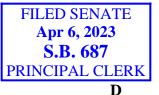
GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2023



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SENATE BILL DRS45293-TC-24

Short Title:	Igniting Futures in Technology.	(Public)
Sponsors:	Senators Lee, Craven, and P. Newton (Primary Sponsors).	
Referred to:		

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE SPARKNC PILOT TO ENCOURAGE STUDENT-DRIVEN LEARNING AND EXPLORATION IN TECHNOLOGY.

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The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 SECTION 1.(a) There is established the SparkNC Pilot Program (Program). The 6 pilot program authorizes SparkNC, a North Carolina nonprofit corporation, in partnership with selected public school units, to develop a nontraditional, student-driven pathway through which 7 8 students may select and complete modular learning experiences that, when aggregated, will 9 provide a competency-based equivalency to a traditional elective course credit. SparkNC shall provide a menu of modular learning experiences that include opportunities for work-based 10 11 learning. The competency-based elective credit shall be denoted on student transcripts as 12 High-Tech Learning Accelerator and focused on science, technology, engineering, and 13 mathematics (STEM).

SECTION 1.(b) Each public school unit partnering with SparkNC in accordance with this act (partnering public school units) shall enter a memorandum of understanding with SparkNC to meet certain requirements for the Program. These requirements shall include the provision of a physical learning lab staffed by a learning lab facilitator that will provide a site for collaborative learning and virtual networking. Learning lab facilitators shall facilitate interdistrict instruction, provide student advising, design learning experiences, coordinate with industry partners, and validate student work.

SECTION 1.(c) Partnering public school units shall award the elective credit in High-Tech Learning Accelerator to any student who completes a combination of modules determined by SparkNC to provide the competency-based elective credit in that course upon verification of successful completion of the learning experiences and integrity of student work products by the learning lab facilitator. The elective credit shall be denoted as achieved mastery on the student's transcript. A student's participation in modules but failure to earn elective credit shall not be denoted as a fail on the student's transcript.

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SECTION 1.(d) The following provisions shall apply to the Program:

(1) Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-295, learning lab facilitators shall not be required
to hold teacher licensure but shall meet the standards established by the
memorandum of understanding. Learning lab facilitators shall be the teacher
of record for students enrolled in the Program. Additional non-licensed
personnel may be contracted with on a full- or part-time basis for the purpose
of providing timely, real-world content, industry expertise, and student
learning experiences. Learning lab facilitators and contract personnel with the



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1		Program shall be subject to the requirements of Part 6 of	Article 22 of Chapter
2		115C of the General Statutes (Criminal History Checks)	
3	(2)	For the purposes of student participation in the Program	
4		Part 2 of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the General Stat	
5		not apply. Students may continue to participate in the Pr	
6		learning experiences throughout the time the student is e	-
7		school unit and shall not be limited to a semester or se	
8		experiences may be provided to students in person, r	emotely, or through
9		asynchronous modules.	
10	(3)	Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-316 or any other law to	• •
11		school units shall not be required to pay learning lab facil	
12		to the salary schedule used for other teachers employed	by the public school
13		unit.	
14	(4)	If a course in computer science is required for high	-
15		completion of the competency-based elective credit of	High-Tech Learning
16		Accelerator shall be deemed to satisfy that requirement.	
17		TION 2.(a) For the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school	
18	-	ts may partner with SparkNC to participate in the Program	1:
19	(1)	Asheboro City Schools	
20	(2)	Cabarrus County Schools	
21	(3)	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	
22	(4)	Chatham County Schools	
23	(5)	Cumberland County Schools	
24	(6)	Edgecombe County Schools	
25	(7)	Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	
26	(8)	Granville County Schools	
27	(9)	Guilford County Schools	
28	(10)	Lexington City Schools	
29	(11)	Mt. Airy City Schools	
30	(12)	New Hanover County Schools	
31	(13)	Rockingham County Schools	
32	(14)	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	
33	(15)	Scotland County Schools	
34 25	(16)	Vance County Schools	
35 36	(17)	Wake County Public School System	
30 37	(18) SECT	Warren County Schools	max salast up to 10
37 38		TON 2.(b) For the 2024-2025 school year, SparkNC : school units to partner with for the Program.	may select up to 10
38 39			nublic school units
39 40		TON 3.(a) SparkNC, in consultation with the partnering neuring report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight	
40 41	-	blowing information, disaggregated for each public school	-
41	and school, when		of unit by grade level
42	(1)	Number and percentage of student participation in the Pr	roaram
43 44	(1) (2)	Student retention and persistence in the Program.	iogram.
44 45	(2) (3)	Student completion of the High-Tech Learning Accelera	tor elective credit
46	(3)	Student evaluation of the Program.	
40 47	(4)	Student interest in science, technology, engineering	and mathematics
48	(5)	following participation in the Program.	, una munemunes
49	(6)	Cost per student for Program participation.	
5 0	(0) (7)	Public school unit persistence in the Program.	
20	(')	2 dens senteer unit persistence in the Program.	

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	(8)	Recommendations for Program changes, including recommendations for Program changes.	nended legislative
	SECT	FION 3.(b) SparkNC, in consultation with the partnering p	ublic school units,
sh	all provide a fi	nal report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Comr	nittee by March 1,
20	26, on the follo	owing information, disaggregated for each public school unit	by grade level and
scl	hool, when pos	ssible:	
	(1)	Number and percentage of student participation in the Prog	gram.
	(2)	Student retention and persistence in the Program.	
	(3)	Student completion of the High-Tech Learning Accelerator	r elective credit.
	(4)	Student evaluation of the Program.	
	(5)	Student interest in science, technology, engineering,	and mathematics
		following participation in the Program.	
	(6)	Cost per student for Program participation.	
	(7)	Public school unit persistence in the Program.	
	(8)	Recommendations for Program changes, including recomm	nended legislative
		changes.	
	(9)	Recommendations on development of a mastery transcript.	
	SECT	FION 4. This act is effective when it becomes law and applies	for the 2023-2024
an	d 2024-2025 s	chool years.	