



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Missing Student Identification

SL 2021-180 Section 7.27(a)

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

Submitted by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISION: Every public school student in North Carolina will be empowered to accept academic challenges, prepared to pursue their chosen path after graduating high school, and encouraged to become lifelong learners with the capacity to engage in a globally-collaborative society.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION: The mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education is to use its constitutional authority to guard and maintain the right of a sound, basic education for every child in North Carolina Public Schools.

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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 allocate funds to public school units to identify and locate missing students by contracting with either (i) one or more third-party entities to provide technology to assist with this purpose or (ii) outside personnel.

No later than March 15, 2022, 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 following information:

- a) All persons and entities contracted with by public school units receiving funds to identify and locate missing students pursuant to this subdivision and the amounts provided to each person or entity.
- b) Outcomes resulting from the program, including the number of missing students identified and located in each public school unit.

NCDPI IMPLEMENTATION

Funds used to locate missing students will be allocated by and application process. The allotment policy was approved by the NC State Board of Education on March 3, 2022. This action permits the Department to distribute allotted funds (\$7.2 million) to the PSUs upon approval of applications. The grant application opened in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) on March 4, 2022 and will close on April 6, 2022. The allotment application will be open to all PSUs which meet the qualifications as outlined in the policy. The application will capture actual costs to be reimbursed to those who accepted the grant. The application will collect data from the PSUs that meet the criteria as specified by the legislation including all persons and entities contracted and outcomes resulting from the program.

Additionally, the PSU will provide the total amount of reimbursement funds to be paid out from the allotted funds based on the selection criteria. The Digital Teaching and Learning and the Federal Programs Monitoring and Support divisions will work to publicize, award, monitor, and expend funds.

The number of PSUs (152) that met the criteria were presented to the State Board of Education in March of 2022 with funds able to be distributed by April of 2022. As of March 15, 2022, 1 PSU has accepted and 4 have waived the funds.