



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

National Board for Professional Teaching
Standards Certificate Fee Reimbursement
Grant Program

SL 2021-180 Section 7.27(a)

Date Due: January 15, 2023
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2022-2023

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JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT REQUIREMENTS

SL 2021-180 Section 7.27(a) established a grant program during the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium for qualifying public school units (PSU) to improve teacher quality and mitigate learning loss, notwithstanding G.S. 115C-296.2, by reimbursing teachers for the cost of the participation fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A qualifying public school is a public school that meets any of the following criteria:

1. Is identified as a low-performing school pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37 or G.S. 115C-218.94.
2. Is identified as an innovative school pursuant to G.S. 115C-75.5.
3. Enrolled a student body in the school year prior to the application for reimbursement consisting of at least ten percent (10%) of students identified as at-risk pursuant to State Board of Education policy DROP-001.

During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, a PSU with at least one qualifying public school may apply to the Department of Public Instruction for grant funds to reimburse teachers employed in the unit for the cost of the participation fee for NBPTS certification. Schools receiving funds will be prioritized according to legislation. Based on the criteria above 331 PSUs were eligible to apply.

No later than January 15, 2022, and each subsequent year thereafter in which funds allocated pursuant to this subdivision are awarded, the Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division on the impact of the program, including at least the following information:

1. PSU applying for and receiving grants.
2. Number of teachers receiving reimbursements.
3. Demographic information of teachers receiving reimbursements.
4. Employment status of teachers receiving reimbursements, including the public school where the teacher is employed and whether the teacher remains employed with his or her original qualifying public school.
5. Licensure areas of teachers receiving reimbursements.
6. Effect of the program on the performance and growth of students taught by teachers receiving reimbursements.

Demographic information about recipients, employment status of teachers receiving reimbursement, and description of effects of program on performance and growth of students taught by these teachers are not available at the time of this report as funds have recently been distributed to PSUs.

NCDPI IMPLEMENTATION

PRC 198 was written with the intent to provide reimbursement to educators seeking National Board Certification. On April 11, 2022, PRC 198 opened in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) and the application process closed May 31, 2022. Initial data revealed that only 42 PSUs completed and submitted the application for funding. Once the 42 completed applications were reviewed only 38 PSUs were eligible to receive funding. Four of the 42 PSUs who applied were denied because they did not meet the criterion set forth by legislation. One PSU Elkin City has opted out and will revert the funds back to NCDPI due to a calculations error made when they applied for their reimbursement amount.

The 38 PSUs are represented throughout all eight regions in the state.

North Central (7)	Chatham, East Wake Academy, Franklin, Granville, Johnston, Wake and Wilson
Northeast (3)	Edenton, Hyde, and Tyrell
Northwest (5)	Alexander, Caldwell, McDowell, Mitchell, and Wilkes
Piedmont – Triad (5)	Elkin, Guilford, Mount Airy, Rockingham and WS/Forsyth
Sandhills (5)	Clinton City, Cumberland, Montgomery, Sampson, and Whiteville City
Southeast (6)	Brunswick, Craven, Dublin, Lenoir, New Hanover, and Onslow
Southwest (4)	Cabarrus, Charlotte Mecklenburg, Cleveland, and Union
Western (3)	Henderson, Jackson, and Macon

On August 4th, 2022, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved the recommendation to fund the 38 eligible PSUs. Following the approval from the State Board of Education the grant applications were approved in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) by the Program Administrator on August 22, 2022. On August 30, 2022, North Carolina Department of Public Instruction distributed the allotted funds to each eligible PSU to be utilized for educators seeking initial National Board Certification.

During the month of September 2022, the 38 eligible PSUs were notified of the monitoring expectations and were also given a due date of November 18, 2022, for the submission of their reports. However, due to a delay with the Grant Award Notification (GAN) the due date was changed to November 30, 2022. Two reminders regarding the monitoring report were sent out to the eligible PSUs on October 3, 2022 and October 31, 2022.

As of December 2022, the following 6 PSUs have not provided a report:

Brunswick County Schools
Duplin County Schools
Henderson County Schools
Jackson County Public Schools
Wilkes County Schools
Winston Salem / Forsyth County Schools

32 PSUs have provided a report indicating their process for reimbursements will begin in January of 2023.

The total amounts requested by the eligible 38 PSUs for each year are as follows:

Award Recipients to be Allotted	
PSU Name	Award Amount
Alexander County Schools	\$10,725
Brunswick County Schools	\$97,285
Cabarrus County Schools	\$50,146
Caldwell County Schools	\$34,975
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	\$15,810
Chatham County Schools	\$21,185
Cleveland County Schools	\$27,899
Clinton City Schools	\$3,000
Craven County Schools	\$12,413
Cumberland County Schools	\$52,516
Duplin County Schools	\$67,184
East Wake Academy	\$6,000
Edenton-Chowan Schools	\$5,225
Elkin City Schools will return to NCDPI	\$325
Franklin County Schools	\$6,700
Granville County Schools	\$81,419
Guilford County Schools	\$115,611
Henderson County Schools	\$35,625
Hyde County Schools	\$15,005
Jackson County Public Schools	\$13,464
Johnston County Public Schools	\$13,300
Lenoir County Public Schools	\$19,465
Macon County Schools	\$23,464
McDowell County Schools	\$15,200
Mitchell County Schools	\$3,075
Montgomery County Schools	\$13,300
Mount Airy City Schools	\$22,868
New Hanover County Schools	\$72,794
Onslow County Schools	\$10,200
Rockingham County Schools	\$36,986
Sampson County Schools	\$3,685
Tyrrell County Schools	\$2,341
Union County Public Schools	\$28,544
Wake County Schools	\$56,350
Whiteville City Schools	\$1,200
Wilkes County Schools	\$15,751
Wilson County Schools	\$1,900
Winston Salem / Forsyth County Schools	\$187,065
Total	\$1,200,000

Over the course of 3 years, 1.2 million dollars will be distributed for reimbursement to all qualifying candidates.

Year 1 - (2020-2021) 316,702

Year 2 - (2021-2022) 387,664

Year 3 - (2022-2023) 603,480

The PSUs are responsible for tracking the disbursement to their educators based on proof of payment. They are also required to maintain accurate data for reporting purposes back to NCDPI. Periodic monitoring audits will be established to ensure integrity of use and track of funds. If the funds are not spent by September 30, 2024, they must be returned to US Department of Education.