

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2011

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HOUSE BILL 965  
Committee Substitute Favorable 5/23/12

Short Title: Broaden Successful AP Participation.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

May 17, 2012

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO BROADEN SUCCESSFUL PARTICIPATION BY STUDENTS IN  
3 ADVANCED PLACEMENT TO HELP ELIMINATE ACHIEVEMENT AND ACCESS  
4 GAPS AND TO CREATE PERFORMANCE INCENTIVES FOR SCHOOLS AND  
5 TEACHERS FOR STUDENT EXCELLENCE IN ADVANCED PLACEMENT, AS  
6 RECOMMENDED BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION  
7 REFORM.

8 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

9 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-12(9)c1. reads as rewritten:

10 "c1. To issue an annual "report card" for the State and for each local  
11 school administrative unit, assessing each unit's efforts to improve  
12 student performance based on the growth in performance of the  
13 students in each school and taking into account progress over the  
14 previous years' level of performance and the State's performance in  
15 comparison with other states. This assessment shall take into account  
16 factors that have been shown to affect student performance and that  
17 the State Board considers relevant to assess the State's efforts to  
18 improve student performance. The annual "report card" shall include  
19 measures of Advanced Placement course participation and Advanced  
20 Placement examination participation and performance."

21 SECTION 2. Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
22 adding a new section to read:

23 "§ 115C-83.1. Advanced Placement courses.

24 (a) It is the intent of the State to enhance accessibility and encourage students to enroll  
25 in and successfully complete more rigorous coursework, such as Advanced Placement (AP)  
26 courses, to enable success in postsecondary education for all students. To attain this goal, to the  
27 extent funds are made available for this purpose, the following shall be provided:

28 (1) Students enrolled in public schools shall be exempt from paying any fees for  
29 administration of College Board AP examinations for AP courses in which  
30 the student is enrolled, regardless of the score the student achieves on an  
31 examination.

32 (2) Bonuses shall be awarded to teachers of AP courses for students who earn  
33 scores of three or higher on AP examinations.

34 (b) Eligible secondary students shall be encouraged to enroll in AP courses to earn  
35 postsecondary credit.



1       (c)    The results of student diagnostic tests administered pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.18  
2 and G.S. 115C-174.22, such as the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying  
3 Test (PSAT/NMSQT) and ACT, shall be used to identify students who are prepared or who  
4 need additional work to be prepared to enroll and be successful in AP courses.

5       (d)    Local boards of education shall provide information to students and parents on  
6 available opportunities and the enrollment process for students to take AP courses. The  
7 information shall explain the value of AP courses in preparing students for postsecondary level  
8 coursework, enabling students to gain access to postsecondary opportunities, and qualifying for  
9 scholarships and other financial aid opportunities.

10       (e)    Local boards of education shall ensure that all high school students have access to  
11 AP courses in language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies. Such access may be  
12 provided through enrollment in courses offered through or approved by the North Carolina  
13 Virtual Public School.

14       (f)    The State Board of Education shall see that professional development is made  
15 available to enable teachers of AP courses to have the necessary content knowledge and  
16 instructional skills to prepare students for success on an AP examination and mastery of  
17 postsecondary course content.

18       (g)    The State Board of Education shall seek partners, such as the College Board, to  
19 form the North Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership to assist in improving college  
20 readiness of secondary students and to assist secondary schools to ensure that all students have  
21 access to high-quality, rigorous academics, with a focus on access to advanced courses. The  
22 Partnership shall do the following:

23           (1)    Provide professional development to enable teachers of AP courses to have  
24 the necessary content knowledge, instructional skills, and materials to  
25 prepare students for success on AP courses and examinations and other  
26 advanced course examinations and mastery of postsecondary course content.

27           (2)    Provide administrators, including principals and counselors, with  
28 professional development that will enable them to create strong and effective  
29 AP programs in their schools.

