

1 Any local board of education of a local school administrative unit authorized to
2 participate in the Program may elect not to participate. For each local school administrative unit
3 that elects not to participate in the Program, the Department may authorize one replacement local
4 school administrative unit with a similar population of students to participate in the Program.

5 **SECTION 1.(c) Technology and Services.** – Qualifying vendors shall provide
6 technology and services for student transportation to participating local school administrative
7 units. Participating units shall have discretion over the specific technology and services provided
8 as long as the technology and services meet the following minimum requirements:

- 9 (1) Improve overall communications and reporting on school buses.
- 10 (2) Enable employee time tracking, student ridership tracking, and contact tracing
11 in the event of a COVID-19 infection.
- 12 (3) Enable global positioning system (GPS) tracking of school buses.
- 13 (4) Enable turn-by-turn navigation along bus routes.
- 14 (5) Optimize time, expenditure, and safety of bus routes.
- 15 (6) Provide pre- and post-trip vehicle inspections that may be transmitted to the
16 Department of Public Instruction on a regular basis.
- 17 (7) Communicate ridership information to the student information management
18 system.
- 19 (8) Permit parents or legal guardians to access applicable information.
- 20 (9) Conform to applicable guidance provided by the North Carolina Department
21 of Health and Human Services for the transportation of students during the
22 COVID-19 pandemic.
- 23 (10) Facilitate the receipt of Medicaid reimbursement for eligible student
24 transportation services.

25 **SECTION 1.(d) Requirements and Contingencies.** – The following requirements
26 and contingencies shall apply to each participating local school administrative unit:

- 27 (1) Every school bus in a participating local school administrative unit designed
28 for the transportation of children with disabilities shall be outfitted with
29 technology provided pursuant to the Program as long as the technology is
30 appropriate for children with disabilities and can be provided in a
31 cost-effective manner.
- 32 (2) At the conclusion of the Program, all hardware provided to a participating
33 local school administrative unit shall become the property of the unit.
- 34 (3) Participating local school administrative units shall make use of technology
35 or services provided pursuant to the Program at least through the conclusion
36 of the 2023-2024 school year.

37 **SECTION 1.(e) Reports.** – No later than July 1, 2022, and annually thereafter in any
38 year in which the Program is in effect, the Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with
39 each participating local school administrative unit, shall report at least all of the following
40 information to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, any committee constituted
41 by the House of Representatives or Senate to address school safety, and the Fiscal Research
42 Division:

- 43 (1) An itemized breakdown of software infrastructure, hardware infrastructure,
44 and equipment provided by qualifying vendors to participating local school
45 administrative units pursuant to the Program.
- 46 (2) A description of all services provided by qualifying vendors to participating
47 local school administrative units pursuant to the Program.
- 48 (3) A list of qualifying vendors contracting with participating local school
49 administrative units pursuant to the Program.
- 50 (4) The impact and effectiveness of the Program.
- 51 (5) All expenditures of State funds pursuant to the Program.

1 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
2 Public Instruction the sum of thirteen million seven hundred fifty-two thousand dollars
3 (\$13,752,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2021-2022 fiscal year to establish the Smart School
4 Bus Safety Pilot Program in accordance with this act. These funds shall be allocated as follows:

- 5 (1) \$478,000 to Burke County Schools.
- 6 (2) \$540,000 to Caldwell County Schools.
- 7 (3) \$436,000 to Chatham County Schools.
- 8 (4) \$140,000 to Clinton City Schools.
- 9 (5) \$435,000 to Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools.
- 10 (6) \$51,000 to Elkin City Schools.
- 11 (7) \$978,000 to Gaston County Schools.
- 12 (8) \$1,060,000 to Harnett County Schools.
- 13 (9) \$150,500 to Hickory City Schools.
- 14 (10) \$1,425,000 to Johnston County Schools.
- 15 (11) \$912,000 to Iredell-Statesville Schools.
- 16 (12) \$273,000 to Martin County Schools.
- 17 (13) \$984,000 to New Hanover County Schools.
- 18 (14) \$520,000 to Sampson County Schools.
- 19 (15) \$402,500 to Surry County Schools.
- 20 (16) \$238,000 to Transylvania County Schools.
- 21 (17) \$1,650,000 to Union County Public Schools.
- 22 (18) \$337,000 to Watauga County Schools.
- 23 (19) \$1,079,000 to Wayne County Public Schools.
- 24 (20) \$1,456,000 to Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools.
- 25 (21) \$207,000 to Yadkin County Schools.

26 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2021.