

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2023

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SENATE BILL 411
Education/Higher Education Committee Substitute Adopted 4/18/23

Short Title: Students in Home School Take PSAT/AP. (Public)

Sponsors:

Referred to:

March 30, 2023

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO ALLOW STUDENTS IN HOME SCHOOL TO PARTICIPATE IN ADVANCED
3 PLACEMENT (AP) EXAMS AND THE PRELIMINARY SCHOLASTIC ASSESSMENT
4 TEST (PSAT).

5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

6 **SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-174.18 reads as rewritten:

7 "**§ 115C-174.18. Opportunity to take Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship**
8 **Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).**

9 Every student in the eighth through tenth grades who has completed Algebra I or who is in
10 the last month of Algebra I shall be given an opportunity to take a version of either the
11 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or the PLAN
12 precursor test to the ACT, at the discretion of the local school administrative unit, one time at no
13 cost to the student. A student receiving instruction through a home school, as provided by Part 3
14 of Article 39 of this Chapter, shall be eligible to participate in testing as provided in
15 G.S. 115C-565.1. The maximum amount of State funds used for this purpose shall be the cost of
16 the PSAT/NMSQT."

17 **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-174.26(a) reads as rewritten:

18 "(a) It is the intent of the State to enhance accessibility and encourage students to enroll
19 in and successfully complete more rigorous advanced courses to enable success in postsecondary
20 education for all students. For the purposes of this section, an advanced course is an Advanced
21 Placement course, an International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme course, or a Cambridge
22 Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) course, including an AS-Level or
23 A-Level course. To attain this goal, to the extent funds are made available for this purpose,
24 students enrolled in public schools shall be exempt from paying any fees for administration of
25 examinations for advanced courses and registration fees for advanced courses in which the
26 student is enrolled regardless of the score the student achieves on an examination. A student
27 receiving instruction through a home school, as provided by Part 3 of Article 39 of this Chapter,
28 shall be eligible to participate in administration of examinations for advanced courses as provided
29 in G.S. 115C-565.1."

30 **SECTION 3.** Part 3 of Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended
31 by adding a new section to read:

32 "**§ 115C-565.1. Eligibility to participate in certain testing administration in local school**
33 **administrative units.**

34 (a) A student enrolled in a home school shall be allowed to participate in the
35 administration of the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test or the PLAN



1 precursor test to the ACT, as offered by the local school administrative unit in accordance with
2 G.S. 115C-174.18, as follows:

- 3 (1) The student may take the test at a school within the local school administrative
4 unit that the student would be assigned to if the student attended public school.
- 5 (2) The student shall have completed a course or test that shows equivalent
6 competency to passing Algebra I.
- 7 (3) The student's parent may be charged any fees required for administration of
8 the test by the local school administrative unit.
- 9 (4) The student's parent, or other responsible adult designated by the parent, may
10 be required by the local school administrative unit to serve as a proctor in
11 order for the student to take the test, if the addition of the student would
12 prevent the local school administrative unit from meeting the required
13 proctor-student ratio for that test at that school.

14 (b) A student enrolled in a home school shall be allowed to take any advanced course
15 examination offered by a local school administrative unit in accordance with G.S. 115C-174.26,
16 as follows:

- 17 (1) The student may take the advanced course examination at a school within the
18 local school administrative unit that the student would have been assigned to
19 if the student attended public school.
- 20 (2) The student shall meet any requirements to take the advanced course
21 examination established by the organization issuing that examination and the
22 chief administrator of the home school. A local board of education shall not
23 require the student to complete a specific advanced course to take the related
24 examination.
- 25 (3) The student's parent may be charged any fees required for administration of
26 the advanced course examination by the local school administrative unit.
- 27 (4) The student's parent, or other responsible adult designated by the parent, may
28 be required by the local school administrative unit to serve as a proctor in
29 order for the student to take the advanced course examination, if the addition
30 of the student would prevent the local school administrative unit from meeting
31 the required proctor-student ratio for that examination at that school."

32 **SECTION 4.** This act is effective when it becomes law.