

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021**

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HOUSE BILL 915

Short Title: Turn High-Achieving Students into Teachers. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Ball, Hunter, Garrison, and Brown (Primary Sponsors).
For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

May 11, 2021

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO IMPROVE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TEACHER
3 PIPELINE.

4 Whereas, teacher effectiveness is the most important factor in delivering positive
5 student outcomes; and

6 Whereas, North Carolina is experiencing attrition of experienced, licensed teachers
7 as well as beginning teachers, which may be exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis; and

8 Whereas, there is a particular need for diverse, high-quality teachers, especially in
9 low-performing schools and rural schools; and

10 Whereas, the North Carolina Teacher Cadet Program (NCTCP) is a successful
11 program that encourages high-achieving high school students to attend college and eventually
12 teach in North Carolina public schools; and

13 Whereas, building early interest in the teaching profession is critical to building a
14 robust teacher pipeline; and

15 Whereas, NCTCP actively engages in the following strategies:

- 16 (1) Maintaining strong partnerships with higher education institutions, including
17 The University of North Carolina, and collaborative relationships with local
18 boards of education.
- 19 (2) Offering a curriculum developed by highly qualified, licensed public school
20 teachers, including high school honors credit, approved by the Department of
21 Public Instruction.
- 22 (3) Providing learning through hands-on teaching methods and field experiences
23 delivered by educators who are required to complete teacher cadet curriculum
24 training; and

25 Whereas, the NCTCP has a well-regarded and established record of helping rural and
26 economically distressed counties to grow their own teachers from students who were born, raised,
27 and received a high school education within the same county; and

28 Whereas, the NCTCP has quickly transitioned to an online program and is able to
29 operate flexibly in response to changing learning conditions; and

30 Whereas, in the 2019-2020 school year, only twenty-one percent (21%) of public
31 school teachers identified as persons of color, and the NCTCP enrolled a substantially greater
32 portion of teacher cadets who identified as persons of color at forty-two percent (42%); Now,
33 therefore,

34 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:



1 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
2 Public Instruction the sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) in nonrecurring funds for
3 each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium to be provided to the nonprofit organization known
4 as the North Carolina Foundation for Public School Children to be used for the North Carolina
5 Teacher Cadet Program. The funds shall be used for the following services related to expansion
6 of the educator pipeline:

- 7 (1) Statewide curriculum training workshops for teachers with options for
8 in-person and online ongoing support.
- 9 (2) Expansion of services in counties designated as development tier one areas.
10 For schools located in counties identified in this subdivision, the North
11 Carolina Teacher Cadet Program shall prioritize schools with the highest
12 teacher attrition rate from the 2018-2019 school year.
- 13 (3) Continued development and training for persons in underrepresented teaching
14 demographics, including cadets who are male and cadets who are persons of
15 color. To the extent possible, the training shall draw on past and current cadets
16 who are classroom teachers, postsecondary students pursuing a degree in
17 education, and seniors in high school.

18 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.