



CHAPTER 115C

ARTICLE 25 - ADMISSION AND ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS

N.C.G.S. § 115C-366.

Assignment of student to a particular school.

SOURCE	LAST AMENDMENT IN THIS TEXT	RETRIEVED	SOURCE FINGERPRINT
General Statutes of North Carolina, as published by the General Assembly	S.L. 2025-92, s. 2.2 — twenty-third act in the lineage	21 September 2026, 04:21 UTC	62a2795c7cded95f64286c58 - 8514a0d139bb34660c7432eb - 3a7c1e18e975719f

§ 115C-366(a) All students under the age of 21 years who are domiciled in a school administrative unit who have not been removed from school for cause, or who have not obtained a high school diploma, are entitled to all the privileges and advantages of the public schools to which they are assigned by the local boards of education. The assignment of students living in one local school administrative unit or district to a school located in another local school administrative unit or district, shall have no effect upon the right of the local school administrative unit or district to which the students are assigned to levy and collect any supplemental tax heretofore or hereafter voted in that local school administrative unit or district.

§ 115C-366(a1) Children living in and cared for and supported by an institution established, operated, or incorporated for the purpose of rearing and caring for children who do not live with their parents are considered legal residents of the local school administrative unit in which the institution is located. These children are eligible for admission to the public schools of the local school administrative unit as provided in this section.

§ 115C-366(a2) It is the policy of the State that every child of a homeless individual and every homeless child and youth has access to a free, appropriate public education. The State Board of Education and every local board of education shall ensure compliance with the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001. A local board of education shall not charge a homeless child or youth tuition for enrollment. An unaccompanied youth or a homeless child's or youth's parent, guardian, or legal custodian may apply to the State Board of Education for a determination of whether

a particular local board of education shall enroll the homeless child or youth, and this determination shall be binding on the local board of education, subject to judicial review.

§ 115C-366(a3)

A student who is not a domiciliary of a local school administrative unit may attend, without the payment of tuition, the public schools of that unit if all of the following apply:

(1) The student resides with an adult, who is a domiciliary of that unit, as a result of any one of the following:

a. The death, serious illness, or incarceration of a parent or legal guardian.

b. The abandonment by a parent or legal guardian of the complete control of the student as evidenced by the failure to provide substantial financial support and parental guidance.

c. Abuse or neglect by the parent or legal guardian.

d. The physical or mental condition of the parent or legal guardian is such that he or she cannot provide adequate care and supervision of the student.

e. The relinquishment of physical custody and control of the student by the student's parent or legal guardian upon the recommendation of the department of social services or the Division of Mental Health.

f. The loss or uninhabitability of the student's home as the result of a natural disaster.

g. The parent or legal guardian is one of the following:

1. Repealed by Session Laws 2021-9, s. 1(a), effective April 9, 2021, and applicable beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

2. A member or veteran of the uniformed services who is severely injured and medically discharged or retired, but only for a period of one year after the medical discharge or retirement of the parent or guardian.

3. A member of the uniformed services who dies on active duty or as a result of injuries sustained on active duty, but only for a period of one year after death. For purposes of this sub-sub-subdivision, the term "active duty" is as defined in G.S. 115C-407.5.

Assignment under this sub-subdivision is only available if some evidence of the deployment, medical discharge, retirement, or death is tendered with the affidavits required under subdivision (3) of this subsection.

h. The parent or legal guardian is on active military duty, and the commanding officer of the parent or legal guardian provides in a signed letter that the parent or legal guardian's military orders prevent the parent or legal guardian from physically residing with the student. Assignment under this sub-subdivision is only available if the signed letter from the commanding officer of the parent or legal guardian is included with the affidavits required under subdivision (3) of this subsection, and the commanding officer indicates the time period that such military orders will be in effect. For purposes of this sub-subdivision, the term "active military duty" does not include periods of active duty for training for less than 30 days.

(2) The student is:

a. Not currently under a term of suspension or expulsion from a school for conduct that could have led to a suspension or an expulsion from the local school administrative unit, or

b. Currently under a term of suspension or expulsion from a school for conduct that could have led to a suspension or an expulsion from the local school administrative unit and is identified as eligible for special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq., (2004). Assignment under this sub-subdivision is available only if evidence of current eligibility is tendered with the affidavit required under subdivision (3) of this subsection.

