

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

H.B. 159
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HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40102-MTfa-48

Short Title: Education Law Changes.-AB (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Torbett.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED
3 COMPENSATION BONUSES FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
4 PERSONNEL IN CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES
5 TO EDUCATION LAWS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
6 INSTRUCTION.

7 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

8
9 **PART I. BONUSES FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT**
10 **PERSONNEL IN SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL AND HEARING**
11 **IMPAIRMENTS**

12 **SECTION 1.(a)** No later than April 30, 2021, the Department of Public Instruction
13 shall administer a one-time lump sum bonus of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) to every
14 teacher who, as of April 1, 2021, is employed as a teacher in a school for students with visual
15 and hearing impairments. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the bonuses provided
16 pursuant to this section will complement the bonuses provided to other teachers in Section 2 of
17 S.L. 2020-45.

18 **SECTION 1.(b)** As used in this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- 19 (1) Teacher. – Teachers and instructional support personnel.
20 (2) School for students with visual and hearing impairments. – A public school
21 governed by the State Board of Education under Article 9C of Chapter 115C
22 of the General Statutes.

23 **SECTION 1.(c)** The bonuses awarded pursuant to this section shall be in addition to
24 any regular wage or other bonus the teacher receives or is scheduled to receive.

25 **SECTION 1.(d)** Notwithstanding G.S. 135-1(7a), the bonuses awarded pursuant to
26 this section are not compensation under Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes,
27 Retirement System for Teachers and State Employees.

28 **SECTION 1.(e)** The bonuses awarded pursuant to this section do not apply to any
29 teacher no longer employed as a teacher due to resignation, dismissal, reduction in force, death,
30 or retirement or whose last workday is prior to April 1, 2021.

31 **SECTION 1.(f)** Funds provided pursuant to this section shall supplement the
32 compensation of a public school employee and not supplant local funds.

33 **SECTION 1.(g)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
34 Public Instruction for the 2020-2021 fiscal year the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000)
35 in nonrecurring funds to provide the bonuses authorized by this section.
36



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1 **PART II. FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE ANNUAL**
2 **SALARY IN TWELVE MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS**

3 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-302.1(b) reads as rewritten:

4 "(b) Salary Payments. – State-allotted teachers shall be paid for a term of 10 months.
5 Except for career and technical education agriculture teacher personnel positions as provided for
6 in this subsection, State-allotted months of employment for career and technical education to
7 local boards shall be used for the employment of teachers of career and technical education for a
8 term of employment to be determined by the local boards of education. Beginning with the
9 2018-2019 school year, career and technical education agriculture teacher personnel positions
10 serving students in grades nine through 12 shall be for a term of employment for 12 calendar
11 months. A local board of education may fund these positions using any combination of State
12 funds, local funds, or any other funds available to the local board.

13 ...

14 Any individual teacher who is not employed in a year-round school may be paid in 12
15 monthly installments if the teacher so ~~requests on or before the first day of the school year.~~
16 requests. The request shall be filed in the local school administrative unit which employs the
17 teacher. The payment of the annual salary in 12 installments instead of 10 shall not increase or
18 decrease the teacher's annual salary nor in any other way alter the contract made between the
19 teacher and the local school administrative unit. ~~Teachers employed for a period of less than 10~~
20 ~~months shall not receive their salaries in 12 installments.~~

21"

22 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-316(a)(2) reads as rewritten:

