



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

# HOUSE BILL 660: Transition to Personalized Digital Learning

2015-2016 General Assembly

<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12	<b>Date:</b>	April 22, 2015
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Horn, Saine, Jeter, Fraley	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kara McCraw
<b>Analysis of:</b>	PCS to First Edition H660-CSTC-29		Committee Counsel

**SUMMARY:** *HB 660 would establish requirements for the State Board of Education to continue the transition to digital learning in North Carolina public schools, including the establishment of the North Carolina Digital Learning Initiative (NCDLI)*

*The PCS adds North Carolina New Schools as an entity the NCDLI should leverage the expertise and capacity of in furthering effective digital learning, and clarifies that the NCDLI shall direct the Department of Public Instruction in disbursement of funds related to digital learning.*

**CURRENT LAW:** S.L. 2013-12 stated the intent of the General Assembly to transition from funding for textbooks, both traditional and digital, to funding for digital materials, including textbooks and instructional resources, to provide educational resources that remain current, aligned with curriculum, and effective for all learners by 2017.

In 2013 and 2014, the General Assembly appropriated funds to develop a plan for this transition, and required the Department of Public Instruction to report on the implementation of this plan development to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Fiscal Research Division in January and August of 2015.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** The PCS for HB 660 would do the following:

- Further establish the intent to create programs that advance and accelerate the statewide transition to and effective implementation of digital learning through requiring the State Board of Education to do the following:
  - Expand the School Connectivity Initiative to support internal wired and wireless infrastructure and ancillary services and programs in all K-12 public school buildings.
  - Establish a collaborative procurement service to coordinate acquisition of technology infrastructure, devices, content, and professional services to capitalize on economies of scale and reduce burdens on individual local school administrative units (LEAs) in complying with E-Rate regulations.
  - Expand access to digital learning resources to all K-12 public schools, including open education resources, banks of formative and benchmarked test items aligned to State curriculum standards, and other resources.
  - Provide professional development for education leaders by supporting professional learning for education leaders in each LEA, including those responsible for leading digital learning initiatives, and coaching and support for teachers transitioning to digital learning practices in the classroom.
  - Support model digital learning innovations through a grant program to support the development and dissemination of innovative local school administrative unit digital learning models. Grants

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would support LEAs in development of innovative initiatives that incorporate technological elements into the learning model, as well as models of professional development, strategic staffing, equity of access, and other approaches to digital learning. Grants would encourage collaboration and provide for flexibility waivers for grant recipients to address potential barriers to planned innovations.

- Establish the North Carolina Digital Learning Initiative (NCDLI) by contracting with the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation, as part of North Carolina State University, to support the implementation of the other requirements and other activities furthering the use of digital learning in K-12 public schools and public charter schools in the State.
- The NCDLI would be responsible for engaging selected organizations and educators from throughout North Carolina for the following purposes:
  - Leveraging the capacities and expertise of the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching, MCNC, North Carolina New Schools, State agencies, local school administrative units, public charter schools, colleges, universities, regional education service agencies, professional organizations, nonprofit organizations, private sector organizations, and other appropriate entities to further the effective use of digital learning.
  - Working with relevant State agencies to implement the collaborative procurement system.
  - Coordinating teams of educators and other stakeholders to establish standards and conduct reviews of processes for selection of digital education content.
  - Developing request for proposals, defining criteria, selecting reviewers, organizing the review process, and monitoring recipients' progress for the grant initiatives.
  - Providing professional development programs for school and LEA staff, and others involved in planning and implementing K-12 digital learning initiatives.
  - Furthering the development of capacities and providing resources to support K-12 digital learning in all regions of the State.
  - Directing the Department of Public Instruction in management and disbursement of funds for NCDLI, to support these purposes.

NCDLI must annually report, beginning January 1, 2016, to the State Board of Education, including the Special Committee on Digital Learning, on these activities.

The provisions of HB 660 are subject to the availability of funds for these purposes.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** HB 660 would become effective when it becomes law.