

Responsibilities of the State Board of Education for Alternative Learning Programs

§ 115C-12(24) Duty to Develop Standards for Alternative Learning Programs, Provide Technical Assistance on Implementation of Programs, and Evaluate Programs. – The State Board of Education shall adopt standards for assigning students to alternative learning programs. These standards shall include

- (i) a description of the programs and services that are recommended to be provided in alternative learning programs and
- (ii) a process for ensuring that an assignment is appropriate for the student and that the student's parents are involved in the decision.

The State Board also shall adopt policies that define what constitutes an alternative school and an alternative learning program. The State Board of Education shall also adopt standards to require that local school administrative units shall use

- (i) the teachers allocated for students assigned to alternative learning programs pursuant to the regular teacher allotment and
- (ii) the teachers allocated for students assigned to alternative learning programs only to serve the needs of these students.

The State Board of Education shall provide technical support to local school administrative units to assist them in developing and implementing plans and proposals for alternative learning programs. The State Board shall evaluate the effectiveness of alternative learning programs and, in its discretion, of any other programs funded from the Alternative Schools/At Risk Student allotment. Local school administrative units shall report to the State Board of Education on how funds in the Alternative Schools/At Risk Student allotment are spent and shall otherwise cooperate with the State Board of Education in evaluating the alternative learning programs. As part of its evaluation of the effectiveness of these programs, the State Board shall, through the application of the accountability system developed under G.S. 115C-105.35, measure the educational performance and growth of students placed in alternative schools and alternative programs. If appropriate, the Board may modify this system to adapt to the specific characteristics of these schools. Also as part of its evaluation, the State Board shall evaluate its standards adopted under this subdivision and make any necessary changes to those standards based on strategies that have been proven successful in improving student achievement and shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by April 15, 2006 to determine if any changes are necessary to improve the implementation of successful alternative learning programs and alternative schools.

§ 115C-12(27) Reporting Dropout Rates, Suspensions, Expulsions, and Alternative Placements. The State Board shall report annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the Commission on Improving the Academic Achievement of Minority and At-Risk Students on the numbers of students who have...been placed in an alternative program.

§ 115C-105.26. Waivers of State laws, rules, or policies.

(c1) The State Board also may grant requests received from local boards for waivers of State laws, rules, or policies that require that each local school administrative unit provide at least one alternative school or at least one alternative learning program.