



# HOUSE BILL 262: School Assignment Zones.

2023-2024 General Assembly

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<b>Committee:</b>	House Education - K-12. If favorable, re-refer to Local Government. If favorable, re-refer to Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House	<b>Date:</b>	March 14, 2023
<b>Introduced by:</b>	Reps. Shepard, Cleveland, Carson Smith	<b>Prepared by:</b>	Kara McCraw
<b>Analysis of:</b>	First Edition		Staff Attorney

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**OVERVIEW:** *HB 262 would require Onslow County Schools to establish attendance zones to assign students to the geographically closest middle or high school to that student's residence.*

**CURRENT LAW:** G.S. 115C-366 directs local boards of education to assign students domiciled and enrolled in that local school administrative unit (LEA) to public schools in that LEA. Local boards of LEAs are prohibited by G.S. 115C-367 from drawing attendance zones for the purpose of segregating students on the basis of race, creed, color, or national origin. A parent may apply for reassignment under G.S. 115C-369 and receive a hearing, and the local board, after weighing various factors, must make a final determination on assignment. The local board's decision may be appealed under G.S. 115C-370 to superior court on limited grounds.

**BILL ANALYSIS:** HB 262 would require the local board of education of Onslow County Schools to establish attendance zones for each middle and high school in that LEA that reflect that seat capacity of each school. Students would then be assigned to the geographically closest middle or high school with capacity. With parental consent, students could also be assigned to magnet or other special programs at other middle or high schools.

Any student enrolled in a middle or high school in Onslow County Schools in 2022-2023 would have the option, in the discretion of the parent, to remain enrolled in that school until completing all grades offered at that school, rather than attend the geographically closest school.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** HB 262 would become effective when it becomes law and would apply to student assignments beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

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