



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

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# Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

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National Board for Professional Teaching  
Standards Certificate Fee Reimbursement  
Grant Program

SL 2021-180 Section 7.27(a)

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**Date Due:** January 15, 2022  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2021-2022

**Submitted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction**

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## NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

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Thomas Tomberlin, Director of Educator Recruitment and Support, NCDPI  
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## **JOINT LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE REPORT REQUIREMENTS**

SL 2021-180 Section 7.27(a) established a grant program during the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium for qualifying public school units (PSU) to improve teacher quality and mitigate learning loss, notwithstanding G.S. 115C-296.2, by reimbursing teachers for the cost of the participation fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification, in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. A qualifying public school is a public school that meets any of the following criteria:

1. Is identified as a low-performing school pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37 or G.S. 115C-218.94.
2. Is identified as an innovative school pursuant to G.S. 115C-75.5.
3. Enrolled a student body in the school year prior to the application for reimbursement consisting of at least ten percent (10%) of students identified as at-risk pursuant to State Board of Education policy DROP-001.

During the 2021-2023 fiscal biennium, a PSU with at least one qualifying public school may apply to the Department of Public Instruction for grant funds to reimburse teachers employed in the unit for the cost of the participation fee for NBPTS certification. Schools receiving funds will be prioritized according to legislation.

No later than January 15, 2022, and each subsequent year thereafter in which funds allocated pursuant to this subdivision are awarded, the Department shall report 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 on the impact of the program, including at least the following information:

1. PSU applying for and receiving grants.
2. Number of teachers receiving reimbursements.
3. Demographic information of teachers receiving reimbursements.
4. Employment status of teachers receiving reimbursements, including the public school where the teacher is employed and whether the teacher remains employed with his or her original qualifying public school.
5. Licensure areas of teachers receiving reimbursements.
6. Effect of the program on the performance and growth of students taught by teachers receiving reimbursements.

## **NCDPI IMPLEMENTATION**

As of January 15, 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 (\$1.2 million) to the PSUs upon approval of applications. The grant application will open in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) on April 15, 2022 and close May 31, 2022. The allotment application will be open to all North Carolina Public School Units that meet the qualifications as outlined in the legislation. The application will capture actual costs to be reimbursement to those who have been pursuing and will pursue National Board Certification.

The application will collect 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.

Additionally, the PSU will provide a total number of reimbursement funds to be paid out from the allotted funds based on the selection criteria. The District & Regional Support division along with the Federal Programs Monitoring and Support division will work to publicize, 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.