

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

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HOUSE BILL 687  
PROPOSED COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE H687-PCS10370-TC-35

Short Title: Public Schools/Testing Schedule.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

April 14, 2015

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FLEXIBILITY TO LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS  
3 IN ESTABLISHING THE ANNUAL TESTING SCHEDULE AND ENSURING THAT  
4 THE TEACHER OF RECORD MAY ADMINISTER TESTS TO STUDENTS.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 SECTION 1. G.S. 115C-174.12(a) reads as rewritten:

7 "(a) The State Board of Education shall establish policies and guidelines necessary for  
8 minimizing the time students spend taking tests administered through State and local testing  
9 programs, for minimizing the frequency of field testing at any one school, and for otherwise  
10 carrying out the provisions of this Article. These policies and guidelines shall include the  
11 following:

- 12 (1) Schools shall devote no more than two days of instructional time per year to  
13 the taking of practice tests that do not have the primary purpose of assessing  
14 current student ~~learning;~~ learning.
- 15 (2) Students in a school shall not be subject to field tests or national tests during  
16 the two-week period preceding the administration of end-of-grade tests,  
17 end-of-course tests, or the school's regularly scheduled final ~~exams;~~  
18 ~~and exams.~~
- 19 (3) No school shall participate in more than two field tests at any one grade level  
20 during a school ~~year;~~ year.
- 21 (4) All annual assessments of student achievement adopted by the State Board  
22 of Education pursuant to G.S. 115C-174.11(c)(1) and (3) and all final exams  
23 for courses shall be ~~administered~~ administered, whenever practicable and  
24 educationally advantageous for students, within the final 10 instructional  
25 days of the school year for year-long courses and within the final five  
26 instructional days of the semester for semester courses. ~~Exceptions~~ Upon  
27 approval by the local board of education, a local school administrative unit  
28 may apply to the State Board of Education at least 60 days prior to the date  
29 of scheduled assessments or final exams for an extension of the testing  
30 schedule for up to the final 20 instructional days of the school year for  
31 year-long courses and up to the final 15 instructional days of the semester  
32 for semester-long courses. A local school administrative unit shall also be  
33 permitted to accommodate a student's individualized education program and  
34 section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans and for the administration of final exams  
35 for courses with national or international curricula required to be held at  
36 designated times.



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1           (5)    No teacher of record shall be prohibited from administering tests required  
2                   through State or local testing programs to students assigned to that teacher,  
3                   except when testing modifications are necessary.

4           These policies shall reflect standard testing practices to insure reliability and validity of the  
5 sample testing. The results of the field tests shall be used in the final design of each test. The  
6 State Board of Education's policies regarding the testing of children with disabilities shall (i)  
7 provide broad accommodations and alternate methods of assessment that are consistent with a  
8 student's individualized education program and section 504 (29 U.S.C. § 794) plans, (ii)  
9 prohibit the use of statewide tests as the sole determinant of decisions about a student's  
10 graduation or promotion, and (iii) provide parents with information about the Statewide Testing  
11 Program and options for children with disabilities. The State Board shall report its proposed  
12 policies and proposed changes in policies to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
13 Committee prior to adoption.

14           The State Board of Education may appoint an Advisory Council on Testing to assist in  
15 carrying out its responsibilities under this Article."

16           **SECTION 2.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
17 the 2015-2016 school year.