



SENATE BILL 227: Broaden Charter School Sibling Priority.

2019-2020 General Assembly

Committee: Senate Rules and Operations of the Senate	Date: April 4, 2019
Introduced by: Sen. Tillman	Prepared by: Susan Sitze
Analysis of: Second Edition	Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 227 would broaden the charter school enrollment priority to include siblings who apply to the charter school for admission in the same school year and children of persons employed to work full-time for the charter school.*

CURRENT LAW: Any child qualified for admission to a public school in North Carolina is eligible to attend a charter school. Under G.S. 115C-218.45(h), during each period of enrollment, charter schools must enroll every eligible student who submits a timely application, unless the number of applications exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building. If capacity is exceeded, then students must be accepted by lot.

G.S. 115C-218.45(f) authorizes charter schools to give enrollment priorities to students in certain situations.

For example, siblings can receive the following enrollment priorities:

- Siblings of currently enrolled students who were admitted to the charter school in a previous year.
- Siblings of students who have completed the highest grade level offered by that school and who were enrolled in at least four grade levels offered by the charter school, or, if less than four grades are offered, in the maximum number of grades offered by the charter school.

Additionally, children of the charter school's full-time employees and children of the charter school's board of directors can receive an enrollment priority, provided that students in these categories make up no more than 15 percent of the total school enrollment.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 227 would add an enrollment priority for siblings who apply to the charter school for admission beginning in the same year. This provision would allow charter schools to give priority enrollment to a sibling who was not initially admitted due to grade level capacity.

Additionally, the bill would expand the charter school employee enrollment priority to cover persons employed to work full-time for the charter school, including children of contracted employees.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Senate Bill 227 would be effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

**Brian Gwyn, Staff Attorney, substantially contributed to this summary.*

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