(3) The caregiver adult and the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian have each completed and signed separate affidavits that do all of the following:

a. Confirm the qualifications set out in this subsection establishing the student's residency.

b. Attest that the student's claim of residency in the unit is not primarily related to attendance at a particular school within the unit.

c. Attest that the caregiver adult has been given and accepts responsibility for educational decisions for the student.

§ 115C-366(a4)

When a student transfers into the public schools of a local school administrative unit, that local board shall require the student's parent, guardian, or legal custodian to provide a statement made under oath or affirmation before a qualified official indicating whether the student is, at the time, under suspension or expulsion from attendance at a private or public school in this or any other state or has been convicted of a felony in this or any other state. This subsection does not apply to the enrollment

of a student who has never been enrolled in or attended a private or public school in this or any other state.

§ 115C-366(a5)

Notwithstanding any other law, a local board may deny admission to or place reasonable conditions on the admission of a student who has been suspended from a school under G.S. 115C-390.5 through G.S. 115C-390.10 or who has been suspended from a school for conduct that could have led to a suspension from a school within the local school administrative unit where the student is seeking admission until the period of suspension has expired. Also, a local board may deny admission to or place reasonable conditions on the admission of a student who has been expelled from a school under G.S. 115C-390.11 or who has been expelled from a school for behavior that indicated the student's continued presence in school constituted a clear threat to the safety of other students or staff as found by clear and convincing evidence, or who has been convicted of a felony in this or any other state. If the local board denies admission to a student who has been expelled or convicted of a felony, the student may request the local board to reconsider that decision in accordance with G.S. 115C-390.12. When a student who has been identified as eligible to receive special education and related services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq., is denied admission under this subsection, the local board shall provide educational services to the student to the same extent it would if the student were enrolled in the local school administrative unit at the time of the suspension or expulsion, as required by G.S. 115C-107.1(a)(3).

§ 115C-366(a6)

A child who is placed in or assigned to a licensed facility is eligible for admission, without the payment of tuition, to the public schools of the local school administrative unit in which the licensed facility is located. If an agency or person, other than the student's parent or guardian, is the student's legal custodian and if that person or agency placed or assigned the student to a licensed facility under this subsection, then that agency or person must provide in writing to the school the name, address, and phone number of the individual who has authority and the responsibility to make educational decisions for the student. This individual shall reside or be employed within the local school administrative unit and shall provide in writing to the school a signed statement that the individual understands and accepts this authority and responsibility to make educational decisions for the student. If the student's parent or legal guardian retains legal custody of a child who is placed in or assigned to a licensed facility under this subsection, then the requirements of subsection (a3) of this section must be met.

- § 115C-366(a7)** A student who is a resident of a local school administrative unit because the student resides with a parent, guardian, or legal custodian who is a (i) student, employee, or faculty member of a college or university or (ii) visiting scholar at the National Humanities Center is considered domiciled in that unit for purposes of this section.
- § 115C-366(a8)** A student is considered domiciled in a local school administrative unit for purposes of this section if the student resides (i) with a legal custodian who is not the student's parent or guardian and the legal custodian is domiciled in the local school administrative unit, or (ii) in a preadoptive home following placement by a county department of social services or a licensed child-placing agency.
- § 115C-366(a9)** A student who is not a domiciliary of a local school administrative unit shall be permitted to register to enroll in the public schools of that unit by remote means, including electronic means, prior to commencement of the student's residency in the local school administrative unit if all of the following apply:
- (1) A parent or legal guardian is (i) on active military duty and is transferred or pending transfer pursuant to an official military order to a military installation or reservation in the State or (ii) will be separating from active military duty within a 12-month period.
 - (2) Upon request by the local school administrative unit where the student seeks to register to enroll, a parent or legal guardian provides a copy of (i) the official military order transferring to a military installation or reservation located in the State, (ii) the official separation orders, or (iii) an official military document showing the anticipated date of separation or date of projected Permanent Change of Station to the State.
 - (3) A parent or legal guardian completes and submits the local school administrative unit's required enrollment forms and documentation, other than proof of residency and documentation related to disciplinary actions pursuant to G.S. 115C-366(a4).
 - (4) A parent or legal guardian submits proof of residency and documentation related to the disciplinary actions pursuant to G.S. 115C-366(a4) upon the child commencing attendance. If the proof of residency has not yet become available because the parent or legal guardian and child are residing in temporary housing, the local school administrative unit shall do the following:
 - a. Allow the child to enroll and begin attending school in that unit of anticipated domicile (i) for a period of up to one year from the parent or legal guardian's

reporting-for-duty date, separation date from active military duty, or anticipated separation date from active military duty or (ii) through the end of the school year before being considered a resident of another local school administrative unit.

b. Allow a child who is a high school junior or senior to enroll and begin attending school in that unit of anticipated domicile through high school graduation.

