



SENATE BILL 449: Fiscal Responsibility and K-20 Tech Planning.

2025-2026 General Assembly

Committee:	Senate Education/Higher Education.	If Date:	April 9, 2025
	favorable, re-refer to Rules and Operations of the Senate		
Introduced by:	Sens. Lee, Corbin, Overcash	Prepared by:	Samantha Yarborough
Analysis of:	First Edition		Committee Counsel

OVERVIEW: *Senate Bill 449 would require all public school units, community colleges, and constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina (UNC) to evaluate long-term costs when buying new technology. Public school units would also be required to report on the break/fix rate of school technology devices.*

CURRENT LAW: G.S. 115C-102.9 requires the State Board of Education to establish and maintain an electronic dashboard to publicly display information related to digital learning, including in-school digital device access, out-of-school digital device access, and out-of-school internet connectivity.

BILL ANALYSIS: Senate Bill 449 would require the State Board of Education, the State Board of Community Colleges, and the Board of Governors of UNC to adopt rules requiring all public school units, community colleges, and UNC constituent institutions to evaluate the following when acquiring technology, computer hardware, and software:

- The long-term cost of ownership, including costs of repairing the technology, computer hardware, and software.
- Any flexibility for innovation during the life of the technology, computer hardware, or software.
- Any anticipated resale value of similar technology, computer hardware, or software as a percentage of the initial cost of purchase.

Each public school unit would be required to report on the break/fix rate of school technology devices by August 15 annually. School technology devices are any electronic or computerized equipment provided for educational purposes. The break/fix rate is defined as the percentage of school technology devices that have been reported as malfunctioning or requiring repair prior to the life cycle period not covered by insurance.

The State Board of Education would be required to report annually by November 15 to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the break/fix rate of school technology devices across all public school units using the reports submitted by the units and recommend ways to reduce break/fix rates.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Senate Bill 449 would be effective when it becomes law and apply beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year. The first reports required by Senate Bill 449 would be due in 2026.

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