

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2007

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SENATE BILL 1479

Short Title: High-Needs Schools/Additional Support. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Dalton; and Atwater.

Referred to: Education/Public Instruction.

March 26, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL SUPPORT TO HIGH-NEEDS SCHOOLS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

SECTION 1.(a) The State Board of Education shall designate as high-needs schools, those schools at which (i) a very high percentage of students are performing at Level 1 or Level 2 on end-of-grade or end-of-course tests, (ii) the teacher turnover rate is very high, or (iii) there is a high percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunches.

SECTION 1.(b) Beginning with the 2007-2008 school year, to ensure that the schools designated as high-needs schools by the State Board of Education have the high quality staff and the additional support they need, the following modifications to law, policy, or both shall apply:

(1) National Board Certified Teachers who serve as full-time mentors, literacy coaches, or in other instructional leadership positions at these schools may retain the twelve percent (12%) salary increment for NBPTS certification, notwithstanding G.S. 115C-296.2.

(2) National Board Certified Teachers, teachers of the year, and other categories of accomplished teachers designated by the State Board of Education shall be given the academic freedom at these schools to use research-based practices in the classroom that go beyond the standard course of study.

SECTION 1.(c) The State Board of Education shall consider the following strategies to ensure that the high-needs schools have the high quality staff and the additional support they need and shall report to the General Assembly on the cost of implementing for the 2008-2009 fiscal year:

(1) Adding additional teacher positions at these schools to reduce class size.

(2) Providing incentives to attract National Board Certified Teachers to these schools.

1 (3) Employing National Board Certified Teachers at these schools for 11
2 months. These teachers shall use the extra month of employment for
3 curriculum development, staff development, and planning for the next
4 school year.

5 **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law.