



This Bill Analysis reflects the contents of the bill as it was presented in committee.

HOUSE BILL 13: Amend School Health Assessment Requirement

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12	Date:	March 17, 2015
Introduced by:	Rep. Torbett	Prepared by:	Denise Adams
Analysis of:	PCS to First Edition H13-CSTB-6		Legislative Analyst

SUMMARY: House bill 13 would require submission of a form indicating the completion of a recent health assessment prior to the first admission of a child into public schools. House bill 13 would also require the health assessment transmittal form to be permanently maintained as part of the child's official school record.

The Proposed Committee Substitute (PCS) for House Bill 13 makes several conforming changes and provides that the health assessment must be made no more than 12 months prior to the date the child would have first been eligible for entry into the public schools.

CURRENT LAW: Health assessments for children in the public schools are regulated under Article 18 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes. Currently, no child is able to enter kindergarten in the North Carolina public schools without the completion of a health assessment. The health assessment must be made not more than 12 months prior to entry. The required health assessment includes a medical history and physical examination with a screening for vision and hearing, as well as testing for anemia and tuberculosis, if appropriate. It may also include dental screening and developmental screening. The health assessment results must be submitted to the school principal on forms developed by the Department of Health and Human Services and the Department of Public Instruction.

BILL ANALYSIS: Section 1 of the PCS would make a conforming change to the title of Article 18 of Chapter 130A of the General Statutes.

Section 2 of the PCS would amend G.S.130A-440 by requiring a health assessment for students before entering into kindergarten or a higher grade in public school. The requirement is limited to the student's initial entry into the public schools. Section 1 of the PCS would also make clarifying changes that specify that a parent, guardian, or person in loco parentis is responsible for submitting the health assessment to the school principal on or before the student's first day of attendance. The health assessment must be made not more than 12 months prior to the date the child would have first been eligible for initial entry into public schools. Section 1 of the PCS would also require the health assessment form be permanently maintained in the student's official school record.

Section 3 of the PCS would make several conforming changes to G.S. 130A-441 to comply with the new requirement that the health assessment transmittal forms be permanently maintained in the student's official record.

Section 4 of the PCS would make a conforming change to G.S. 115C-402(b) by adding the health assessment transmittal form to the items required to be maintained in an official school record.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill is effective when it becomes law and applies to children entering in the public schools for the first time beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

Amy Jo Johnson, Counsel to the House Health Committee, substantially contributed to this summary.

