

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2013**

S

1

**SENATE BILL 478**

Short Title: Communities in Schools Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Barefoot, Tillman, Newton (Primary Sponsors); Barringer, Daniel, D. Davis, Meredith, Pate, Rabin, and Randleman.

Referred to: Education/Higher Education.

March 28, 2013

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS OF NORTH  
3 CAROLINA, INC., PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AND TO PLACE NO FEWER THAN  
4 FIFTY GRADUATION COACHES IN ELEMENTARY, MIDDLE, OR HIGH SCHOOLS  
5 AND FOR STARTUP FUNDING FOR UP TO THREE PERFORMANCE LEARNING  
6 CENTERS OR INNOVATIVE HIGH SCHOOLS.

7       Whereas, research has shown that a high school dropout can have a significant  
8 negative impact on the state's economy as determined by the loss of generated income tax  
9 revenue, dependence on government aid, as well as elevated risks for incarceration and that the  
10 North Carolina 2012 cohort graduation rate of eighty and two-tenths percent (80.2%) still falls  
11 below North Carolina's goal for students to graduate on time with a high school diploma; and

12       Whereas, in 1989, Governor James Martin's Business Committee on Education  
13 recognized that it was in the best interest of North Carolina's economy, workforce  
14 development, and public safety to invest in preventative, proactive dropout prevention  
15 interventions such as those offered by Communities In Schools of North Carolina, Inc.; and

16       Whereas, even though Communities In Schools of North Carolina served more than  
17 180,730 North Carolina students with a corresponding stay-in-school rate of ninety-nine  
18 percent (99%) in the 2011-2012 school year, Communities In Schools' programs and services  
19 do not yet benefit all areas of North Carolina in 2013; and

20       Whereas, a five-year, independent study conducted by ICF International, the largest  
21 and most comprehensive ever conducted, has established that Communities In Schools is the  
22 most effective dropout prevention program in America. The study found that implementing the  
23 CIS model resulted in the strongest reduction in dropout rates of any existing fully scaled  
24 dropout prevention program that has been evaluated and that Communities In Schools is unique  
25 in having an effect on both reducing dropout rates and increasing graduation rates; and

26       Whereas, it is in the best interest of North Carolina's economic future to address  
27 workforce development to the fullest extent possible by aggressively addressing the need to  
28 improve the high school graduation rate; Now, therefore,  
29 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

30       **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
31 Public Instruction the sum of three million seven hundred thirty-one thousand nine hundred  
32 twenty-seven dollars (\$3,731,927) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year and the sum of three million  
33 seven hundred thirty-one thousand nine hundred twenty-seven dollars (\$3,731,927) for the  
34 2014-2015 fiscal year in recurring funds to support and expand the programs and services of  
35 Communities In Schools of North Carolina, Inc., a public and private partnership that addresses



1 the multiple needs of students at the greatest risk of dropping out of school. Communities In  
2 Schools of North Carolina, Inc., shall use the funds to leverage federal and private grants to  
3 support local Communities In Schools programs throughout the State and to place no fewer  
4 than 50 graduation coaches in elementary, middle, or high schools. When placing graduation  
5 coaches, Communities In Schools of North Carolina, Inc., shall give priority to schools or  
6 Local Education Agencies (LEAs) that have either (i) a four-year cohort graduation rate of less  
7 than eighty and two-tenths percent (80.2%) in the most recent school year and one of two prior  
8 school years or (ii) a performance composite under sixty-five percent (65%).

9       **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to Communities In  
10 Schools of North Carolina, Inc., a nonprofit organization, the sum of one million thirty-five  
11 thousand dollars (\$1,035,000) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year in nonrecurring start-up funds to  
12 open a minimum of three additional Performance Learning Centers (PLCs) or innovative high  
13 schools across North Carolina over the next three years. The funds must be expended by the  
14 end of the 2015-2016 school year.

15       **SECTION 3.** Communities In Schools of North Carolina, Inc., shall report on the  
16 activities of graduation coaches and the progress of development of the additional Performance  
17 Learning Centers or innovative high schools to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
18 Committee by October 15, 2014, and annually thereafter.

19       **SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2013.