



HOUSE BILL 751: Career and College Ready/High School Grads.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12	Date:	April 25, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Blackwell, Horn, Johnson	Prepared by:	Kara McCraw
Analysis of:	Second Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *HB 751 requires that students demonstrate a certain level of reading competency in order to receive endorsements on their diplomas and directs the Superintendent of Public Instruction to study ways to improve literacy in grades 4-12.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-12(40) requires State Board of Education (SBOE) to establish (i) college, (ii) career, and (iii) college and career endorsements to high school diplomas to encourage students to obtain requisite job skills and to reduce the need for remedial education in institutions of higher education. The endorsements must reflect courses completed, overall grade point average, and other criteria developed by the SBOE.

BILL ANALYSIS:

Section 1 of HB 751 would require the SBOE to include reading achievement as a criteria for diploma endorsements, and would allow a student to receive an endorsement only if the student receives on a nationally norm referenced college admissions test for reading at least the benchmark score established by the testing organization that represents the level of achievement required for students to have approximately a fifty percent (50%) chance of obtaining a grade B or higher or a seventy five percent (75%) chance of obtaining a grade C or higher in a corresponding credit bearing first year college course. The student would be allowed to retake the test as many times as necessary to achieve the required benchmark score for reading in order to receive a high school diploma endorsement prior to the student's graduation. The

The SBOE must add to its annual report on diploma endorsements to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee information on:

- The number of students who had to retake a nationally norm referenced college admissions test to meet the reading benchmark score required to receive a high school diploma endorsement.
- The number of students who were not awarded a high school diploma endorsement solely because of the inability to meet the benchmark score for reading.

Section 2 would authorize the Superintendent of Public Instruction (Superintendent) to study and make recommendations on best practices for public schools in the State to improve reading comprehension, understanding, and application for students in grades four through twelve to ensure that students complete high school with literacy skills necessary for career and college readiness. The study:

- Would include recommendations on appropriate methods to monitor student progress and provide appropriate and timely remediation to students to ensure success on nationally norm referenced college admissions tests.

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- Would authorize appointment of an advisory group to assist and advise in this study that may include superintendents, principals, reading instructors, representatives from research institutions, and other individuals as determined by the Superintendent.
- Would authorize contracting with an independent research organization from funds available to the Department of Public Instruction to assist in the study.

The Superintendent would report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the State Board of Education on the study no later than January 15, 2019. The State Board of Education could use the findings and recommendations to inform policies, and could submit additional comments on the report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives no later than February 15, 2019.

EFFECTIVE DATE: HB 751 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with high school diploma endorsements awarded in the 2019-2020 school year.