

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

FILED SENATE  
Mar 5, 2019  
S.B. 189  
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS15083-MKfa-72B\*

Short Title: CTE Pilot for Guilford Co. Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Tillman, Gunn, and Robinson (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO GUILFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS TO  
3 ESTABLISH AND OPERATE AN INNOVATIVE SIGNATURE CAREER ACADEMY  
4 PROGRAM IN ITS TRADITIONAL HIGH SCHOOLS AND TO PROVIDE FOR A TAX  
5 CREDIT FOR CERTAIN PARTICIPANTS IN THE INNOVATIVE SIGNATURE  
6 CAREER ACADEMY PROGRAM.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8 SECTION 1.(a) Article 10 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
9 adding a new Part to read:

10 "Part 5. Innovative Signature Career Academy Program.

11 "**§ 115C-173. Innovative Signature Career Academy Program.**

12 (a) Purpose. – There is established the Innovative Signature Career Academy Program  
13 (Program) as a pilot program for a local school administrative unit seeking to implement reform  
14 for its current career and technical education (CTE) program to more deliberately prepare its  
15 students for high-wage, high-skills careers. The Program shall focus on hosting signature career  
16 academies at traditional high schools located in the local school administrative unit that specialize  
17 in defined areas of career and technical education.

18 (b) Components of the Program. – The Program shall include at least the following key  
19 components in establishing a minimum of four but no more than six signature career academies  
20 at high schools in the local school administrative unit:

- 21 (1) One school-selected priority career pathway that does not compete with career  
22 pathways at other signature career academies in the local school  
23 administrative unit in addition to CTE courses offered as elective options and  
24 business and computer science courses.
- 25 (2) School and community stakeholder input on the development of the priority  
26 career pathways and the phase out of other CTE programs.
- 27 (3) Partnerships with higher education institutions and business and industry  
28 entities for specific equipment needs and the design of clearly defined career  
29 pathways.
- 30 (4) The option for eighth grade students to apply to attend a signature career  
31 academy of their choice at a high school located in the local school  
32 administrative unit.
- 33 (5) Reassignment of current CTE teachers to focus on an area of expertise for a  
34 signature career academy and the creation of partnerships with higher  
35 education faculty and employees of industry and business to volunteer to serve  
36 as co-teachers in the specialized areas.



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1       (c) Flexibility for Teachers. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in addition to  
2 the authority provided to a local board of education to employ adjunct instructors in career and  
3 technical education career clusters pursuant to G.S. 115C-157.1, the local school administrative  
4 unit shall have the flexibility to contract with individuals who have education and training related  
5 to the specific skills and career pathways that are the focus of a signature career academy. Any  
6 individual who has direct contact with students pursuant to the authority provided by this  
7 subsection shall be subject to a criminal history check to ensure that the person has not been  
8 convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332.

9       (d) Reporting. – By June 30 of the first school year of operation of the Program, and  
10 every June 30 thereafter for the duration of the Program operated as a pilot, the local school  
11 administrative unit shall report to the Department of Public Instruction on (i) implementation and  
12 administration of the Program, including the use of additional resources provided as an  
13 appropriation of State funds specifically for the Program, (ii) data from the Program on student  
14 completion rates for career pathways and any other data requested by the Department, and (iii)  
15 any recommendations on the modification of the Program or the potential application of the  
16 Program in other local school administrative units.

17       By August 15 of the first year of reporting by a local school administrative unit under this  
18 subsection, and every August 15 thereafter for the duration of that Program operated as a pilot,  
19 the Department of Public Instruction shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight  
20 Committee on the information submitted by the local school administrative unit pursuant to this  
21 subsection.

22       (e) Term of the Program. – The Program may operate for up to six school years as a pilot  
23 program. Before the end of the school year in which the Program will expire as a pilot, the local  
24 board of education of the local school administrative unit operating the Program may apply to  
25 the State Board of Education for the Program to be included as an ongoing component of the  
26 career and technical education local plan submitted to the State Board of Education pursuant to  
27 G.S. 115C-154.1. The local school administrative unit shall continue to have (i) flexibility in  
28 regard to teachers as provided in subsection (c) of this section and (ii) the availability of the  
29 incentive tax credit set forth in G.S. 105-129.16K for any taxpayer who provides an employee  
30 who volunteers to serve as a co-teacher. The local board of education may request as part of the  
31 application that the General Assembly appropriate additional resources for the operation of the  
32 Program, but may continue to operate the Program if other sources of funds are available. The  
33 State Board shall consider the data submitted to the Department of Public Instruction on the  
34 operation of the Program pursuant to subsection (d) of this section when reviewing the Program  
35 to become a component of the career and technical education local plan."

36       **SECTION 1.(b)** Subsection (a) of this section applies only to the Guilford County  
37 School Administrative Unit.

38       **SECTION 2.** Article 3B of Subchapter I of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes is  
39 amended by adding a new section to read:

40       "**§ 105-129.16K. Career Academy incentive tax credit.**

41       A taxpayer with an employee who (i) volunteers as a co-teacher in a local school  
42 administrative unit for a full academic year in an Innovative Signature Career Academy Program  
43 (Program), as described in G.S. 115C-173, and (ii) receives no compensation for volunteering  
44 from the local school administrative unit, is allowed a credit equal to fifty percent (50%) of the  
45 compensation paid to the employee by the taxpayer for the time spent as a volunteer co-teacher."

46       **SECTION 3.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
47 Public Instruction the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for each  
48 fiscal year of the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium to be allocated to Guilford County Schools (GCS)  
49 for the purpose of establishing and operating an Innovative Signature Career Academy Program  
50 (Program) pursuant to G.S. 115C-173, as enacted by this act. GCS is authorized to operate the

- 1 Program for at least six school years, beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, in accordance  
2 with G.S. 115C-173.  
3 **SECTION 4.** Section 2 of this act is effective for taxable years beginning on or after  
4 January 1, 2019. The remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2019.