



**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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Educational and Competitive After-School  
Robotics Grant Program

[SL 2021-25, sec. 3.5\(a\)\(31\)](#)

**Date Due:** May 1, 2023

DPI Chronological Schedule, 2022-2023

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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 2021-25, 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) re-engage 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:

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

## NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION(NCDPI) IMPLEMENTATION

This report is based on the most current activity and processes for the Competitive After-School Robotics Grant.

The allotment policy related to [SL 2021-25, sec. 3.5\(a\)\(31\)](#) was approved by the North Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) on February 3, 2022. This action permitted NCDPI to distribute allotted funds (\$1.6 million) to Public School Units (PSUs) upon approval of applications. The grant application opened in the Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP) system on April 1, 2022 and closed May 27, 2022. The allotment application was open to all North Carolina PSUs that meet the qualifications as outlined in the legislation. The application captured actual costs to be provided to those schools that implement the Competitive After-School Robotics Program and collected 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. Awards were approved by the SBE on August 4th, 2022 and funds were distributed to PSUs immediately thereafter.

NCDPI received 65 applications from 16 charter schools and 49 LEAs, with a total request of \$6,122,930.89. Applications were reviewed by a committee representing multiple areas within NCDPI including the Office of Academic Standards, Career Technical Education, Digital Teaching and Learning, and the Office of Charter Schools. After reviewing applications based on the criteria described in [SL 2021-25, sec. 3.5\(a\)\(31\)](#), 18 LEAs and 1 charter school, were awarded grants for a total of \$1,590,075.45. The table below lists each of the applications received, the name of the requesting PSU, the requested amount and whether the PSU received a grant.

PSU Name	Total Budget Requested	Grant Awarded
Brunswick County Schools	\$70,430.00	Yes
Buncombe County Schools	\$36,758.00	Yes
Catawba County Schools	\$24,600.00	Yes
Edgecombe County Public Schools	\$78,305.50	Yes
Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	\$45,550.00	Yes
Gates County Schools	\$51,431.00	Yes
Guilford County Schools	\$204,690.00	Yes
Henderson County Schools	\$82,260.00	Yes
Hoke County Schools	\$206,487.61	Yes
Hyde County Schools	\$30,000.00	Yes
Iredell-Statesville Schools	\$22,155.00	Yes
Mountain Island Charter	\$20,000.00	Yes
Northampton County Schools	\$62,304.12	Yes
Pender County Schools	\$243,056.00	Yes
Surry County Schools	\$58,980.00	Yes
Tyrrell County Schools	\$100,000.00	Yes
Wake County Schools	\$120,383.22	Yes
Warren County Schools	\$49,025.00	Yes
Wilson County Schools	\$83,660.00	Yes
A.C.E. Academy	\$17,950.00	No
Arapahoe Charter School	\$48,943.00	No
Asheville City Schools	\$28,297.00	No
Bear Grass Charter School	\$32,540.00	No

Beaufort County Schools	\$77,700.00	No
Burke County Schools	\$110,000.00	No
Cabarrus County Schools	\$451,397.59	No
Caldwell County Schools	\$400,000.00	No
Camden County Schools	\$18,150.00	No
Carter G Woodson School	\$76,261.99	No
Carteret County Public Schools	\$31,575.00	No
Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	\$67,590.00	No
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	\$206,200.00	No
Cherokee County Schools	\$97,926.00	No
Cumberland County Schools	\$64,300.00	No
D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy	\$14,112.00	No
Falls Lake Academy	\$35,337.00	No
Gaston County Schools	\$265,643.00	No
Greene County Schools	\$63,800.00	No
Harnett County Schools	\$54,770.00	No
Jackson County Public Schools	\$88,400.00	No
Johnston County Public Schools	\$36,500.00	No
Lenoir County Public Schools	\$31,345.00	No
McDowell County Schools	\$35,000.00	No
Mount Airy City Schools	\$29,295.76	No
Nash County Public Schools	\$33,104.50	No
New Hanover County Schools	\$16,200.00	No
Northeast Academy of Aerospace & AdvTech	\$53,000.00	No
Onslow County Schools	\$142,200.00	No
Orange County Schools	\$85,975.00	No
Person County Schools	\$49,320.00	No
Pine Lake Preparatory	\$25,500.00	No
Pitt County Schools	\$177,180.00	No
Public Schools of Robeson County	\$164,630.00	No
Queen City STEM School	\$103,000.00	No
Research Triangle High School	\$85,500.00	No
River Mill Academy	\$6,000.00	No
Rockingham County Schools	\$326,000.00	No
Rocky Mount Preparatory	\$17,255.00	No
Scotland County Schools	\$95,500.00	No
The New Dimensions School	\$50,000.00	No
Triad Math and Science Academy	\$103,000.00	No
Triangle Math and Science Academy	\$103,000.00	No
Wayne County Public Schools	\$79,177.60	No
Winston Salem / Forsyth County Schools	\$383,380.00	No
Yadkin County Schools	\$50,900.00	No

NCDPI has implemented a biannual survey distributed to all awardees requesting updates on the status of the grant and progress toward meeting their stated goals. Per [SL 2021-25, sec. 3.5\(a\)\(31\)](#), all applicants were required to describe and monitor a minimum of three goals which must include measuring the grant's impact on remediating learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first round of survey data collection occurred from January through February 2023. Grant awardees reported 145 schools involved in the grant, with 182 active robotics teams and 1,685 students participating. The data collected indicated 52% of the robotics teams were newly established at the start of the 2022-2023 school year.

Awardees reported that robotics teams are still actively working and participating in competitions throughout the second semester of the 2022-2023 school year. PSUs will report specific outcomes related to remediating learning loss and improvements to academic performance following the end of the 2022-2023 school year.