30           (3)    Provide teachers of students in grades seven through twelve with pre-AP  
31 professional development and materials that prepare students for success in  
32 AP courses.

33           (4)    Provide consulting expertise and technical assistance to support  
34 implementation.

35           (5)    Prioritize assistance to schools designated as low-performing by the State  
36 Board of Education."

37       **SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-174.18 reads as rewritten:

38       "**§ 115C-174.18. Opportunity to take Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test.**

39       Every student in the eighth through tenth grades who has completed Algebra I or who is in  
40 the last month of Algebra I shall be given an opportunity to take a version of the ~~Preliminary~~  
41 ~~Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT)~~ Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test  
42 (PSAT/NMSQT) one time at State expense."

43       **SECTION 4.(a)** The State Board of Education shall use funds appropriated in this  
44 act to do the following:

45           (1)    Provide incentive funding to local school administrative units to be  
46 distributed to teachers of Advanced Placement courses as follows:

47           a.     A bonus in the amount of fifty dollars (\$50.00) for each student  
48 taught by the AP teacher in each AP course who receives a score of  
49 three or higher on the College Board Advanced Placement  
50 Examination.

- 1                   b.     An additional bonus of five hundred dollars (\$500.00) to each AP  
2                   teacher who teaches in a school identified as low-performing under  
3                   G.S. 115C-105.37 by the State Board of Education and who has at  
4                   least one student scoring three or higher on the College Board  
5                   Advanced Placement Examination, regardless of the number of  
6                   classes taught or the number of students scoring a three or higher on  
7                   the College Board Advanced Placement Examination.

8                   No teacher shall be awarded a bonus pursuant to this subdivision that  
9                   exceeds two thousand dollars (\$2,000) in any given school year. The bonus  
10                  awarded to a teacher pursuant to this subdivision shall be in addition to any  
11                  regular wage or other bonus the teacher receives or is scheduled to receive.

- 12               (2)     Provide funds to local school administrative units to pay testing fees for AP  
13               courses for all students.

- 14               (3)     Provide funds to local school administrative units for professional  
15               development for teachers of AP courses.

16               **SECTION 4.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
17               Public Instruction the sum of twelve million two hundred six thousand three hundred  
18               thirty-nine dollars (\$12,206,339) for the 2012-2013 fiscal year. Of the amount appropriated,  
19               seven million seven hundred twenty-five thousand two hundred fifty-two dollars (\$7,725,252)  
20               shall be used to fund fees for testing in Advanced Placement (AP) courses, two million nine  
21               hundred eighty-one thousand eighty-seven dollars (\$2,981,087) shall be used for teacher  
22               bonuses, and one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) shall be used for  
23               professional development for teachers in AP courses. Funding appropriated for professional  
24               development shall be used by the State Board of Education to contract with an independent  
25               evaluator to assess the implementation and success of the AP program in North Carolina.

26               **SECTION 5.** The State Board of Education shall report annually beginning July 1,  
27               2013, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the Advanced Placement  
28               (AP) program in North Carolina. The report shall include, at a minimum, the following  
29               information:

- 30               (1)     Number of students enrolled in AP courses and participating in AP  
31               examinations, including demographic information by gender, race, and free  
32               and reduced lunch status.  
33               (2)     Student performance on AP examinations, including information by course,  
34               local school administrative unit, and school.  
35               (3)     Number of students participating in tenth grade PSAT/NMSQT testing.  
36               (4)     Number of teachers attending summer institutes offered by the North  
37               Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership.  
38               (5)     Number and distribution of teachers awarded bonuses for student AP  
39               examination performance.  
40               (6)     Distribution of funding appropriated for AP testing fees, bonuses, and  
41               professional development by local school administrative unit and school.  
42               (7)     Status and efforts of North Carolina Advanced Placement Partnership.  
43               (8)     Other trends in AP courses and examinations.

44               **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2012, and applies beginning with  
45               the 2012-2013 school year.