23 "(2) School Employees Paid on an Hourly or Other Basis. – Salary payments to
24 employees other than those covered in G.S. 115C-272(b)(1), 115C-285(a)(1)
25 and (2), 115C-302.1(b) and 115C-316(a)(1) shall be made at a time
26 determined by each local board of education. Expenditures for the salary of
27 these employees from State funds shall be within allocations made by the State
28 Board of Education and in accordance with rules and regulations approved by
29 the State Board of Education concerning allocations of State funds: Provided,
30 that school employees employed for a term of 10 calendar months in
31 year-round schools shall be paid in 12 equal installments: Provided further,
32 that any individual school employee employed for a term of 10 calendar
33 months who is not employed in a year-round school may be paid in 12 monthly
34 installments if the employee so ~~requests on or before the first day of the school~~
35 ~~year.~~ requests. Such request shall be filed in the administrative unit which
36 employs the employee. The payment of the annual salary in 12 installments
37 instead of 10 shall not increase or decrease said annual salary nor in any other
38 way alter the contract between the employee and the said administrative unit.
39 Employees may be prepaid on the set pay date for days not yet worked. An
40 employee who fails to attend scheduled workdays or who has not worked the
41 number of days for which the employee has been paid and who resigns or is
42 dismissed shall repay to the local board any salary payments received for days
43 not yet worked. An employee who has been prepaid and who continues to be
44 employed by a local board but fails to attend scheduled workdays may be
45 subject to dismissal or other appropriate discipline. The daily rate of pay shall
46 equal the number of weekdays in the pay period. Included within the term of
47 employment shall be provided for full-time employees annual vacation leave
48 at the same rate provided for State employees, computed at one-twelfth (1/12)
49 of the annual rate for State employees for each calendar month of
50 employment, to be taken under policies determined by each local board of
51 education. On a day that employees are required to report for a workday but

1 pupils are not required to attend school due to inclement weather, an employee
2 may elect not to report due to hazardous travel conditions and to take one of
3 his annual vacation days or to make up the day at a time agreed upon by the
4 employee and his immediate supervisor or principal. On a day that school is
5 closed to employees and pupils due to inclement weather, the employee shall
6 work on the scheduled makeup day. Included within their term of
7 employment, each local board of education shall designate the same or an
8 equivalent number of legal holidays occurring within the period of
9 employment as those designated by the State Human Resources Commission
10 for State employees."
11

12 **PART III. REVISE STUDENT MEAL DEBT REPORT AND CARRYFORWARD** 13 **FUNDS FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES**

14 **SECTION 3.(a)** Section 2.3(a) of S.L. 2020-80 reads as rewritten:

15 **"SECTION 2.3.(a)** No later than October 15, ~~2021~~, 2022, the State Board of Education shall
16 report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on unpaid meal charges in local
17 school administrative units. At a minimum, the report shall include the following information:

- 18 (1) The percentage of students of all grade levels in each local school
19 administrative unit who (i) qualify for and participate in reduced-price meals
20 and (ii) do not carry an unpaid meal charge.
- 21 (2) The total amount of debt carried by each local school administrative unit
22 related to unpaid meal charges.
- 23 (3) Summaries of approaches adopted by each local school administrative unit
24 regarding unpaid meal charges.
- 25 (4) Options for a statewide policy on the uniform administration of unpaid meal
26 charges in local school administrative units. Every option shall ensure that
27 students are not prevented from receiving nutritious meals because of an
28 unpaid meal charge."

29 **SECTION 3.(b)** Section 2.3(b) of S.L. 2020-80 reads as rewritten:

30 **"SECTION 2.3.(b)** For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Department of Public Instruction shall
31 transfer the sum of three million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$3,900,000) in nonrecurring
32 funds from the cash balance in the School Bus Replacement Fund (Budget Code: 73510; Fund
33 Code: 7200) to the State Public School Fund (Budget Code: 13510; Fund Code: 1830). Funds
34 transferred pursuant to this section are hereby appropriated to provide school lunches at no cost
35 to students of all grade levels qualifying for reduced-price meals in all schools participating in
36 the National School Lunch Program in the 2020-2021 school year and 2021-2022 school year.
37 These funds shall not revert at the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, but shall remain available
38 until the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. If these funds are insufficient to provide school lunches
39 at no cost to students qualifying for reduced-price meals, the Department of Public Instruction
40 shall also use any excess funds appropriated for the National School Breakfast Program for the
41 purposes of this subsection."

