NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Teacher Assistants Tuition Reimbursement Program – TAs to Teachers

S.L. 2023-134, § 115C-269.31

Date Due: December 1, 2025
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2024-2025

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISION

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(g) Local Report. - No later than September 1 of each school year following at least six months of participation in the Program for that year, local boards of education participating in the Program shall report at least the following information to the Department of Public Instruction:

(1) The number and amount of funds in tuition assistance awards provided to teacher assistants.

(2) The number of teacher assistant recipients who achieved teacher licensure, including the period of time from the issue of an initial tuition assistance award to the time of achieving licensure.

(3) The number of recipients who remained employed in the local school administrative unit after achieving teacher licensure.

(h) State Report. - No later than December 1, 2024, and annually thereafter for each year funds are awarded pursuant to the Program, the Department of Public Instruction shall aggregate the information provided pursuant to subsection (g) of this section and report that information to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee. (2023-134, s. 7.44(a).)

INTRODUCTION

North Carolina Session Law 2023-134 (§115C-269.31) directs the Department of Public Instruction to expand the Teacher Assistant Tuition Reimbursement Grant Program statewide. The program provides tuition assistance to part-time or full-time teacher assistants employed in local school administrative units who are pursuing a college degree leading to teacher licensure. The General Assembly appropriated $575,000 to fund grants of up to $4,600 per participant, for up to four academic years, to cover tuition and fees at approved educator preparation programs.

For school year 2024-25, a total of 1,062 applications from 72 districts submitted applicants for consideration. As directed in §115C-269.31, the Department prioritized the distribution of these funds using the following rules:

(1) Local school administrative units that received funds under the Teacher Assistant Tuition Reimbursement Pilot Program established in Section 8.29 of S.L. 2016-94, as amended by Section 7.20 of S.L. 2017-57, Section 6(m) of S.L. 2017-189, and Section 7.21 of S.L. 2018-5.

(2) Local school administrative units located, in whole or in part, in a county with at least one local school administrative unit that received low-wealth supplemental funding in the previous fiscal year.

(3) All other local school administrative units.

Adhering to the rules outlined above, districts were stratified into three priority groups. The number of teachers in each priority group is outlined in table 1.

Table 1: Count of Teachers by Priority Level

Priority 1: TA to Teachers pilot district	Priority 2: Identified as a low wealth district	Priority 3: All other districts
202	451	409

Due to the high demand among applicants at Priority Level 1, the Department reduced the maximum reimbursement per teacher assistant from $4,600 to $2,846. This adjustment ensured that all individuals qualifying under Priority Level 1 received funding, albeit at a reduced amount, thereby fully utilizing the available appropriation. To provide the full statutory amount to all priority levels, the program would have required $4,885,200 in funding. To fully fund Priority Level 1 alone at the original amount, an allocation of $929,200 would have been necessary.

Table 2 identifies all of the districts that applied for teacher assistant reimbursements, the total number of teacher assistants in each district, the number of teacher assistants that applied for reimbursement, the amount allotted for reimbursement, the amount spent on reimbursement, the count of teacher assistants still employed in June 2025, and the count of teacher assistants that received licensure by June 2025.

Table 2: TAs to Teachers participation, allotment, reimbursement, and other measures.

District Name	Count of TAs	Count of Applicants	Amount Allocated	Amount Disbursed	Continued Employment as TA	Licensed TA	Employed as a Teacher
Columbus County Schools	65	25	71150	36918	25	2	0
Guilford County	639	22	62612	33744	22	1	0
McDowell County	27	19	54074	29709	19	4	2
Jones County	5	18	51228	28483	18	1	1
Duplin County	205	13	36998	16524	12	1	1
Moore County	87	12	34152	14970	11	2	2
Franklin County	110	9	25614	11653	9	1	0
Lenoir County Public Schools	19	9	25614	8109	9	0	0
Edgecombe County	83	8	22768	11472	8	0	0
Greene County	66	8	22768	11491	7	0	0
Randolph County	121	8	22768	5854	8	3	1
Beaufort County Schools	117	7	19922	8285	7	0	0
Public Schools of Robeson County	488	6	17076	6356	6	0	0
Yadkin County	35	6	17076	10832	6	1	1

Yancey County	13	6	17076	6588	6	1	1
Ashe County	49	5	14230	8214	5	2	1
Nash County	27	5	14230	7031	5	2	1
Richmond County	60	4	11384	5322	4	0	0
Mitchell County	1	3	8538	4081	3	2	0
Alamance-Burlington Schools	188	2	5692	3809	2	0	0
Alleghany County Schools	15	2	5692	1518	2	1	0
Anson County	11	2	5692	2059	2	1	0
Bladen County	23	2	5692	1937	2	0	0
Macon	5	1	2846	458	1	0	0
Buncombe County	238	14			14	3	1
Asheville City	48	1			1	0	0
Burke County	6	17			16	3	2
Cabarrus County	205	10			9	0	0
Carteret County Public Schools	54	7			7	1	1
Caswell County	29	8			8	1	1
Catawba County	95	5			5	1	0
Newton-Conover City	7	3			3	0	0
Cleveland County	183	11			11	1	0
Whiteville City Schools	7	6			6	3	0
Craven County	96	27			27	3	1
Cumberland County	231	22			22	2	1
Dare County Schools	58	24			23	6	2
Lexington City	51	2			2	0	0
Davie County	94	5			5	0	0
Alexander County	287	1			0	0	0
Gaston County	39	17			17	4	0
Granville County	47	2			2	0	0
Roanoke Rapids City	71	5			0	0	0
Weldon City	15	1			1	0	0
Harnett County	242	27			27	10	1
Haywood County Schools	63	8			8	1	0
Hyde County	3	2			2	0	0
Iredell County	167	7			7	3	1
Mooresville City	46	3			3	1	0
Lee County	87	13			11	3	1
Lincoln County	3	42			42	2	0
Mecklenburg County	1150	39			39	8	1
Onslow County	483	10			10	0	0

Orange County Schools	80	11			11	7	7
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	118	23			23	6	3
Pasquotank County	75	11			8	0	0
Pender County	190	5			0	0	0
Perquimans Schools	25	3			3	1	0
Person County	42	8			8	1	0
Rowan-Salisbury	151	17			17	1	1
Rutherford County	230	22			22	1	1
Sampson County	170	6			6	1	0
Clinton City	47	49			47	7	5
Stanly County	121	21			21	2	1
Surry County	10	12			12	6	0
Elkin City Schools	4	2			2	2	0
Union County	255	19			19	8	4
Wake County	1953	157			157	24	10
Watauga County	2	3			1	0	0
Wayne County	157	6			6	2	1
Wilkes County	222	16			16	2	0
Wilson County	93	130			130	2	0
Total	**0**	**1062**	**574892**	**275417**	**1036**	**154**	**57**