



HOUSE BILL 13: Amend School Health Assessment Requirement

2015-2016 General Assembly

Committee:	House Health, if favorable, Education - K-12	Date:	March 4, 2015
Introduced by:	Rep. Torbett	Prepared by:	Amy Jo Johnson
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

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 to be permanently maintained as part of the child's official school record.*

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. It may also include dental screening and development 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 Instruction.

BILL ANALYSIS: House Bill 13 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 bill also makes 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 entry. **Section 1** also requires the health assessment form be permanently maintained in the student's official school record.

Section 2 of the bill makes a conforming change to G.S. 115C-402(b) by adding the health assessment to the items required to be maintained in an official school record.

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

