

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1989

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HOUSE BILL 1579*

Short Title: Extend Lead Teacher Program.

(Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Redwine; R. Hunter and Diamont.

Referred to: Education.

May 3, 1989

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO EXTEND THE LEAD TEACHER PILOT PROGRAM.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

Section 1. G.S. 115C-363.28 reads as rewritten:

"§ 115C-363.28. Lead teacher pilot program.

(a) A lead teacher pilot program is hereby established, consisting of ~~six schools in the three counties of Haywood, Stanly, and Granville.~~ 16 county pilot projects, two from each of the eight education regions of the State. The 16 pilot projects shall include the lead teacher pilot projects underway in Haywood, Stanly, and Granville counties. It is intended that the ~~six schools participating in the pilot projects together~~ shall represent elementary, junior, and senior high school levels. The 13 new pilot projects shall be selected by the State Board of Education from applications received from county units. Participation of all schools within a unit is not required for the unit to qualify for selection as a lead teacher pilot project.

(b) Each of the ~~three~~ 16 county units shall develop a plan, setting forth the goals to be attained, the strategies for attaining these goals, and the manner in which the pilot program is to be evaluated. ~~This plan, covering the period from July 1, 1987 through June 30, 1989 must be submitted to the State Board of Education and the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations of the General Assembly prior to implementation on July 1, 1987 and should set forth as clearly as possible those aspects of the plan that will be enhanced and improved because of the flexible funding provided in the program.~~ The plans developed for the lead teacher projects underway in Haywood, Stanly, and Granville counties shall cover the period from September 1, 1989, through June 30, 1991, and must be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval on or before October 1, 1989. Prior to the

1 plan's implementation, the State Board shall submit the plan to the Joint Legislative
2 Commission on Governmental Operations of the General Assembly at the
3 Commission's October 1989 meeting. Plans submitted from the Haywood, Stanly, and
4 Granville county projects may provide for extending the project to schools within each
5 county unit that were not part of the original pilot project. The plans developed for the
6 other 13 pilot projects shall cover the period from December 1, 1989, through June 30,
7 1991, and must be submitted to the State Board of Education for approval on or before
8 January 1, 1990. Prior to the plan's implementation, the State Board shall submit the
9 plan to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations of the General
10 Assembly at the Commission's January 1990 meeting. If the Joint Legislative
11 Commission on Governmental Operations is not scheduled to meet, the plan shall be
12 submitted to the Education Subcommittee of the Commission.

13 (b1) The plan developed for each of the 16 pilot projects shall set forth as clearly
14 as possible those aspects of the plan that will be enhanced and improved because of the
15 flexible funding provided in the program. The goal of the lead teacher pilot program is
16 improved student academic performance. The plan of each pilot project shall provide
17 for the measurement of progress in achieving this goal, and shall describe how teachers,
18 students, and parents will be involved in efforts to improve student academic
19 performance. Amendments to the original plan may be submitted as the project
20 counties deem desirable and may be implemented in the absence of objections by the
21 State Board of Education. The implementation of each pilot project's plan shall be
22 monitored and evaluated annually by the Department of Public Instruction to measure
23 progress of the pilot project in meeting the goals and objectives of its plan. The State
24 Board of Education shall report the Department's findings to the General Assembly on
25 January 1, 1991.

26 (c) The faculties and administrators in the pilot schools should be involved in the
27 selection process of the lead teachers. They should also be involved in developing job
28 descriptions and job functions for the lead teachers. Job descriptions and job functions
29 should focus heavily on the unique duties of lead teachers. Lead teacher positions are
30 limited to a two-year time frame and are to be rotated as projects are funded beyond the
31 ~~initial two-year period.~~ period; provided, however, that for lead teacher projects funded
32 beyond the initial two-year period, lead teacher positions may be extended for one two-
33 year time frame.

34 (d) In the ~~three~~ 16 project units, broad decision making latitude shall be granted
35 to the local boards of education. It is expected that lead teachers and faculties will be
36 allowed broad discretion to experiment with the instructional activities that appear to
37 meet instructional needs in that particular setting. It is the specific intent of the General
38 Assembly that this flexibility shall not be inhibited by statute or regulation (i) so long as
39 the plans and activities are carried out within total funds available for that purpose, or
40 (ii) so long as the State Board of Education does not find as a fact that the discretionary
41 authority contained in this act is being abused, and so long as any changes in the plan
42 and any potential inconsistencies with statute or regulation are reported to the Joint
43 Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations or its Education Subcommittee."

1 Sec. 2. There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
2 Public Education \$5,250,000 for the 1989-90 fiscal year, and \$5,250,000 for the 1990-
3 91 fiscal year to be used to implement the lead teacher pilot program and to provide
4 funds for a salary differential for lead teachers, funds for half-time replacements for lead
5 teachers, and funds for training and program development and related costs.

6 Sec. 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 1989.