42 **SECTION 3.(c)** Subsection (b) of this section becomes effective June 30, 2021.
43

44 **PART IV. REVISE OPERATING BALANCE RESTRICTIONS FOR SCHOOL** 45 **NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

46 **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 115C-450 reads as rewritten:

47 **"§ 115C-450. School food services.**

48 (a) School ~~food-nutrition~~ services shall be included in the budget of each ~~local school~~
49 ~~administrative unit~~ public school unit that provides school nutrition services, and the State Board
50 of Education shall provide for school ~~food-nutrition~~ services in the uniform budget format
51 required by G.S. 115C-426.

1 (b) ~~No local school administrative unit~~ public school unit that provides school nutrition
 2 services shall assess indirect costs to a child-school nutrition program unless the program has a
 3 minimum of one month's an operating balance. One month's operating balance shall be derived
 4 from net cash resources divided by one month's operating costs. "Net cash resources" means all
 5 monies, as determined in accordance with the State agency's established accounting system, that
 6 are available to or have accrued to a school food authority's nonprofit child nutrition account at
 7 any given time, less cash payables and other liabilities. When calculating the average month's
 8 operating balance, the Department of Public Instruction shall use the complete and final figures
 9 obtained from the annual financial report from each child nutrition program's operation. An
 10 average month's operating balance shall be calculated and published by the Department of Public
 11 Instruction for each child nutrition program and shall be equal to the average of the three prior
 12 fiscal years' monthly operating balances. balance of at least three months. The Department of
 13 Public Instruction shall calculate the operating balance of a school nutrition program of a public
 14 school unit that provides school nutrition services. If complete and final financial reports for a
 15 given year are not yet available for a child-school nutrition program, the Department of Public
 16 Instruction may use projected figures-figures, but shall update the published average month's
 17 operating balance once complete and final financial reports become available. As used in this
 18 subsection, the term "indirect costs" is as defined in the United States Office of Budget and
 19 Management Circular A-87, as revised, and the term "net cash resources" is as defined in 7 C.F.R.
 20 § 210.2.2 C.F.R. § 200.414."

21 **SECTION 4.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2021.

22

23 **PART V. TEMPORARILY EXTEND CPR GRADUATION REQUIREMENT CHANGES**

24 **SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-12(9d)a., for the 2020-2021 school year,
 25 any student in grade 12 who has not satisfied the requirement for completion of instruction in
 26 cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall be eligible to graduate if both of the following apply:

- 27 (1) Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation cannot be completed due to the
 28 COVID-19 emergency.
- 29 (2) The student is eligible to graduate in all respects other than the statutory
 30 requirement described in this section, as determined by the principal of the
 31 school to which the student is assigned.

32

33 **PART VI. REVISE ANNUAL CENSUS OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

34 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 115C-105.57(e) reads as rewritten:

35 "(e) Annual Census of School Resource Officers. – The Center for Safer Schools shall
 36 conduct an annual census of school resource officers located in each public school unit. ~~The~~
 37 ~~Center shall submit a report based on this census to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight~~
 38 ~~Committee and the State Board of Education by March 1 of each year. At a minimum, the report~~
 39 ~~shall include all of the following information: As part of the census, each public school unit shall~~
 40 report to the Center by January 15 of each year with the following information regarding school
 41 resource officers in the unit:

- 42 (1) ~~The total number of school resource officers in the State and in each public~~
 43 school unit officers.
- 44 (2) Data regarding school resources officers' education levels, years as sworn law
 45 enforcement officers, and years as school resource officers.
- 46 (3) Training required of school resource officers and training actually completed
 47 by school resource officers, including training specific to the position of
 48 school resource officer and other advanced or additional training.
- 49 (4) The funding source for all school resource officers.
- 50 (5) The location of school resource officers, differentiated by grade ~~levels and~~
 51 type of public school unit levels.

