

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2009

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SENATE BILL 424

Short Title: Reorganize Schools with High Dropout Rate. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Brown, Swindell; Allran, Apodaca, Blake, Brock, Brunstetter, Clary, East, Goodall, Hunt, Jacumin, Malone, Preston, Rouzer, Rucho, Stevens, and Tillman.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

March 5, 2009

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS TO REORGANIZE
3 ALL HIGH SCHOOLS THAT HAVE A HIGH DROPOUT RATE.

4 Whereas, the graduation rate for all high schools for the 2007-2008 school year was
5 70.3%; and

6 Whereas, by comparison, there was a graduation rate of more than 86.5% for
7 students who took a four-credit concentration in Career and Technical Education; and

8 Whereas, over the past decade, student surveys revealed that students who enrolled
9 in Career and Technical Education said their opportunity to take courses in Career and
10 Technical Education was a main reason they stayed in school; Now, therefore,
11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-47 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

13 "(38a) To reorganize high schools with a high dropout rate. – Local boards of
14 education shall reorganize all high schools that have a graduation rate of less
15 than sixty percent (60%) for two consecutive years. The new design shall
16 include at least five of the 16 career clusters recognized by the United States
17 Department of Education. Each career cluster shall include a four-unit career
18 and technical concentration, with at least one course at an advanced level.
19 Virtual school and work experience courses related to the career cluster may
20 be used to meet the concentration requirement.

21 Each year, school counselors or other faculty members shall make
22 information about the career clusters, educational requirements, and career
23 outlook available to all eighth and ninth grade students.

24 The General Assembly strongly encourages these schools to establish
25 career and technical student organizations related to the career clusters they
26 offer."

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

