

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

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SENATE BILL 189\*  
Finance Committee Substitute Adopted 4/10/19

Short Title: CTE Pilot for Guilford Co. Schools.

(Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 6, 2019

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.

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

8 "Part 5. Innovative Signature Career Academy Program.

9 "§ 115C-173. Innovative Signature Career Academy Program.

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

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

19 (1) One school-selected priority career pathway that does not compete with career  
20 pathways at other signature career academies in the local school  
21 administrative unit in addition to CTE courses offered as elective options and  
22 business and computer science courses.

23 (2) School and community stakeholder input on the development of the priority  
24 career pathways and the phaseout of other CTE programs.

25 (3) Partnerships with higher education institutions and business and industry  
26 entities for specific equipment needs and the design of clearly defined career  
27 pathways.

28 (4) The option for eighth grade students to apply to attend a signature career  
29 academy of their choice at a high school located in the local school  
30 administrative unit.

31 (5) Reassignment of current CTE teachers to focus on an area of expertise for a  
32 signature career academy and the creation of partnerships with higher  
33 education faculty and employees of industry and business to volunteer to serve  
34 as co-teachers in the specialized areas.

35 (c) Flexibility for Teachers. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in addition to  
36 the authority provided to a local board of education to employ adjunct instructors in career and



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1 technical education career clusters pursuant to G.S. 115C-157.1, the local school administrative  
2 unit shall have the flexibility to contract with individuals who have education and training related  
3 to the specific skills and career pathways that are the focus of a signature career academy. Any  
4 individual who has direct contact with students pursuant to the authority provided by this  
5 subsection shall be subject to a criminal history check to ensure that the person has not been  
6 convicted of any crime listed in G.S. 115C-332.

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

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

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

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

36 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
37 Public Instruction the sum of one million five hundred thousand dollars (\$1,500,000) for each  
38 fiscal year of the 2019-2021 fiscal biennium to be allocated to Guilford County Schools (GCS)  
39 for the purpose of establishing and operating an Innovative Signature Career Academy Program  
40 (Program) pursuant to G.S. 115C-173, as enacted by this act. GCS is authorized to operate the  
41 Program for at least six school years beginning with the 2019-2020 school year, in accordance  
42 with G.S. 115C-173.

43 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.