



**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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Developmental Day Centers Awarded  
Grants

*HB259-2023 Appropriations Act (S.L.  
2023-134, Sec. 7.54(d))*

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**Date Due: March 15, 2024**  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2023-2024

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Thomas Tomberlin, Senior Director, Educator Preparation, Licensure, and Performance, NCDPI  
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## REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

### INCREASE AMOUNT FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DAY CENTERS/CARRY FORWARD GRANT RESERVE/REPORT

**SECTION 7.54.(a)** From funds available to the Developmental Day Center program, the Department of Public Instruction shall set the funding rate for each eligible student enrolled in a Center at up to a maximum of one thousand three hundred fifty dollars (\$1,350) per month.

**SECTION 7.54.(b)** Any unexpended and unencumbered funds at the end of each fiscal year from the funds available to the Developmental Day Center program shall not revert to the General Fund but shall be transferred by the Department to a reserve to establish a grant program for Developmental Day Centers to be administered in accordance with subsection (c) of this section.

**SECTION 7.54.(c)** Beginning with the 2023-2024 fiscal year, when the balance of the reserve provided for in subsection (b) of this section reaches the sum of at least fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) in a fiscal year, then the Department of Public Instruction shall solicit applications from licensed, community-based Developmental Day Centers approved by the Department of Public Instruction, Exceptional Children Division, for grants to the Developmental Day Center. The grant application shall require documentation of the expenditures for which the grant is being requested and any other information requested by the Department. Local school administrative units shall not be eligible for the receipt of grant funds under this section. Any unexpended funds in the reserve shall be carried forward each fiscal year to be used for the purposes of subsections (b) and (c) of this section.

**SECTION 7.54.(d)** By **March 15** of each fiscal year in which grants are awarded pursuant to subsection (c) of this section, the Department of Public Instruction shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on at least the following:

- (1) The Developmental Day Centers that received an award of a grant.
- (2) The balance of the reserve.
- (3) The number of grant recipients.
- (4) The dollar amount of each grant.
- (5) The type of expenditure covered by each grant.

## **FUNDING RATE - SECTION 7.54(A)**

On October 3, 2023, the General Assembly appropriated \$22,623,437.00 for Developmental Day Centers to support a rate increase to \$1,350.00 per eligible student enrolled in a Center. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) Office of Exceptional Children (OEC) increased the rate to \$1,350.00 per eligible student on October 16, 2023.

As of January 1, 2024, 2,732 eligible students are enrolled in a developmental day center. The OEC communicated to Finance and Business Services the total allotments to be distributed to public school units on behalf of these students for the school year (10 months). Allotments went out in December 2023, January 2024, and February 2024.

## **UNENCUMBERED OR UNEXPENDED FUNDS - SECTION 7.54.(B)**

At this time, there are no unencumbered funds.

## **GRANT APPLICATIONS - SECTION 7.54.(C)**

The Office of Exceptional Children has initiated the collection of contact information for all community developmental day centers licensed through the Department of Health and Human Services. Once contact information is compiled, a survey will be distributed to each center in order to gather information regarding the potential use and need for grant funds. Once the needs of the centers have been identified, an application with a rubric to determine the award of unencumbered or unexpended funds will be developed in collaboration with a stakeholder group to include representatives from community developmental day centers.

Standard operating procedures for the timelines in which to manage the grant process from distribution to the documentation of expenditures will be developed during the Spring of 2024 and communicated to stakeholders.

Public school units are permitted to apply for available developmental day funds until May 15<sup>th</sup> of each year. Approved applications are projected to receive funding by June 15<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, it is anticipated that the total amount of unencumbered or unexpended funds will be identified June 15<sup>th</sup> annually with the projected window for grant applications opening on or around July 1<sup>st</sup> and approved applications subsequently funded around August 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **GRANT AWARDS - SECTION 7.54.(D)**

As of March 15, 2024, no grants have been awarded. The amount of funds held in reserve has not been identified as the legislated rate adjustment and first window for public school units to apply and receive funds occurred between December 2023 and February 2024.