

- 1 a. The instructional time shall not include the time for lunch service,
2 transition periods, and the physical activity period as required by this
3 section.
- 4 b. Instruction shall not be delivered on Saturdays.
- 5 (2) Meal service for each instructional day.
- 6 (3) A period of physical activity during the instructional day.
- 7 (4) Grade level course offerings and activities in the following:
- 8 a. For students in kindergarten through third grade, in-person instruction
9 in the following:
- 10 1. Reading and math, in addition to science instruction for third
11 grade students.
- 12 2. Integration of the local school administrative unit's reading
13 camp, as defined in G.S. 115C-83.3(4a), into the program.
- 14 3. At least one enrichment activity. The local school
15 administrative unit shall have discretion in the type of
16 enrichment activity offered, such as a sports, music, or arts
17 program.
- 18 b. For students in fourth through eighth grade, in-person instruction in
19 the following:
- 20 1. Reading, math, and science.
- 21 2. At least one enrichment activity. The local school
22 administrative unit shall have discretion in the type of
23 enrichment activity offered, such as a sports, music, or arts
24 program.
- 25 c. For high school students:
- 26 1. In-person instruction in end-of-course subjects.
- 27 2. Access to modules and teacher support for credit recovery
28 courses necessary to meet graduation requirements.
- 29 3. In-person instruction for an elective course.
- 30 (5) Transportation services to the school facility housing the program, provided
31 in accordance with the Plan A requirements for transportation established in
32 the StrongSchoolsNC Public Health Toolkit (K-12) issued on February 2,
33 2021.
- 34 (5a) Time built into the instructional day for teachers to provide individual or small
35 group instruction to at-risk students.
- 36 (5b) In-person social-emotional learning supports for all students in the program.
- 37 (6) Voluntary participation by at-risk students in the program. Each local school
38 administrative unit shall notify parents of students identified as at-risk,
39 pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.41(a), and the student's eligibility for participation
40 in the program. Parents of students who qualify for the program shall make
41 the final decision regarding student attendance at the program. However, for
42 students who do attend the program, the following shall apply:
- 43 a. Kindergarten students who participate in the program shall be exempt
44 from retention for the 2021-2022 school year. At the end of the
45 program, if necessary, a supplemental support plan shall be developed
46 for the student for promotion to the first grade.
- 47 b. For all other students who are at-risk of grade retention for the
48 2021-2022 school year, the student's principal shall reassess the
49 student's promotion eligibility upon completion of the program.
- 50 (7) Opportunity for additional students to participate, within the space available,
51 after students are prioritized for attendance in the program under subdivision

1 (6) of this section. The local school administrative unit shall establish any
2 criteria for prioritizing additional students participating in the program.

- 3 (8) Outreach to families and students to increase participation in the program by
4 not only addressing learning losses, but by offering a fun, positive
5 environment with enrichment activities to counteract the negative impacts
6 from COVID-19 on student social interactions and development.

7 **SECTION 1.3.(a)** Employment of School Personnel. – For each local school
8 administrative unit operating the program, the following shall apply:

- 9 (1) Notwithstanding Articles 19, 20, 21, and Part 3 of Article 22 of Chapter 115C
10 of the General Statutes, a local board of education shall employ teachers and
11 other school personnel as temporary employees on a contract basis for the
12 period of the program. School personnel employed as temporary employees
13 by a local board of education pursuant to this act shall not be considered an
14 "employee" as defined in G.S. 135-1(10) or a "teacher" as defined in
15 G.S. 135-1(25), nor shall it cause school personnel to be considered an
16 "employee or State employee" under G.S. 135-48.1(10). In addition, school
17 personnel shall not be deemed as earning "compensation" as defined in
18 G.S. 135-1(7a) and shall not be eligible to accrue paid leave during their
19 temporary employment.

- 20 (2) For individuals who retired under the Teachers' and State Employees'
21 Retirement System (TSERS) on or after December 1, 2020, but on or before
22 March 1, 2021, the six-month separation from service from an employer that
23 is required under G.S. 135-1(20) in order for a retirement to become effective
24 shall not apply and instead a one-month separation shall be required, provided
25 that the position to which the individual returns is as a teacher or other school
26 personnel employed as a temporary employee on a contract basis for the
27 program as required in subdivision (1) of this section. Upon the expiration of
28 this section, all of the following shall apply:

- 29 a. The six-month separation from an employer required under
30 G.S. 135-1(20) shall again be applicable to individuals who retired
31 under TSERS on or after December 1, 2020, but on or before March
32 1, 2021.
- 33 b. In order for a member's retirement under TSERS on or after December
34 1, 2020, but on or before March 1, 2021, to become effective in any
35 month, the member must perform no work for an employer, including
36 part-time, temporary, substitute, or contractor work, at any time
37 between the expiration of this section and the end of the six months
38 immediately following the effective date of retirement, provided the
39 expiration of the six-month period of separation did not occur while
40 this section was in effect.
- 41 c. For individuals who retired under TSERS on or after December 1,
42 2020, but before March 1, 2021, any time worked in the program and
43 the time this section expires shall not be considered work for the
44 purposes of the six-month separation required under G.S. 135-1(20).

