

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA**  
**SESSION 2007**

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**HOUSE BILL 1857\***

Short Title: Pilot Career Technology High School Program. (Public)

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Sponsors: Representatives Coates; Faison and Wainwright.

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Referred to: Appropriations.

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April 23, 2007

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A CAREER TECHNOLOGY PILOT PROGRAM TO  
2 PREPARE STUDENTS FOR THE TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WORKFORCE  
3 AND TO FOSTER ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.  
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5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the  
7 Department of Public Instruction the sum of one hundred fifty million dollars  
8 (\$150,000,000) for the 2007-2008 fiscal year to establish a career technology pilot  
9 program to prepare students for the twenty-first century workforce and to foster  
10 economic development. The State Board of Education shall use these funds to establish  
11 three regional career technology high schools across the State. In designing the pilot  
12 program, the State Board shall consider the success of the Highland School of  
13 Technology in Gaston County, which has a ninety-seven and seven-tenths percent  
14 (97.7%) cohort graduation rate.

15 The State Board of Education shall establish a competitive process for siting  
16 the three pilot high schools. Local school administrative units applying to have a pilot  
17 high school must demonstrate a high level of cooperation among the units the pilot will  
18 serve and allow for attendance at the school across unit boundaries. They must also  
19 establish a separate advisory board for the school that includes representatives from all  
20 local school administrative units served by the school, parents, and local business  
21 leaders.

22 The mission of these high schools shall be to prepare all students to be  
23 successful in postsecondary education, the community, and workplace by providing  
24 each student with a rigorous and relevant academic, character, and technological  
25 education. Each of the high schools shall focus one or more career pathways such as  
26 health science and biomedical technology, automotive technology, the construction  
27 trades, and communications and information technology. The admissions policy and the  
28 size of the schools shall be appropriate for the mission of the schools.

1           Student learning at these high schools shall be interactive. The schools shall  
2 employ best practices and shall offer a blended curriculum reflecting the content of  
3 academic and vocational courses. The schools shall recognize multiple intelligences and  
4 learning styles and shall provide students with diverse assessments and rigorous  
5 challenges. Learning shall be relevant, exploratory, and founded on the best current  
6 theory and research. Instructional strategies shall be designed with clear goals in mind.  
7 The schools shall teach students to excel not only in their knowledge base and  
8 performance, but in their character as well.

9           The schools shall establish effective partnerships with the business  
10 community, establish a mentor program in which members of the business community  
11 support and enhance the educational process, and seek the input of the business  
12 community on curriculum content. The schools shall also provide information to the  
13 business community about the tax advantages of donating supplies and equipment to the  
14 schools.

15           The local school administrative units in which the regional schools are  
16 located and the other units that are served by the schools shall provide information to  
17 middle school students and their parents about the high schools.

18           The State Board of Education shall report to the Joint Legislative Education  
19 Oversight Committee prior to January 15, 2008, and January 15, 2009, on the  
20 implementation of the pilot program and its recommendations for expanding the  
21 program.

22           **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2007.