



SENATE BILL 346: Extended Learning for Elective Courses.

2021-2022 General Assembly

Committee:	House Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	Date:	June 29, 2022
Introduced by:	Sens. Rabon, Burgin, Ford	Prepared by:	Brian Gwyn
Analysis of:	Fourth Edition		Staff Attorney

OVERVIEW: *The 4th edition of SB 346 would do the following:*

- *Authorize local boards of education to adopt policies establishing requirements for granting elective course credit for certain alternative education opportunities aligned with Career and Technical Education (CTE) content standards.*
- *Require the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to provide guidance to local boards of education on how to develop their policies.*
- *Require an annual report on local boards of education that have adopted such a policy.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-12(9d) authorizes the State Board of Education (State Board) to develop exit standards required for high school graduation. The State Board authorizes local boards of education to set local graduation requirements in addition to State-level graduation requirements. 16 N.C.A.C. 06D .0503.

BILL ANALYSIS: The bill would authorize local boards of education to adopt policies allowing students to earn elective course credit for alternative educational opportunities that take place outside of the required instructional day. If adopted, such a policy would be required to include the following:

- A process for approving alternative educational opportunities.
- Criteria for approving alternative educational opportunities, including a requirement that the local board provide detailed information on any denials.
- A requirement that approved alternative educational opportunities align with CTE standards.
- A requirement that approved alternative educational opportunities be considered local option electives rather than CTE electives.
- A requirement that approval can only be granted for alternative educational opportunities sponsored by businesses or trade associations located in the State.
- Authorization for the local board to (i) audit approved alternative educational opportunities at any time and (ii) immediately disqualify any programs not meeting requirements.

The bill would require DPI to provide guidance to local boards of education on how to develop their policies, including examples of an approval process, criteria for approval, and requirements the approved entity must follow.

Local boards of education that have adopted a policy on alternative educational opportunities would be required to report the following annually to DPI by November 15:

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- The adopted policy.
- The total number and percentage of students who earned at least one credit pursuant to the policy, including a disaggregation by number of credits earned.
- For each business or trade association sponsoring an alternative educational opportunity that year, (i) the CTE course to which the opportunity was aligned and (ii) the number of students who earned credit by participating in that opportunity.
- For graduating seniors, the total number and percentage of students whose transcript reflects at least one credit earned pursuant to the policy, including a disaggregation by the number of credits earned.

DPI would be required to compile information submitted by local boards of education and annually report on the information at the State level and by local school administrative unit to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 15.

EFFECTIVE DATE: The bill would be effective when it becomes law and would apply beginning with the 2022-2023 school year. The first reports by local boards of education and DPI would be due by November 15, 2023, and December 15, 2023, respectively.