



HOUSE BILL 97: Arts Education Requirement.

2017-2018 General Assembly

Committee:	House Education - K-12	Date:	February 28, 2017
Introduced by:	Reps. Elmore, Carney, Johnson	Prepared by:	Drupti Chauhan
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

House Bill 97 would direct the State Board of Education to require one arts education credit for graduation from high school beginning with students entering the sixth grade in 2020.

CURRENT LAW:

Arts Education: G.S. 115C 81(a1) provides that the arts must be included as an area of instruction that must be offered in the public schools and an arts education standard course of study has been adopted by the SBE. The North Carolina Arts Education Essential Standards provide a comprehensive framework for each of the arts disciplines (dance, music, theatre arts, and visual arts) in the public schools.

In North Carolina, licensure is available for all four disciplines of arts education. G.S. 115C-296.10 specifically provides that elementary education teacher education preparation programs include instruction in integration of arts education across the curriculum.

Future-Ready Core Course of Study:

Under G.S. 115C-12(9c), the State Board of Education (SBE) has the authority to develop and mandate content standards and the standard course of study. For 9th graders entering in 2012-2013 and later, the Future-Ready Core Course of Study requires 22 credits for graduation which include the following:

- 4 Mathematics credits
- 4 English credits
- 4 Social Studies credits
- 3 Science credits
- 1 Health and Physical Education credit
- 6 Electives credits
 - 2 elective credits of any combination of career and technical education, arts education, or world languages
 - 4 elective credits constituting a concentration recommended from 1 of the following: career and technical education, JROTC, arts education, second languages, or any other subject area

Local school administrative units (LEAs) may add additional requirements.

According to the Department of Public Instruction, as of 2015, the following LEAs have a local arts education requirement for high school graduation: Burke County Schools, Columbus County Schools, Newton Conover Schools, Pitt County Schools, and Rowan-Salisbury Schools.

Karen Cochran-Brown
Director



Legislative Analysis
Division
919-733-2578

House Bill 97

Page 2

BILL ANALYSIS:

House Bill 97 would direct the SBE to modify the State graduation requirements to include one credit in arts education to be completed by each student at any time in grades six through 12. The requirement would begin with students entering the 6th grade in 2020. The SBE would have to include an exemption from the arts education graduation requirement for a student transferring into a North Carolina public school in the 9th grade or later if the requirement would prevent the student from graduating with the cohort to which the student was assigned when transferring.

The SBE must also do the following:

- Establish procedures and a time line for the phased-in implementation of the arts education graduation requirement.
- Establish the minimum criteria to meet the arts education graduation requirement.
- Report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 15, 2020 on (i) statewide implementation of the comprehensive arts education and (ii) the graduation requirement.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would become effective when it becomes law.

BACKGROUND:

Both the 2008 Joint Select Committee on Arts Education and the 2012 Arts Education Commission recommended to the General Assembly that the State Board of Education be directed to require one arts education credit for graduation from high school. According to the Department of Public Instruction, the percentage of students participating in arts education classes state-wide in all grades in 2014-2015 was 139.37%. For middle and high school students this disaggregated as follows:

Arts Education	Middle School	High School
Dance	4.68%	3.33%
Music	53.17%	44.31%
Theatre Arts	8.22%	8.16%
Visual Arts	42.16%	24.01%