14A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is  
39          amended by adding a new section to read:

40          "**§ 115C-218.33. School technology.**

41          (a)    A charter school shall adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of technology costs  
42          considerations adopted by the State Board of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

43          (b)    A charter school shall report annually to the State Board of Education on the break/fix  
44          rate of school technology devices used in the school in accordance with G.S. 115C-102.11."

45          **SECTION 2.(e)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding the following new  
46          subdivisions to read:

47          "(18a) The board of directors shall adopt a policy requiring the evaluation of  
48          technology costs considerations adopted by the State Board of Education  
49          pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

1           (18b) The board of directors shall report annually to the State Board of Education  
2           on the break/fix rate of technology used in the school in accordance with  
3           G.S. 115C-102.11."

4           **SECTION 2.(f)** G.S. 116-239.8(b) is amended by adding the following new  
5 subdivisions to read:

6           "(21a) Evaluate technology costs. – The chancellor shall adopt a policy requiring the  
7           evaluation of technology costs considerations adopted by the State Board of  
8           Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-102.10.

9           (21b) Report on break/fix rate. – The chancellor shall report annually to the State  
10           Board of Education on the break/fix rate of technology used in the school in  
11           accordance with G.S. 115C-102.11."

12           **SECTION 3.** Chapter 115D of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new  
13 section to read:

14           "**§ 115D-9.40. Evaluation of technology costs.**

15           The State Board of Community Colleges shall adopt a policy that requires all community  
16           colleges to evaluate the following when acquiring technology, computer hardware, and software:

- 17           (1) The long-term cost of ownership, including costs of repairing the technology,  
18           computer hardware, or software.  
19           (2) Any flexibility for innovation during the life of the technology, computer  
20           hardware, or software.  
21           (3) Any anticipated resale or salvage value at the end of the target life cycle for  
22           the technology, computer hardware, or software based on the average resale  
23           or salvage value of similar technology, computer hardware, or software as a  
24           percentage of the initial cost of purchase."

25           **SECTION 4.** G.S. 116-11 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

26           "(9c) The Board shall adopt a policy that requires all constituent institutions to  
27           evaluate the following when acquiring technology, computer hardware, and  
28           software:

- 29           a. The long-term cost of ownership, including costs of repairing the  
30           technology, computer hardware, or software.  
31           b. Any flexibility for innovation during the life of the technology,  
32           computer hardware, or software.  
33           c. Any anticipated resale or salvage value at the end of the target life  
34           cycle for the technology, computer hardware, or software based on the  
35           average resale or salvage value of similar technology, computer  
36           hardware, or software as a percentage of the initial cost of purchase."

37           **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
38 the 2025-2026 academic year.