

Time to Plan and Time to Teach



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Is it true that once upon a time, teachers had time to stop and chat with a peer as well as sit down and plan lessons with a creative flair during a designated block of time, or is that a dream all teachers have?

Planning time should not be a dream, but a reality. In 2007, legislation was passed providing all teachers access to instructional planning time and a duty-free lunch period. **House Bill 1151**, entitled "An act to provide for instructional planning time and a duty-free lunch for teachers," mandated all North Carolina public school improvement plans to provide duty-free lunch periods for every teacher on a daily basis and duty-free instructional planning time, with the goal of at least five hours of planning per week, during the school day. This law was a reform effort lead by NCAE based on data collected from the NC Teacher Working Conditions Survey. NCAE will work with lawmakers to ensure this law is fully implemented by "all" local school districts. The Association will also assist local school boards with policies to address this issue as well.

§ 115C-301.1. Duty-free instructional planning time.

All full-time assigned classroom teachers shall be provided duty-free instructional planning time during regular student contact hours. The duty-free instructional planning time shall be provided to the maximum extent that (i) the safety and proper supervision of children may allow during regular student contact hours and (ii) insofar as funds are provided for this purpose by the General Assembly. If the safety and supervision of children does not allow duty-free instructional planning time during regular student contact hours for a given teacher, the funds provided by the General Assembly for the duty-free instructional planning time for that teacher shall revert to the general fund. Principals shall not unfairly burden a given teacher by making that teacher give up his or her duty-free instructional planning time on an ongoing, regular basis without the consent of the teacher. (1983, c. 761, s. 88; 1999-163, s. 1; 2006-153, s. 3.) And part of **Article 8B School-Based Management and Accountability Program. § 115C-105.27. Development and approval of school improvement plans by the school improvement team:**

(6) Shall include a plan to provide a duty-free lunch period for every teacher on a daily basis or as otherwise approved by the school improvement team; and

(7) Shall include a plan to provide duty-free instructional planning time for every teacher under G.S. 115C-301.1, with the goal of providing an average of at least five hours of planning time per week.

NCAE wants a collective voice in your locals as we move into the 2013 Legislative season. NCAE wants locals to assist in our lobbying efforts on issues such as having unencumbered planning time and being able to teach. We want your time to be respected and not filled with mandates from other causes every single day. Please join us in the fight for what is right! Check out the survey at www.ncae.org on Time to Plan & Teach before November 16 to provide us data.

**JOIN NCAE TODAY
AND
LET OUR UNITED VOICE BE HEARD!**
(Go to www.NCAE.org)

