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SENATE BILL DRS15409-NHa-15A

Short Title: High-Impact Tutoring Grant Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Chaudhuri and Batch (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO CREATE A HIGH-IMPACT TUTORING GRANT PROGRAM TO ADDRESS
3 LEARNING LOSS RESULTING FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** The Department of Public Instruction shall establish a High-Impact
6 Tutoring Grant Program (Program) to enable public school units to provide tutors for students to
7 address learning loss and unfinished learning resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. The
8 Program aims to serve as many students as possible, including low-income, underserved, and
9 rural students, by providing high-impact tutoring services that will improve academic
10 performance. The Program shall begin in the 2022-2023 school year and conclude at the end of
11 the 2024-2025 school year.

12 **SECTION 2.(a)** The Department of Public Instruction shall develop an application
13 process for the Program. All public school units may apply for the Program. As part of the
14 application process, the Department shall require each applicant to provide at least the following
15 information:

- 16 (1) A high-impact tutoring plan as described in subsection (b) of this section.
- 17 (2) The methods that will be used to determine which students will participate in
18 the tutoring program.
- 19 (3) The number of students expected to be served by the tutoring program.
- 20 (4) The projected cost of implementing the tutoring program.
- 21 (5) The methods to be used for measuring student academic progress and other
22 tutoring program outcomes.
- 23 (6) Whether the public school unit will create its own tutoring program or partner
24 with existing tutoring providers.
- 25 (7) The academic subjects that will be the focus of the tutoring program.
- 26 (8) The methods to be used for recruiting and supporting tutors.
- 27 (9) The ways in which tutoring will be delivered, including how the delivery will
28 accommodate remote learning.
- 29 (10) An overview of the curriculum tutors will be required to use, if any.
- 30 (11) The ways in which the tutoring program will provide ongoing professional
31 training and development for tutors.
- 32 (12) A schedule showing how the tutoring session will be completed during
33 existing class time.

34 **SECTION 2.(b)** The high-impact tutoring plan required by subsection (a) of this
35 section shall include an explanation as to the manner in which the public school unit will
36 accomplish, or the reason the unit would not be able to accomplish, all of the following:



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- 1 (1) Tutoring in groups of four or fewer students.
- 2 (2) Ensuring students have the same tutor throughout the school year.
- 3 (3) Providing tutoring a minimum of three times each week with at least 30 to 50
- 4 minutes of instruction per tutoring session.
- 5 (4) Implementing tutoring throughout the school day instead of as a before- or
- 6 after-school program, supplementing core academic instruction, and creating
- 7 the opportunity for enrichment, not replacement, of instruction.
- 8 (5) Providing high-quality trained tutors, including former teachers,
- 9 paraprofessionals, teaching candidates, recently retired teachers, community
- 10 providers, AmeriCorps members, and other individuals who have received
- 11 tutoring training.
- 12 (6) Emphasizing student attendance and educator support.
- 13 (7) Using a high-quality curriculum that is aligned with academic standards and
- 14 practices.
- 15 (8) Prioritizing coordination between classroom educators, tutors, and school
- 16 leaders.
- 17 (9) Providing data-driven tutoring with interim assessments to monitor student
- 18 progress.
- 19 (10) Providing ongoing professional training and development for tutors.
- 20 (11) Adjusting the tutoring program to achieve maximum student outcomes.

21 **SECTION 2.(c)** The Department shall prioritize awarding grants to applicant public
22 school units that demonstrate at least one of the following:

- 23 (1) A need for financial support to aid students in addressing learning loss and
- 24 unfinished learning resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 25 (2) Enrollment of a high percentage of low-income or underserved students.
- 26 (3) The unit has one or more schools located in a rural area that could not
- 27 otherwise afford to have a tutoring program.

28 **SECTION 3.** For the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years, the Department may
29 grant awards of up to four hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$450,000) or half the estimated cost
30 of the tutoring program, whichever is less, per public school unit. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year,
31 the Department may award grants of up to nine hundred thousand dollars (\$900,000) or the full
32 cost of the tutoring program, whichever is less, per public school unit.

33 **SECTION 4.** Funds awarded pursuant to the Program may be used for any of the
34 following:

- 35 (1) Hiring tutors or contracting with persons to serve as tutors.
- 36 (2) Stipends or other incentives to paraprofessionals, retired teachers,
- 37 AmeriCorps members, or community organizations to ensure there are
- 38 sufficient qualified tutors to provide tutoring services in the manner and at the
- 39 level described in the high-impact tutoring plan submitted by the public school
- 40 unit pursuant to subsection (a) of Section 2 of this act.
- 41 (3) Costs associated with renting or purchasing physical space for tutoring.
- 42 (4) Administrative expenses.
- 43 (5) Any other purpose approved by the Department that increases the
- 44 effectiveness of the high-impact tutoring program.

45 **SECTION 5.** A school participating in the Program may use up to 36 hours of
46 high-impact tutoring time towards the instructional hours required for the school calendar
47 pursuant to G.S. 115C-84.2, 115C-218.85, 115C-238.53, or 115C-238.66.

48 **SECTION 6.** Participant schools shall provide information to tutors about potential
49 pathways into the teaching profession, including any opportunities for tutors to work toward
50 educator licensure while providing high-impact tutoring services. The Department of Public

1 Instruction shall create uniform materials containing information on these opportunities for the
2 schools to distribute to their tutors.

3 **SECTION 7.** Any person hired to serve as a tutor under the provisions of this act
4 shall comply with all State and federal laws relating to health, safety, and antidiscrimination.

5 **SECTION 8.** No later than April 15, 2023, and every year thereafter that funds are
6 made available for the Program, the Department of Public Instruction shall report to the Joint
7 Legislative Education Oversight Committee the following information:

8 (1) A list of the schools participating in the Program.

9 (2) The total number of students participating in the Program.

10 (3) Non-identifying demographic information on participating students.

11 (4) Any adjustments made to the high-impact tutoring plan submitted pursuant to
12 subsection (b) of Section 2 of this act and the reason for those adjustments.

13 (5) The ways the school maintained consistent access to noncore-academic
14 instruction for participating students.

15 (6) All expenditures of grant funds.

16 (7) Any amounts needed to fund the Program beyond the grant funds.

17 (8) The academic achievement measures and other criteria used to identify
18 students to receive high-impact tutoring.

19 (9) The academic achievement measures and other criteria used to measure
20 student outcomes associated with the Program.

21 (10) The public school unit's intent and reasoning to either continue or discontinue
22 the high-impact tutoring program beyond the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

23 **SECTION 9.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
24 Public Instruction the sum of twenty-three million dollars (\$23,000,000) in nonrecurring funds
25 for both the 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 fiscal years, and the sum of forty-five million dollars
26 (\$45,000,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year, to allow students in public
27 school units to access high-impact tutoring pursuant to the Program.

28 When developing the base budget, as defined by G.S. 143C-1-1, for each fiscal year
29 specified in this section, the Director of the Budget shall include the appropriated amount for that
30 fiscal year.

31 **SECTION 10.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2022.