

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 863\*

Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 5/5/93

House Committee Substitute Favorable 7/12/93

Short Title: Exc. Child Graduation Requirements.

(Public)

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Sponsors:

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Referred to:

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April 14, 1993

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION TO CONSIDER  
2 CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS WHEN IT ADOPTS RULES SETTING  
3 GRADUATION STANDARDS, TO DIRECT THE NORTH CAROLINA  
4 EDUCATION STANDARDS AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMISSION TO  
5 STUDY HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN WITH  
6 SPECIAL NEEDS, AND TO DIRECT THE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
7 TO SUSPEND THE APPLICATION OF ITS RULE REQUIRING ALGEBRA I  
8 FOR A HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA TO CHILDREN IDENTIFIED AS  
9 LEARNING DISABLED PENDING ITS REEVALUATION OF GRADUATION  
10 STANDARDS FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS.

11 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

12 Section 1. G.S. 115C-81(b) reads as rewritten:

13 "(b) The Basic Education Program shall include course requirements and  
14 descriptions similar in format to materials previously contained in the standard course of  
15 study and it shall provide:

- 16 (1) A core curriculum for all students that takes into account the special  
17 needs of children and includes appropriate modifications for the  
18 learning disabled, the academically gifted, and the students with  
19 discipline and emotional problems;  
20 (2) A set of competencies, by grade level, for each curriculum area;  
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- 1 (3) A list of textbooks for use in providing the curriculum;
- 2 (4) Standards for student performance and promotion based on the
- 3 mastery of competencies, including standards for ~~graduation~~;
- 4 graduation, that take into account children with special needs and, in
- 5 particular, include appropriate modifications;
- 6 (5) A program of remedial education;
- 7 (6) Required support programs;
- 8 (7) A definition of the instructional day;
- 9 (8) Class size recommendations and requirements;
- 10 (9) Prescribed staffing allotment ratios;
- 11 (10) Material and equipment allotment ratios;
- 12 (11) Facilities standards; and
- 13 (12) Any other information the Board considers appropriate and necessary."

14 Sec. 2. The North Carolina Education Standards and Accountability  
15 Commission shall study graduation standards for children with special needs, as defined  
16 in G.S. 115C-109. The study may include a review and evaluation of:

- 17 (1) Other states' graduation standards and whether they are modified for
- 18 these children;
- 19 (2) The appropriateness of an alternative diploma for these children;
- 20 (3) Whether course substitutions, waivers, alternative teaching methods,
- 21 and raised expectations are needed and are appropriate for these
- 22 children; and
- 23 (4) Any other related issue the Commission considers appropriate.

24 The Commission shall consult experts on children with special needs, and shall include  
25 its findings and any recommendations from this study in its initial report to the State  
26 Board of Education by July 1, 1994.

27 Sec. 3. The effective date of the rule adopted by the State Board of Education  
28 in 1991 that established Algebra I as a requirement for a high school diploma is hereby  
29 suspended in its application to any student who is identified as learning disabled on the  
30 April 1993 headcount of exceptional children and whose individualized education  
31 program states that the student's learning disability requires course substitutions or other  
32 modifications in the area of mathematics. The State Board of Education may establish a  
33 new effective date after it completes its reevaluation required by Section 4 of this act.

34 Sec. 4. Upon its receipt of the report authorized under Section 2 of this act,  
35 the State Board of Education shall reevaluate its rule that established Algebra I as a  
36 requirement for a high school diploma. The State Board of Education shall complete its  
37 reevaluation and establish any modifications to this rule on or before October 15, 1994.  
38 Upon completion of this process, the State Board of Education shall file a written report  
39 with the chair of the Commission on Children with Special Needs and the chairs of the  
40 Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee no later than January 1, 1995.

41 Sec. 5. This act is effective upon ratification.