1 (6) The percentage of school resource officers assigned to more than one school.

2 (7) The law enforcement affiliation of school resource officers.

3 The Center shall compile the information submitted pursuant to this subsection and submit a
4 report detailing this information at the statewide and local levels to the Joint Legislative
5 Education Oversight Committee and the State Board of Education by March 1 of each year."

7 PART VII. CLARIFY CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FEE

8 SECTION 7. G.S. 115C-218.1(c) reads as rewritten:

9 "(c) The State Board shall establish reasonable fees of ~~no less than five hundred dollars~~
10 ~~(\$500.00) and no more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ for initial and renewal charter
11 applications, in accordance with Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. No
12 application fee shall be refunded in the event the application is rejected or the charter is revoked."

14 PART VIII. LIFETIME LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL 15 EDUCATORS

16 SECTION 8. G.S. 115C-270.20(b) reads as rewritten:

17 "(b) Administrator and Student Services Personnel. – The State Board shall establish
18 classification and levels of preparation necessary for issuance of licenses for administrators and
19 student services personnel. The State Board shall provide that a professional educator who meets
20 the requirements of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section as a professional educator is
21 issued a lifetime license."

23 PART IX. COMBINING OF THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INNOVATION 24 COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAMS

25 SECTION 9.(a) Article 6C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes reads as
26 rewritten:

27 "Article 6C.

28 "Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program.

29 "**§ 115C-64.15. North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.**

30 (a) There is created the North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation
31 Commission (Commission). The Commission shall be located administratively in the
32 Department of Public Instruction but shall exercise all its prescribed powers independently of the
33 Department of Public Instruction. Of the funds appropriated for the Education and Workforce
34 Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program established under G.S. 115C-64.16, up to ten
35 percent (10%) of those funds each fiscal year may be used by the Department of Public
36 Instruction to provide technical assistance and administrative assistance, including staff, to the
37 Commission and for reimbursements and expenses for the Commission for the Education and
38 Workforce Innovation ~~Program and the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion and~~
39 CTE Grade Expansion Program.

40 (b) The Commission shall consist of the following 14 members:

41 (1) The Secretary of Commerce or his or her designee.

42 (2) The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee.

43 (3) The Chair of the State Board of Education or his or her designee.

44 (4) The President of The University of North Carolina or his or her designee.

45 (5) The President of the North Carolina Community College System or his or her
46 designee.

47 (6) Three members appointed by the Governor who have experience in education.

48 (7) Three members appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
49 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as provided in G.S. 120-121,
50 who have experience in businesses operating in North Carolina.

1 (8) Three members appointed by the General Assembly upon the
2 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as provided in
3 G.S. 120-121, who have experience in businesses operating in North Carolina.

4 (b1) Members appointed by the Governor or the General Assembly shall serve for
5 three-year terms commencing July 1 of the year of appointment and may serve successive terms.

6 (c) The Commission members shall elect a chair from the membership of the
7 Commission. The Commission shall meet at least three times annually on the call of the Chair or
8 as additionally provided by the Commission. A quorum is six members of the Commission.
9 Members may not ~~send designees to Commission meetings nor may they~~ vote by proxy.

10 (d) The Commission shall develop and administer the Education and Workforce
11 Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program, as established under G.S. 115C-64.16, in
12 collaboration with the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., and
13 make awards of grants under the Program.

14 ~~(d1) The Commission shall develop and administer, in coordination with the State Board
15 of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and in collaboration with the North
16 Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., the Career and Technical Education
17 Grade Expansion Program, as established under G.S. 115C-64.17, and shall make awards of
18 grants under the Program.~~

19 (d2) The North Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., shall ~~serve as~~
20 ~~a grant administrator by providing~~ provide assistance and support to grantees for initiating,
21 expanding, improving, and promoting career and technical education initiatives.