A local school administrative unit shall make available to a student who registers to enroll pursuant to this subsection the same opportunities available to a student enrolled contemporaneously with domicilia, such as requesting or applying for school assignment, registering for courses, and applying for any other programs that require additional request or application. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to curtail a local school administrative unit's authority pursuant to G.S. 115C-366(a5).

§ 115C-366(a10)

A student who is not a domiciliary of a local school administrative unit shall be permitted to register to enroll in the public schools of that unit if that student resides in that local school administrative unit with a parent, legal guardian, or legal custodian on active military duty who is assigned by official military order to a military installation or reservation in the State. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to curtail a local school administrative unit's authority pursuant to G.S. 115C-366(a5).

§ 115C-366(b)

Each local board of education shall assign to a public school each student qualified for assignment under this section. Except as otherwise provided by law, the authority of each board of education in the matter of assignment of children to the public schools shall be full and complete, and its decision as to the assignment of any child to any school shall be final.

§ 115C-366(c)

Any child who is qualified under the laws of this State for admission to a public school and who has a place of residence in a local school administrative unit incident to the child's parent's or guardian's service in the General Assembly, other than the local school administrative unit in which the child is domiciled, is entitled to attend school in the local school administrative unit of that residence as if the child were domiciled there, subject to the payment of applicable out-of-county fees in effect at the time.

§ 115C-366(d)

A student domiciled in one local school administrative unit may be assigned either with or without the payment of tuition to a public school in another local school administrative unit upon the terms and conditions agreed to in writing between the local boards of education involved and entered in the official records of the boards.

The assignment shall be effective only for the current school year, but may be renewed annually in the discretion of the boards involved.

§ 115C-366(e) The boards of education of adjacent local school administrative units may operate schools in adjacent units upon written agreements between the respective boards of education and approval by the county commissioners and the State Board of Education.

§ 115C-366(f) This section shall not be construed to allow students to transfer from one local school administrative unit to another for athletic participation purposes in violation of eligibility requirements adopted by the State Board of Education.

§ 115C-366(g) Any local school administrative unit may use the actual address of a program participant for any purpose related to admission or assignment under this Article as long as the address is kept confidential from the public under Chapter 15C of the General Statutes. The substitute address designated by the Attorney General under the Address Confidentiality Program shall not be used as an address for admission or assignment purposes.

§ 115C-366(h) The following definitions apply in this section:

- (1) Abused or neglected. - A student is considered abused or neglected if there has been an adjudication of that issue. The State Board may adopt an additional definition of abuse and neglect, and that definition also shall apply to this section.
- (2) Caregiver adult. - The adult with whom the child resides. For children placed or assigned in a licensed facility, a caregiver adult also may be the child's caretaker, foster parent, or other clearly identifiable adult who resides in the county where the licensed facility is located.
- (3) Educational decisions. - Decisions or actions recommended or required by the school concerning the student's academic course of study, extracurricular activities, and conduct. These decisions or actions include enrolling the student, receiving and responding to notices of discipline under G.S. 115C-390.5 through G.S. 115C-390.12, attending conferences with school personnel, granting permission for school-related activities, granting permission for emergency medical care, receiving and taking appropriate action in connection with student records, and any other decisions or actions recommended or required by the school in connection to that student.

- (4) Facility. - A group home, a family foster home as defined in G.S. 131D-10.2(8), or a therapeutic foster home as defined in G.S. 131D-10.2(14).
- (5) Homeless. - Individuals who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or are included in the definition of homeless children and youths in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001. The term does not include persons who are imprisoned or otherwise detained pursuant to federal or State law.
- (6) Legal custodian. - The person or agency that has been awarded legal custody of the student by a court.
- (7) Licensed facility. - A facility licensed under Article 2 of Chapter 122C of the General Statutes or under Article 1A of Chapter 131D of the General Statutes.
- (8) McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001. - 20 U.S.C. § 11431, et seq., as amended, and federal regulations adopted under this act.
- (9) Program participant. - An individual accepted into the Address Confidentiality Program under Chapter 15C of the General Statutes.
- (10) Unaccompanied youth. - Youths who are not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian as defined in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Improvements Act of 2001.

