

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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SENATE BILL 371

Short Title: Stop Chronically Low-Performing Charters. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Chitlik and Grafstein (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

March 24, 2025

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO REQUIRE CHARTER REVOCATION FOR SCHOOLS THAT HAVE BEEN  
LOW-PERFORMING FOR FOUR CONSECUTIVE YEARS, TO RESTRICT CHARTER  
SCHOOLS FROM EXPANDING IF THEY ARE LOW-PERFORMING, TO LIMIT  
CHARTERS FOR REMOTE ACADEMIES TO THREE YEARS, AND TO REQUIRE  
CHARTER SCHOOLS TO LIST THE SCHOOL'S PERFORMANCE GRADE ON  
ENROLLMENT APPLICATIONS.

Whereas, one in eight North Carolina Schools are chronically low-performing; and

Whereas, approximately 14,400 students are stuck in chronically low-performing  
charter schools; and

Whereas, low-performing charters are a threat to the reputation of all charter schools;

and

Whereas, chronically low-performing schools trap students in an environment that  
has shown itself incapable of meeting their academic needs; Now, therefore,  
The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-218.7(b) is repealed.

**SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-218.8(2) is repealed.

**SECTION 3.** G.S. 115C-218.45 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

"(j) A charter school shall include on its application for enrollment the school's  
performance grade, as determined by the State Board of Education, for the previous five years."

**SECTION 4.** G.S. 115C-218.94 reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-218.94. Identification of low-performing and continually low-performing charter  
schools.**

(a) Identification of Low-Performing Charter Schools. – The State Board of Education  
shall identify low-performing charter schools on an annual basis. Low-performing charter  
schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth  
score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15.

(a1) Low-Performing Enrollment. – A charter school that is identified as low-performing  
is not authorized to expand enrollment, even if enrollment expansion was planned in the school's  
charter, until the school is no longer identified as low-performing.

(b) Identification of Continually Low-Performing Charter Schools. – The State Board of  
Education shall identify continually low-performing charter schools on an annual basis. A  
continually low-performing charter school is a charter school that has been designated by the  
State Board as low-performing for at least two of three consecutive years.

(b1) Continually Low-Performing Charter. – If a charter school is identified as continually  
low-performing for four consecutive years, the school's charter shall be revoked. If a charter



1 school has been identified as continually low-performing for the three consecutive years  
2 immediately preceding the expiration of the school's charter, the Review Board may authorize  
3 the school to operate under its existing charter for one additional year. If the school is no longer  
4 low-performing in the additional year granted under the existing charter, the Review Board may  
5 renew the school's charter."

6 **SECTION 5.** G.S. 115C-218.95(b1) reads as rewritten:

7 ~~"(b1) If a charter school is continually low performing, the Review Board is authorized to~~  
8 ~~terminate, not renew, or seek applicants to assume the charter through a competitive bid process~~  
9 ~~established by the State Board. However, the Review Board shall not terminate or not renew the~~  
10 ~~charter of a continually low performing charter school solely for its continually low performing~~  
11 ~~status if the charter school has met growth in each of the immediately preceding three school~~  
12 ~~years or if the charter school has implemented a strategic improvement plan approved by the~~  
13 ~~Review Board and is making measurable progress toward student performance goals. The State~~  
14 ~~Board shall develop rules on the assumption of a charter by a new entity that includes all aspects~~  
15 ~~of the operations of the charter school, including the status of the employees. Public assets shall~~  
16 ~~transfer to the new entity and shall not revert to the local school administrative unit in which the~~  
17 ~~charter school is located pursuant to G.S. 115C-218.100(b)."~~

18 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 115C-218.123(b) reads as rewritten:

19 "(b) The Review Board shall review and approve a charter or charter modification for the  
20 creation of a remote charter academy that meets the requirements established in this Part for a  
21 term of ~~five~~three years. The Review Board shall approve a minimum of two statewide remote  
22 charter academies that meet the qualifications of this Part for operation beginning with the  
23 2026-2027 school year and thereafter."

24 **SECTION 7.** G.S. 115C-218.124(c) reads as rewritten:

25 "(c) A nonprofit may apply for renewal of the remote charter academy for additional terms  
26 of ~~five~~three years. The Review Board shall consider compliance with the requirements of this  
27 Part and success of the remote charter academy in the prior ~~five~~three years in determining  
28 whether to approve a request for renewal of a remote charter academy."

29 **SECTION 8.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
30 the 2025-2026 school year.