22 (e) ~~The Commission, in consultation with the North Carolina Career and Technical
23 Education Foundation, Inc., Commission~~ shall publish a report on the Education and Workforce
24 Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program ~~and the Career and Technical Education Grade
25 Expansion Program~~ on or before April 30 of each year. The report shall be submitted to the Joint
26 Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the State Board of Education, the State Board of
27 Community Colleges, and the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina. The
28 report shall include at least all of the following information:

29 (1) An accounting of how funds and personnel resources were utilized for ~~each~~
30 the program and their impact on student achievement, retention, and
31 employability.

32 (2) Recommended statutory and policy changes.

33 (3) Recommendations for improvement of ~~each the~~ program.

34 (4) For the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion ~~Program, Grants,~~
35 recommendations on increasing availability of grants after the first two years
36 ~~of the program~~ to include additional local school administrative units or
37 providing additional grants to prior recipients.

38 **"§ 115C-64.16. The Education and Workforce Innovation Program and CTE Grade**
39 **Expansion Program; Innovation Grants.**

40 (a) Program Establishment. – There is established the Education and Workforce
41 Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program (Program) to foster innovation in education that
42 will lead to more students graduating career and college ~~ready~~ and to prioritize the inclusion of
43 students in sixth and seventh grades through grant awards provided to selected local school
44 administrative units.

45 (a1) Types of Grant Awards. – Funds appropriated to the Program shall be used to award
46 competitive grants depending on the needs of the State, as determined by the Commission, by
47 dividing the grants between each type as innovation grants pursuant to the provisions of this
48 section or as grants for grade expansion for career and technical education pursuant to the
49 provisions of G.S. 115C-64.17.

50 (a2) Innovation Grants. – Competitive grants shall be awarded to an individual school, a
51 local school administrative unit, or a regional partnership of more than one local school

1 administrative unit to advance comprehensive, high-quality education that equips teachers and
2 other hired personnel with the knowledge and skill required to succeed with all students. Before
3 receiving ~~a~~an innovation grant, applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

- 4 (1) Form a partnership, for the purposes of the grant, with either a public or private
5 university or a community college.
- 6 (2) Form a partnership, for the purposes of the grant, with regional businesses and
7 business leaders.
- 8 (3) Demonstrate the ability to sustain innovation once grant funding ends.

9 (b) Applicant Categories and Specific ~~Requirements~~. Requirements for Innovation
10 Grants. –

- 11 (1) Individual schools. – Individual public schools must demonstrate all of the
12 following in their applications:
 - 13 a. Partnerships with business and industry to determine the skills and
14 competencies needed for students' transition into growth sectors of the
15 regional economy.
 - 16 b. Aligned pathways to employment, including students' acquisition of
17 college credit or industry recognized credentials.
 - 18 c. Development of systems, infrastructure, capacity, and culture to
19 enable teachers and school leaders to continuously focus on improving
20 individual student achievement.
- 21 (2) Local school administrative units. – Local school administrative units must
22 demonstrate all of the following in their applications:
 - 23 a. Implementation of comprehensive reform and innovation.
 - 24 b. Appointment of a senior leader to manage and sustain the change
25 process with a specific focus on providing parents with a portfolio of
26 meaningful options among schools.
- 27 (3) Regional partnerships of two or more local school administrative units. –
28 Partnerships of two or more local school administrative units must
29 demonstrate all of the following in their applications:
 - 30 a. Implementation of resources of partnered local school administrative
31 units in creating a tailored workforce development system for the
32 regional economy and fostering innovation in each of the partnered
33 local school administrative units.
 - 34 b. Promotion of the development of knowledge and skills in career
35 clusters of critical importance to the region.
 - 36 c. Benefits of the shared strengths of local businesses and higher
37 education.
 - 38 d. Usage of technology to deliver instruction over large geographic
39 regions and build networks with industry.
 - 40 e. Implementation of comprehensive reform and innovation that can be
41 replicated in other local school administrative units.