END OF SECTION TEXT

APPARATUS FOLLOWS — DERIVED, NOT ENACTED

APPARATUS I
23 ACTS

Amendment lineage

The State prints this history as a single parenthetical at the foot of the section. It is reproduced verbatim in the colophon and unpacked below in order of enactment.



Nº	YEAR	ACT	CHARACTER
01	1955	c. 366, s. 1	ENACTED
02	1955	c. 1372, art. 19, s. 3	AMENDED
03	1956	Ex. Sess., c. 7, s. 1	AMENDED
04	1971	c. 153	AMENDED

05	1981	c. 423, s. 1	AMENDED
06	1981	c. 567, s. 1	AMENDED
07	1991	c. 407, s. 1	AMENDED
08	1991	c. 719, s. 2	AMENDED
09	1997	S.L. 1997-271, s. 1	AMENDED
10	1997	S.L. 1997-443, s. 8.29(d)	AMENDED
11	2002	S.L. 2002-171, s. 5	AMENDED
12	2006	S.L. 2006-65, s. 1	AMENDED
13	2007	S.L. 2007-283, s. 1	AMENDED
14	2008	S.L. 2008-185, s. 2	AMENDED
15	2008	S.L. 2008-187, s. 19	AMENDED
16	2009	S.L. 2009-331, ss. 1, 2	AMENDED
17	2011	S.L. 2011-282, s. 12	AMENDED
18	2013	S.L. 2013-410, s. 21	AMENDED
19	2018	S.L. 2018-5, s. 7.18(b)	AMENDED
20	2021	S.L. 2021-9, s. 1(a), (b)	AMENDED
21	2021	S.L. 2021-184, s. 2(c)	AMENDED
22	2025	S.L. 2025-72, s. 2(a)	AMENDED
23	2025	S.L. 2025-92, s. 2.2	AMENDED

APPARATUS II

10 AUTHORITIES

Authorities referenced

Every G.S. cross-reference appearing in the text of this section, in order of first appearance. Nothing is characterized; the operative language is quoted from the section itself.

REFERENCE	APPEARS IN	OPERATIVE LANGUAGE IN THIS SECTION
G.S. 115C-407.5	(a3)	<i>""active duty"" is as defined in"</i>
G.S. 115C-390.5	(a5)	<i>"been suspended from a school under"</i>
G.S. 115C-390.10	(a5)	<i>"a school under G.S. 115C-390.5 through"</i>
G.S. 115C-390.11	(a5)	<i>"been expelled from a school under"</i>
G.S. 115C-390.12	(a5)	<i>"reconsider that decision in accordance with"</i>
G.S. 115C-107.1(a)(3)	(a5)	<i>"suspension or expulsion, as required by"</i>

G.S. 115C-366(a4)	(a9)(3)	"related to disciplinary actions pursuant to"
G.S. 115C-366(a5)	(a9)	"school administrative unit's authority pursuant to"
G.S. 131D-10.2(8)	(h)(4)	"family foster home as defined in"
G.S. 131D-10.2(14)	(h)(4)	"therapeutic foster home as defined in"

APPARATUS III

Citation

FULL SECTION

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-366 (2025).

PINPOINT

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-366(a) (2025).

Pinpoint keys are set in the left margin of the text rather than line numbers: subsection designators are stable across editions and paper sizes, line numbers are not.

COLOPHON

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HISTORY PARENTHETICAL, AS PRINTED BY THE STATE

(1955, c. 366, s. 1; c. 1372, art. 19, s. 3; 1956, Ex. Sess., c. 7, s. 1; 1971, c. 153; 1981, c. 423, s. 1; c. 567, s. 1; 1991, c. 407, s. 1; c. 719, s. 2; 1997-271, s. 1; 1997-443, s. 8.29(d); 2002-171, s. 5; 2006-65, s. 1; 2007-283, s. 1; 2008-185, s. 2; 2008-187, s. 19; 2009-331, ss. 1, 2; 2011-282, s. 12; 2013-410, s. 21; 2018-5, s. 7.18(b); 2021-9, s. 1(a), (b); 2021-184, s. 2(c); 2025-72, s. 2(a); 2025-92, s. 2.2.)

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NORTH CAROLINA LAW — STATUTE EXPORT, FORMAT V1

