

UNC TEACHER AND PRINCIPAL PREPARATION PROGRAM LAB SCHOOL FOR K-8 STUDENTS, SECTION 11.6. (a)

Chapter 116 of the General Statutes is amended by adding a new 30 Article to read:

Article 29A

University of North Carolina Laboratory Schools

§ 116-239.5. University of North Carolina laboratory schools; Purpose.

Overall (Board of Governors):

- Board of Governors shall select eight constituent institutions to establish eight laboratory schools with quality educator preparation programs as demonstrated by the annual performance measures reported by the constituent institutions in accordance with G.S. 115C-296.13
- Board shall include a geographically diverse distribution of the lab schools throughout the State and a maximum of one lab school located in a qualifying local school administrative unit
- 90 days prior to implementation, the Board of Governors shall submit the plan and any revisions to the plan to the Joint Legislative Commission on Governmental Operations.

Mission:

- Improve student performance in local school administrative units with low-performing schools by providing an enhanced education program for students residing in those units
- Provide exposure and training for teachers and principals to successfully address challenges existing in high-needs school settings

Activities:

- Provide an opportunity for research, demonstration, student support, and expansion of the teaching experience and evaluation regarding management, teaching, and learning
- Expand student opportunities for educational success through high-quality instructional programming and innovative instruction and research by using the resources available to the constituent institution
- Incorporate best practices gained from state initiatives focused on leadership development for both teachers and principals in low-performing schools and local school administrative units

Features:

- Unless specified, exempt from statutes and rules applicable to a local board of education or local school administrative unit
- Located in a local school administrative unit that has twenty five percent (25%) or more of the schools located in the unit identified as low-performing under G.S. 115C-105.37 and serves students in K-8

Requirements (Board of Trustees):

- Once identified, the Board of Trustees shall identify the name, qualifying LEA, term of operation of 5 years, adopt a resolution recognizing the school, identify a plan for dissolution or assumption of a school if necessary, and appoint an advisory board to provide oversight of the school
- Appoint employees
- Establish standard course of study, texts, and materials
- Establish policies and standards for academic performance, attendance, and conduct
- Conduct student assessments
- Adopt calendar
- Provide food service and transportation
- Comply with SBE reporting requirements and provide required data
- Comply with all laws and policies related to children with disabilities
- Comply with health and safety standards
- Submit School Risk Management Plan
- Distribute School Report Card

Advisory Board:

- Composition: Dean, 4 faculty members (at least 2 from educator prep programs), one member of public from LEA, 2 parents/guardians, 1 student
- Monitor operations, recommend policies and programs, evaluate principal, and review evaluation

Student Enrollment:

- Any child who is residing in a local school administrative unit in which a lab school is located and is enrolled in a low-performing school, as defined by G.S. 115C-105.37 at the time of the student's application, may attend the lab school. Students may not be required to enroll.
- During each period of enrollment, the lab school shall enroll an eligible student who submits a timely application, with priority enrollment given in the order in which applications are received to a student who did not meet expected student growth in the prior school year based on any of the following: (i) grades, (ii) observations, (iii) diagnostic and formative assessments, (iv) State assessments, or (v) other factors, including reading on grade level.
- If the number of applications from other eligible students exceeds the capacity of a program, class, grade level, or building, those students shall be accepted by lot. Once enrolled, students are not required to reapply in subsequent enrollment periods.
- A lab school may refuse admission to any student who has been expelled or suspended from a public school until the period of suspension or expulsion has expired.

Employees:

- Employ and contract with a principal for a term not to exceed three years
- Faculty members may serve simultaneously as instructional personnel for the lab school and the constituent institution.

- At least fifty percent (50%) of teachers employed by the constituent institution shall hold teacher licenses, unless waived by the State Board of Education upon submission of a request by the board of trustees. If a teacher employed by a local school administrative unit makes a written request for a leave of absence to teach at the lab school, the local school administrative unit shall grant the leave for one year.
- All employees are subject to criminal background checks

Funding:

The State Board of Education shall allocate to a lab school the following:

- Average per pupil allocation for average daily membership from the local school administrative unit allotments in which the school is located for each child attending the lab school, except for the allocation for children with disabilities and for the allocation for children with limited English proficiency
- Amount for each child attending the lab school who is a child with disabilities
- Amount for children with limited English proficiency attending the lab school, based on a formula adopted by the State Board.
- Allow for annual adjustments to the amount allocated to the lab school based on its enrollment growth in school years subsequent to the initial year of operation
- Funds allocated by the State Board of Education may be used to enter into operational and financing leases for real property or mobile classroom units for use as school facilities for lab schools and may be used for payments on loans made to lab schools for facilities, equipment, or operations. However, State funds allocated under this section shall not be used to obtain any other interest in real property or mobile classroom units.

Evaluation and Reporting:

The Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina, in conjunction with the constituent institutions operating lab schools and the State Board of Education, shall review and evaluate the educational effectiveness of the lab schools. The Board of Governors shall report by November 15 of each year to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on:

- Public school student enrollment in each lab school, including student demographics
- Public school student admissions process and the number of students enrolled under the priority admissions category at each lab school
- Student achievement data, including school performance grades and student achievement scores and student growth, at each lab school
- Student academic progress in each lab school as measured against the previous school year and against other schools located in the local school administrative unit and statewide
- Student outcomes for students who are enrolled in each educator preparation program who obtained clinical experience in school leadership and teaching in the lab schools, including the performance elements reported under G.S.115c-296.13(b)
- Best practices resulting from lab school operations
- Other information the Board considers appropriate