

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1999

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HOUSE BILL 1550*

Short Title: Respectful Forms of Address/Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Wainwright; Dedmon, Smith, Barefoot, and Thomas.

Referred to: Education, if favorable, Appropriations.

May 16, 2000

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ENSURE THAT STUDENTS ADDRESSING TEACHERS AND OTHER
2 SCHOOL EMPLOYEES USE RESPECTFUL FORMS OF ADDRESS SUCH AS
3 "MA'AM", "SIR", OR AN APPROPRIATE TITLE FOLLOWED BY A SURNAME
4 AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO PROVIDE AND ENHANCE
5 INSTRUCTION IN CHARACTER EDUCATION.
6

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 Section 1. G.S. 115C-81(h) reads as rewritten:

9 "(h) Character Education. – Local boards of education may require the teaching of
10 the following character traits in the public schools:

11 (1) Courage. – Having the determination to do the right thing even when
12 others don't and the strength to follow your conscience rather than the
13 crowd; and attempting difficult things that are worthwhile.

14 (2) Good judgment. – Choosing worthy goals and setting proper priorities;
15 thinking through the consequences of your actions; and basing decisions
16 on practical wisdom and good sense.

17 (3) Integrity. – Having the inner strength to be truthful, trustworthy, and
18 honest in all things; acting justly and honorably.

- 1 (4) Kindness. – Being considerate, courteous, helpful, and understanding of
2 others; showing care, compassion, friendship, and generosity; and
3 treating others as you would like to be treated.
- 4 (5) Perseverance. – Being persistent in the pursuit of worthy objectives in
5 spite of difficulty, opposition, or discouragement; and exhibiting
6 patience and having the fortitude to try again when confronted with
7 delays, mistakes, or failures.
- 8 (6) Respect. – Showing high regard for authority, for other people, for self,
9 for property, and for country; and understanding that all people have
10 value as human beings. As an aspect of this character trait, public
11 schools shall include instruction on respectful forms of address students
12 should use in addressing school employees on school property. The
13 forms of address shall include but not be limited to the use of ‘Yes,
14 Ma'am', ‘No, Ma'am', ‘Yes, Sir', ‘No, Sir', and the use of an appropriate
15 title such as ‘Mr.’ or Mrs.’ followed by a surname.
- 16 (7) Responsibility. – Being dependable in carrying out obligations and
17 duties; showing reliability and consistency in words and conduct; being
18 accountable for your own actions; and being committed to active
19 involvement in your community.
- 20 (8) Self-Discipline. – Demonstrating hard work and commitment to
21 purpose; regulating yourself for improvement and restraining from
22 inappropriate behaviors; being in proper control of your words, actions,
23 impulses, and desires; choosing abstinence from premarital sex, drugs,
24 alcohol, and other harmful substances and behaviors; and doing your
25 best in all situations."

26 Section 2. G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

27 **"§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.**

28 In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of
29 education shall have the power or duty:

30 ...

- 31 (29c) To Adopt Policies Requiring Public School Students to Address School
32 Employees in a Respectful Manner. – The General Assembly urges
33 local boards of education to develop programs and provide instruction
34 to students on the forms of address that students should use in
35 addressing teachers and other school employees on school property and
36 at school-sponsored activities. These forms of address should include
37 but not be limited to the use of ‘Yes, Ma'am', ‘No, Ma'am', ‘Yes, Sir',
38 ‘No, Sir', and the use an appropriate title such as ‘Mr. or Mrs.’ followed
39 by a surname.
40 The policies should provide that students who fail to use appropriate,
41 respectful forms of address, are required to attend an extracurricular
42 program on respectful address outside of the regular school day. The

1 policies should also provide for parental involvement if attendance at an
2 extracurricular program does not resolve the problem."

3 Section 3. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the State Board of
4 Education the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2000-2001 fiscal
5 year. The State Board shall allocate these funds to local boards of education to
6 implement the provisions of this act.

7 Section 4. This act becomes effective July 1, 2000.