

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1991

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SENATE BILL 732*
Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/1/91

Short Title: Project Genesis Established.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 22, 1991

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE PROJECT GENESIS PROGRAM, AN
3 EXPERIMENT WITH A RESTRUCTURED SCHOOL APPROACH FOR THE
4 PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 Section 1. Article 16 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by
7 adding a new Part to read:

8 **"PART 5. PROJECT GENESIS PROGRAM.**

9 **"§ 115C-238.12. Creation of program; purpose.**

10 (a) The State Board of Education may establish a Project Genesis Pilot Program
11 in the Gaston, Cumberland, Johnston, and Wake County School Administrative Units.

12 (b) The purpose of the pilot program shall be to enable up to two schools in each
13 participating local school administrative unit to experiment with a restructured school
14 approach that would combine the concepts of flexibility, competitive bidding on the
15 management of schools, accountability, and, whenever possible, magnet schools.
16 Participating local school administrative units shall have four years to (i) determine the
17 feasibility of the project, (ii) secure private funding for any additional funds required for
18 the project, (iii) lay the groundwork for the project, and (iv) if they decide to proceed
19 with the project, begin experimentation in not more than two schools per local school
20 administrative unit.

21 **"§ 115C-238.13. Implementation by local school boards.**

1 (a) The local board of education in a participating local school administrative
2 unit shall select a school building that is under construction as its first school under the
3 project.

4 (b) The local board shall issue a request for proposals for teams of educators to
5 bid to operate the selected school. Each team shall include one individual who shall be
6 designated as principal or leader of the school and at least four teachers who shall
7 comprise the core leadership team before and during the opening of the new school.
8 Members of the team shall not be required to meet certification requirements.

9 The request for proposals shall include the following minimum requirements:

- 10 (1) A statement of principles that the local board of education wants the
11 bidding teams to address;
12 (2) A specified amount of money available for the operation of the
13 building, which amount shall be within the limits of funds typically
14 available for the size of school being opened for bid;
15 (3) A framework for accountability plans by which the success of the
16 project site can be measured, which accountability plans shall include
17 the student performance indicators adopted by the State Board of
18 Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-238.1(3), and shall include factors
19 such as student, parent, and employee satisfaction, parental
20 involvement, community service, and evidence of a focus on
21 developing thinking and reasoning skills;
22 (4) When the magnet school concept is a part of the project, a marketing
23 component for attracting parents to enroll their children in the building
24 when it opens, with the goal that thirty percent (30%) to fifty percent
25 (50%) of the students will be children whose parents selected the
26 school because of its unique philosophy and plans; and
27 (5) A process for maintaining a racially balanced student population
28 within the Genesis School.

29 The requirements may include other provisions which are deemed necessary by the
30 local school administrative unit.

31 (c) The local board of education shall appoint an advisory committee composed
32 of educators, elected officials, and business leaders from within and without the local
33 school administrative unit to screen proposals for the school building and to make
34 recommendations to the local board of education on the proposals.

35 The local board shall consider the recommendations of the advisory committee and
36 shall award the contract. If all or some of the team members awarded the contract are
37 not already employees of the school system, they will immediately be employed by the
38 local school board and become subject to local personnel policies.

39 (d) The team that receives the contract shall interview and select all personnel for
40 the building. The team may select personnel from the current employees of the local
41 board. Hiring shall take place no later that July 1 prior to the opening of the new
42 building. The team shall begin conducting training and planning sessions as staff is
43 hired.

1 (e) The participating school building team shall initiate a comprehensive
2 accountability program from the day school begins. The results shall be published
3 annually and compared to those of traditional schools.

4 (f) After the third and fourth years of the project, the local board of education
5 shall review student outcome results of the existing project site and shall decide whether
6 an additional building within the school system shall be added to the project. The
7 second school chosen for the project shall be either (i) another new school building or
8 (ii) the existing school that is producing the poorest results in student achievement or
9 that has the worst results in student discipline, the dropout rate, and student motivation.

10 **"§ 115C-238.14. Grants of flexibility by the State Board.**

11 In implementing local projects, local boards of education need broad decision-
12 making authority so that local boards of education and participating school leadership
13 teams can carry out the activities that meet the needs of students in that particular
14 building. Each participating local school administrative unit shall request from the State
15 Board of Education, with specificity, those aspects of its project implementation that
16 would be enhanced by flexibility with regard to statutes, policies, and regulations. The
17 State Board of Education may grant each local school administrative unit such
18 flexibility with regard to State statutes, policies, and regulations as it finds necessary
19 and appropriate to implement a local project so long as (i) the projects and activities
20 are carried out within total funds available for that purpose; (ii) no health or safety
21 standards relating to schools or school transportation are lowered; (iii) the State Board
22 of Education does not find as a fact that the flexibility is being abused; and (iv) the
23 provisions of G.S. 115C-325 will not be waived in any way for any teacher working in a
24 Genesis Project school, except those teacher members of the core leadership team who
25 are not subject to the provisions of G.S. 115C-325 at the time the Genesis Project
26 contract is awarded.

27 The State Board of Education shall report such flexibility with regard to statutes,
28 policies, and regulations granted to projects to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight
29 Committee on an annual basis.

30 **"§ 115C-238.15. Reporting requirements.**

31 Each participating local school administrative unit shall submit an annual report one
32 year after the local school administrative unit has awarded a contract, and every year
33 thereafter, to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Superintendent
34 of Public Instruction, and the State Board of Education. The report shall include an
35 itemization of local financial support for the project site, a description of any
36 accountability plans implemented pursuant to G.S. 115C-238.13(b)(3), and a description
37 of the student achievement resulting from the implementation of those accountability
38 plans."

39 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.