

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2001**

**SESSION LAW 2001-97  
HOUSE BILL 15**

AN ACT TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF A SCHOOL SYSTEM AND AMEND  
THE RECOMMENDED SCHOOL CLASSIFICATIONS BY ADDING THE  
DEFINITION OF THE TERM "MIDDLE SCHOOL".

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-74 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-74. School system defined.**

The school system of each local school administrative unit shall consist of 12 years of study or grades, and shall be graded on the basis of a school year of not less than nine months. Schools within the system may be organized in the discretion of the local board of education. ~~The system may be organized in one or two ways as follows: The first eight grades shall be styled the elementary school and the remaining four grades, the high school; or if more practicable, a junior high school may be formed by combining the first year of high school with both the seventh and eighth grades or with the eighth grade alone, and a senior high school which shall comprise the last three years of high school work. For purposes of Title V of the National Defense Education Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-864) the term "secondary school" shall be applicable to grades seven through 12.~~

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-75 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-75. Recommended school classification.**

(a) The different types of public schools are classified and defined as follows:

- (1) An "elementary school" is a school ~~which embraces a part or all of the eight elementary grades and which that includes all or part of the first through eighth grade and that may have a kindergarten or other early childhood program.~~ that includes all or part of the first through eighth grade and that may have a kindergarten or other early childhood program.
- (2) A "high school" is a school ~~which embraces a high school department above the elementary grades and which that includes all or part of grades nine through 12 and that offers at least the minimum high school course of study prescribed by the State Board of Education.~~ that includes all or part of grades nine through 12 and that offers at least the minimum high school course of study prescribed by the State Board of Education.
- (3) A "union school" is a school ~~which embraces both elementary and high school grades.~~ that includes all or part of grades six through nine.
- (4) A "junior high school" is a school ~~which embraces not more than the first year of high school with not more than the upper two elementary grades that includes all or part of grades seven through nine.~~ that includes all or part of grades seven through nine.
- (4a) A "middle school" is a school that includes all or part of grades six through nine.
- (5) A "senior high school" is a school ~~which embraces that includes~~ that includes the tenth, eleventh and twelfth grades.
- (6) A "union school" is a school that includes elementary, middle, and high school grades.

(b) The school classifications in subsection (a) of this section are recommendations only and do not prohibit local boards of education from classifying schools in other ways.

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-239 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-239. Authority of local boards of education.**

Each local board of education is hereby authorized to acquire, own, lease, contract and operate school buses for the transportation of pupils enrolled in the public schools of such local school administrative unit, and of persons employed in the operation of such schools in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the State Board of Education under the authority of G.S. 115C-12(17) and within the limitations set forth in G.S. 115C-239 to 115C-246, 115C-248 to 115C-254 and 115C-256 to 115C-259. Boards of education which own and operate school buses for the transportation of pupils shall have authority to establish separate systems of transportation for pupils attending elementary schools and for pupils attending ~~junior or middle schools, junior high schools, or~~ senior high schools. Each such board may operate such buses to and from such of the schools within the local school administrative unit, and in such number, as the board shall from time to time find practicable and appropriate for the safe, orderly and efficient transportation of such pupils and employees to such schools."

**SECTION 4.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2001.

In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 10<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2001.

s/ Beverly E. Perdue  
President of the Senate

s/ James B. Black  
Speaker of the House of Representatives

s/ Michael F. Easley  
Governor

Approved 12:46 p.m. this 18<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2001