42 (c) Consideration of Factors in Awarding of Innovation Grants. – All applications must
43 include information on at least the following in order to be considered for ~~a~~an innovation grant:

- 44 (1) Describe the aligned pathways from school to high-growth careers in regional
45 economies.
- 46 (2) Leverage technology to efficiently and effectively drive teacher and principal
47 development, connect students and teachers to online courses and resources,
48 and foster virtual learning communities among faculty, higher education
49 partners, and business partners.

- 1 (3) Establish a comprehensive approach to enhancing the knowledge and skills of
2 teachers and administrators to successfully implement the proposed
3 innovative program and to graduate all students ready for work and college.
- 4 (4) Link to a proven provider of professional development services for teachers
5 and administrators capable of providing evidence-based training and tools
6 aligned with the goals of the proposed innovative program.
- 7 (5) Form explicit partnerships with businesses and industry, which may include
8 business advisory councils, internship programs, and other customized
9 projects aligned with relevant workforce skills.
- 10 (6) Partner with community colleges or public or private universities to enable
11 communities to challenge every student to graduate with workplace
12 credentials or college credit.
- 13 (7) Align K-12 and postsecondary instruction and performance expectations to
14 reduce the need for college remediation courses.
- 15 (8) Secure input from parents to foster broad ownership for school choice options
16 and to foster greater understanding of the need for continued education beyond
17 high school.
- 18 (9) Provide a description of the funds that will be used and a proposed budget for
19 ~~five years each of the grant years.~~
- 20 (10) Describe the source of matching funds required in subsection (d) of this
21 section.
- 22 (11) Establish a strategy to achieve meaningful analysis of program outcomes due
23 to the receipt of grant funds under this section.

24 (d) ~~Matching Private and Local Funds.~~ Funds for Innovation Grants. – All innovation
25 grant applicants must match fifty percent (50%) of all State dollars. Matching funds shall not
26 include other State funds. Matching funds may include in-kind contributions.

27 (e) Awards for Innovation Grants. – Any innovation grants awarded by the Commission
28 may be spent over a five-year period from the initial award. Grants may be awarded for new or
29 existing projects. Grant funds shall not revert but shall be available until expended.

30 (f) Innovation Grant Recipient Reporting Requirements. – No later than September 1 of
31 each year, ~~a~~ an innovation grant recipient shall submit to the Commission an annual report for
32 the preceding grant year that describes the academic progress made by the students and the
33 implementation of program initiatives.

34 **"§ 115C-64.17. The Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program Grants.**

35 (a) ~~Program Establishment.~~ CTE Grade Expansion Grants. – ~~There is established the~~
36 ~~Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program (Program) to expand Career and~~
37 ~~Technical Education Grade Expansion grants shall be awarded under the Program for the purpose~~
38 of expanding career and technical education (CTE) programs by prioritizing the inclusion of
39 students in sixth and seventh grade through grant awards provided to selected local school
40 administrative units for up to seven years. ~~Funds appropriated for the Program~~ Grant funds shall
41 be allocated to selected local school administrative units as competitive grants of (i) ~~up to seven~~
42 ~~hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and (ii) grants,~~ to the extent
43 funds are available, of up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and
44 subsequent fiscal years. Grant funds shall be used only for employing additional licensed
45 personnel in career and technical education areas, career development coordination areas, and
46 support service areas necessary for expanding the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade
47 students. The funds may be used for CTE programs at one or more schools in the local school
48 administrative unit. Grant funds allocated to the local school administrative unit each fiscal year
49 ~~under the Program~~ shall not revert but shall be available for the purpose of the grant program
50 until expended.

