



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Educational and Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Program Report

SL 2021-25, sec. 3.5(a)(31)

Date Due: May 15, 2022
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2021-2022

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JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT REQUIREMENTS

[SL 2021-25, sec. 3.5\(a\)\(31\)](#) established the Educational and Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Program (Program) during the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium. The purpose of the Program shall be to (i) promote evidence-based, after-school programs for robotics education and competition, (ii) motivate students to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while building critical life and work-related skills, and (iii) reengage students and remediate learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

A qualifying school is eligible as follows:

Any public school unit is eligible to apply to the Department of Public Instruction for a grant to develop an educational and competitive after-school robotics program with a robotics partner. As used in this subsection, the term "robotics partner" shall refer to a third-party entity, such as a nonprofit organization or institution of higher education, approved by the Department of Public Instruction, that is able to provide adequate support for an after-school robotics program. In order to provide adequate support, a robotics partner must meet at least all of the following criteria:

1. Have a national presence in robotics education and competition.
2. Provide adequate instruction and programming for students and adult volunteers in (i) robotics education, (ii) project-based learning, and (iii) competitive robotics.
3. Promote a safe and equitable social environment.

Applications shall include, at a minimum, the following information:

1. Evidence that the applicant has or will be able to establish a relationship with a robotics partner.
2. A proposed budget for the educational and competitive after-school robotics program. Funds may be used for any of the following purposes:

Funds may be used for any of the following purposes:

1. Establishing a relationship with a robotics partner.
2. Purchasing robotics kits.
3. Providing stipends for coaches.
4. Making payments associated with participation in a robotics league or robotics competition.
5. Paying fees incurred as part of the administration of a robotics team.

Reporting No later than May 15 of each year of the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium the Department shall report the following information to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division:

1. Number and amounts of grants awarded.
2. Identities of the public school units receiving grants.
3. Identities of public school units that applied for grants but did not receive one.
4. The extent to which students participating in after-school robotics programs funded by the Program experienced measurable improvement in academic performance, if any.

NCDPI IMPLEMENTATION

As of May 2022, no funds have been awarded under this program, but progress has been made towards that end. The allotment policy was approved by the North Carolina State Board of Education on February 3, 2022. This action permits the Department to distribute allotted funds (\$1.6 million) to the PSUs upon approval of applications. The grant application opened in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) on April 1, 2022 and will close May 15, 2022. The allotment application is open to all North Carolina Public School Units that meet the qualifications as outlined in the legislation. The application captures actual costs to be provided to those schools that implement the Competitive After-School Robotics Program. The application collects data from the PSUs that meet the criteria as specified by the legislation including low performing school status; innovative school district status; and at-risk status. The Academic Services division along with the Federal Programs Monitoring and Support division have worked collaboratively to publicize this opportunity. These divisions will continue to work together to award, monitor, and expend funds. PSUs that meet the criteria will be presented to the State Board of Education in July of 2022 with funds distributed by August of 2022.

This report is based on the most current activity and processes for the Competitive After-School Robotics Grant. The next report will provide much more granular detail as grant funds will have been expended and implementation for the program will be fully underway.