



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

COVID-19 School Psychologists Grant
Program

S.L. 2021-25, sec. 3.5(a)(29),
as enacted by S.L. 2021-180, sec. 7.27(a)

Date Due: April 1, 2022
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2021-2022

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UPDATE:

S.L. 2021-25, sec. 3.5(a)(29), as enacted by S.L. 2021-180, sec. 7.27(a) established funding in the amount of \$1,700,000 to establish the **School Psychologists Grant Program** (Program) in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to improve the safety, mental health, and well-being of students by providing grants to public school units to recruit school psychologists. To date, the NC Department of Public Instruction, under the leadership of Superintendent Catherine Truitt have completed the following:

- a. Grant application. – An application aligned to legislative requirements has been created in the state Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) Grant system. The application is scheduled to be accessible to public school units (PSUs) for completion on April 1, 2022.
- b. Criteria and guidelines. – Guidelines for use of the Grant funds have been created and were approved by the State Board of Education, through the Allotment Funding Policy for PRC 204 in February, 2022.
- c. Award of funds. Criteria for funding of Grants to public school units to provide signing bonuses to recruit school psychologists has been established and includes the following:
 1. Grant applications will be reviewed by the State Superintendent or her designee and licensed School Psychologist staff from the Exceptional Children Division.
 2. The NC DPI shall prioritize the award of funds to PSUs that do not employ a full-time school psychologist at the time the application is submitted.
 3. Criteria in the application has been addressed that a signing bonus may not be greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000).
 4. An Assurance Document has been developed for PSUs to use as documentation of a school psychologist accepting a signing bonus, in which they agree to remain employed in the PSU for at least one year.
 5. The approved allotment policy for the established public reporting code (PRC 204) provides PSUs clarification that these Grant funds are to supplement and not to supplant State or non-State funds already provided for these services. An assurance stating such is also included in the application.
- d. Report. – This initial report is to provide an update on the progress of the School Psychologist Recruitment Grant. Upon submission, review and awarding of the initial grants, an updated report will be submitted to include the provisions and requirements including identification of each PSU that received funds through the Grant, the amount of funding provided to the public school unit, and the use of funds by the public school unit.