1 (b) Consideration of Factors in Awarding of CTE Grade Expansion Grants. – Local
2 school administrative units applying for ~~the Program~~ CTE grade expansion grants shall submit
3 an application that includes at least the following information:

- 4 (1) A plan for expansion of the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade students,
5 including the specific programs that will be expanded, the significance of CTE
6 in the local school administrative unit, and how a grade expansion would
7 enhance the education program and the community.
- 8 (2) A request for the amount of funds, a description of how the funds will be used,
9 and any other sources of funds available to accomplish the purposes of this
10 program.
- 11 (3) A proposed budget for seven years that provides detail on the use of the
12 amount of funds to add personnel, increase career development efforts, and
13 provide support services.
- 14 (4) A strategy to achieve meaningful analysis of program outcomes due to the
15 receipt of grant funds under this section.

16 (c) Selection of CTE Grade Expansion Grant Recipients. – For the 2017-2018 fiscal year,
17 the Commission shall accept applications for a grant until November 30, 2017. For subsequent
18 fiscal years that funds are made available for the ~~Program~~ CTE grade expansion grants, the
19 Commission shall accept applications for a grant until August 1 of each year. The Commission
20 shall consult with the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., to select
21 recipients in a manner that considers diversity among the pool of applicants, including geographic
22 location, location of industries in the area in which a local school administrative unit is located,
23 and the size of the student population served by the unit, in order to award funds to the extent
24 possible to grant recipients that represent different regions and characteristics of the State. The
25 Commission shall recommend recipients of the grants to the State Board of Education. The State
26 Board, upon consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall approve the
27 recipients of grant awards.

28 (d) Allocation of Funds. – Of the funds available for the Program in each fiscal year, the
29 Commission shall first allocate funds to applicants who received CTE grade expansion grant
30 funds for the prior fiscal year for up to seven years. After funds are allocated to prior fiscal year
31 grant recipients, any remaining funds may be used by the Commission to select new grant
32 recipients. ~~recipients as provided in G.S. 115C-64.16(a1). The Commission, in consultation with~~
33 ~~the Superintendent of Public Instruction, Commission~~ shall establish rules regarding any
34 requirements for grant recipients to continue eligibility to receive funds each fiscal year,
35 including timely and accurate reporting as required under subsection (e) of this section.

36 (e) Reporting Requirements. – No later than August 1 of each year, for up to seven years
37 after the initial grant award, a grant recipient shall submit to the Department of Public Instruction,
38 Local Planning Systems Regional Services staff within the Division of Career and Technical
39 Education, an annual report for the preceding year in which CTE grade expansion grant funds
40 were expended that provides at least the following information on the program for sixth and
41 seventh grade students:

- 42 (1) The use of grant funds, including the CTE programs and courses that have
43 been expanded in the local school administrative unit to include sixth and
44 seventh grade students.
- 45 (2) The number of students enrolled in CTE courses as part of the expansion.
- 46 (3) The number of students who subsequently enrolled in CTE courses in high
47 school.
- 48 (4) The number of students who subsequently participated in internships,
49 cooperative education, or apprenticeship programs.
- 50 (5) The number of students who subsequently earned (i) college credit and (ii)
51 approved industry certification and credentials.

1 (6) Any other information the Division of Career and Technical Education deems
2 necessary.

3 The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall provide a report to the Commission by October
4 15 of each year based on the information reported to the Local Planning Systems Regional
5 Services staff under this subsection, including how the grant recipients compare to CTE programs
6 statewide and whether the programs are aligned with the Master Plan for Career and Technical
7 Education adopted by the State Board."

8 **SECTION 9.(b)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction
9 from the General Fund for the 2021-2022 fiscal year for the North Carolina Education and
10 Workforce Innovation Commission for the Education and Workforce Innovation Program and
11 for the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program, beginning with the
12 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of three million one hundred seventy-one thousand one hundred
13 eighteen dollars (\$3,171,118) in recurring funds shall instead be appropriated to the Department
14 of Public Instruction for the North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission
15 for the Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program, established
16 pursuant to G.S. 115C-64.16, as amended by this section.

17 **SECTION 9.(c)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2021.

18
19 **PART X. EFFECTIVE DATE**

20 **SECTION 10.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
21 law.