45 **SECTION 1.3.(b)** This section is effective when it becomes law and expires August
46 1, 2021.

47 **SECTION 1.4.** K-3 Class Size. – Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-301(c) or any other
48 provision of law, limitations on teacher-to-student class size ratios for kindergarten through third
49 grade shall not apply to classes offered through the local school administrative unit's program.

50 **SECTION 1.5.** Use of Reading Camp Funds. – Notwithstanding
51 G.S. 115C-105.25(b)(10) and any other provision of law, local school administrative units may

1 use funds allocated to the units for reading camps for the 2020-2021 fiscal year to also support
2 the operation of a school extension learning recovery and enrichment program pursuant to this
3 act.

4 **SECTION 1.5A.** Funds from ESSER II. – The General Assembly finds that one
5 billion four hundred forty-two million three hundred thirty-one thousand eight hundred
6 eighty-eight dollars (\$1,442,331,888) from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency
7 Relief II (ESSER II) Fund was appropriated in S.L. 2021-1 to be allocated to public school units,
8 pursuant to subsection (c) of Section 313 of P.L. 116-260, for the purposes of responding to
9 COVID-19, including addressing learning loss and returning to in-person instruction.

10 It is the intent of the General Assembly to also direct the State Board of Education to
11 reserve a certain portion of remaining funds made available in the ESSER II Fund to meet the
12 emergency needs of the elementary and secondary schools of the State, pursuant to subsection
13 (e) of Section 313 of P.L. 116-260, to be held in reserve by the Department of Public Instruction
14 to be allocated to local school administrative units and charter schools to support in-person
15 instruction programs to address learning loss and provide enrichment activities in the summer
16 pursuant to this act. The allocation of these grants shall be prioritized to local school
17 administrative units and charter schools based on need as demonstrated by the expenditure of
18 existing federal funding received for COVID-19 related impacts.

19 **SECTION 1.6.** Participation by Students Not Enrolled in the Local School
20 Administrative Unit. – If there is space available in the program after all of the students who were
21 enrolled in the local school administrative unit for the 2020-2021 school year have had the
22 opportunity to register to participate in the program as required in subdivisions (6) and (7) of
23 Section 1.2 of this act, the local school administrative unit may allow students who were not
24 enrolled in that unit for the 2020-2021 school year to register to participate in the program on a
25 first-come, first-serve basis.

26 **SECTION 1.7.** Reporting Requirements. – By September 1, 2021, local school
27 administrative units shall report all of the following to the Department of Public Instruction:

- 28 (1) Results of competency-based assessments given to students in grades K-8 at
29 the beginning of the program.
- 30 (2) Results of competency-based assessments given to students in grades K-8 at
31 the conclusion of the program.
- 32 (3) The number of students who progressed to the next grade level after
33 participating in the program.
- 34 (4) The number of students who were retained in the same grade level after
35 participating in the program.
- 36 (5) The number of students who received credit recovery in high school.

37 By January 15, 2022, the Department of Public Instruction shall report to the Joint
38 Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the implementation of this act and all of the
39 information required in this section. The Department shall submit with its report a copy of each
40 program plan submitted to the Department, an explanation of the program outcomes completed
41 by the Department, and any other data deemed by the Department to be useful to the Joint
42 Legislative Education Oversight Committee in evaluating the delivery of programs.

43 44 **PART II. INNOVATIVE BENCHMARK ASSESSMENTS**

45 **SECTION 2.** Benchmark Assessments. – Part 4 of Article 10A of Chapter 115C of
46 the General Statutes is amended by adding a new section to read:

47 **§ 115C-174.23. Benchmark assessments.**

48 The State Board of Education shall determine which grade and core subject areas shall have
49 innovative benchmark assessments in order to allow teachers to more frequently measure student
50 learning and address student learning loss throughout the school year. An innovative benchmark

1 assessment shall provide for educator flexibility, assessments aligned with the standard course
2 of study, and actionable data for teachers, schools, and local school administrative units.

3 Within funds available, the State Board of Education shall develop innovative benchmark
4 assessments for use by local school administrative units. Local school administrative units shall
5 either use these innovative benchmark assessments or they shall develop and use their own
6 innovative benchmark assessments."

7
8 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

9 **SECTION 3.** Effective Date. – This act is effective when it becomes law. Section 2
10 of this act applies beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.