



NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction

Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

Transportation Reserve Fund for Homeless
and Foster Children

*Pursuant to SB 508/SL 2024-1; G.S. 115C-
250.5*

Date Due: March 15, 2025
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2024-2025

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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NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Maurice "Mo" Green, State Superintendent / 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601

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BACKGROUND

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is charged with annually reporting on the Homeless and Foster Student Transportation Grant (PRC 081). The Homeless and Foster Student Transportation Grant is authorized under Session Law 2023-134, section 115C-250.5. The grant is established to cover extraordinary school transportation costs incurred by students experiencing homelessness or a foster setting. \$3 million dollars of state funding is appropriated for this grant. This grant program provides additional funding to selected PSUs to cover extraordinary school transportation costs for homeless and foster students.

GUIDELINES

The NCDPI established guidelines and awarded funds consistent with the following statute requirements:

- In determining extraordinary transportation costs, the Department shall consider total prior-year transportation expenditures for homeless and foster children, including expenditures from local funds and all other funding sources, as a proportion of total expenditures.
- Priority shall be given to applicants in proportion to the extent that their applications and prior-year expenditures demonstrate use of available federal funds to cover the cost of transporting homeless and foster children.
- Awards shall not exceed fifty percent (50%) of extraordinary transportation costs as determined pursuant to this subsection.
- Awards shall not be issued on a pro rata basis to each eligible applicant.

2023-2024 AWARDS

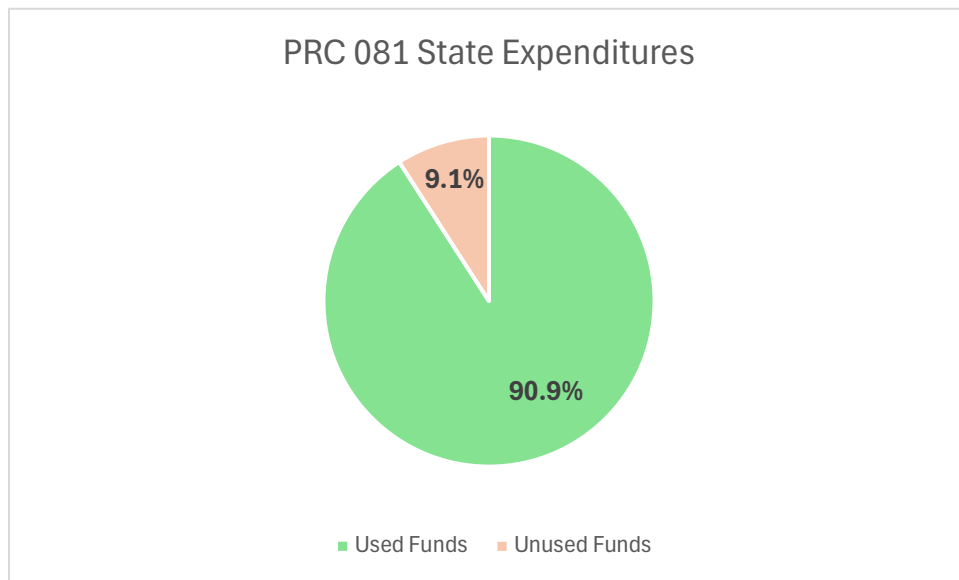
In June 2024, 24 PSUs were awarded PRC 081 Homeless and Foster Student Transportation Grant funds

PSU Code	PSU	ADM	Percent Homeless /Foster	Travel Expenditures	Maximum Award Amount	Percent Award	Award Amount
422	Weldon City Schools	636	14%	\$ 255,608.00	\$ 31,951.00	43%	\$ 13,738.93
590	McDowell County Schools	5511	9%	\$ 1,927,324.00	\$ 134,912.68	43%	\$ 58,012.45
930	Warren County Schools	1702	8%	\$ 1,297,207.00	\$ 64,860.35	43%	\$ 27,889.95
520	Jones County Schools	987	8%	\$ 529,759.00	\$ 18,541.57	43%	\$ 7,972.87
720	Perquimans County Schools	1634	8%	\$ 914,877.00	\$ 45,743.85	43%	\$ 19,669.86
050	Ashe County Schools	2678	7%	\$ 2,200,382.00	\$ 154,026.74	43%	\$ 66,231.50
292	Thomasville City Schools	2126	6%	\$ 269,973.00	\$ 9,449.06	43%	\$ 4,063.09
650	New Hanover County Schools	24796	6%	\$ 7,453,510.00	\$ 335,407.95	43%	\$ 144,225.42
440	Haywood County Schools	6431	5%	\$ 2,039,808.00	\$ 81,592.32	43%	\$ 35,084.70
060	Avery County Schools	1795	5%	\$ 1,231,137.00	\$ 43,089.80	43%	\$ 18,528.61
291	Lexington City Schools	2881	5%	\$ 560,127.00	\$ 22,405.08	43%	\$ 9,634.18
410	Guilford County Schools	66817	5%	\$ 39,381,176.00	\$ 1,575,247.04	43%	\$ 677,356.23
910	Vance County Schools	4897	5%	\$ 1,639,230.00	\$ 57,373.05	43%	\$ 24,670.41
530	Lee County Schools	8966	5%	\$ 2,547,324.00	\$ 114,629.58	43%	\$ 49,290.72

090	Bladen County Schools	3794	5%	\$ 2,440,732.00	\$ 85,425.62	43%	\$ 36,733.02
111	Asheville City Schools	3990	5%	\$ 986,657.00	\$ 44,399.57	43%	\$ 19,091.81
970	Wilkes County Schools	8207	5%	\$ 3,428,808.00	\$ 137,152.32	43%	\$ 58,975.50
190	Chatham County Schools	8862	5%	\$ 3,377,519.00	\$ 135,100.76	43%	\$ 58,093.33
400	Greene County Schools	2653	5%	\$ 1,480,778.00	\$ 66,635.01	43%	\$ 28,653.05
320	Durham Public Schools	30736	4%	\$ 17,849,514.00	\$ 624,732.99	43%	\$ 268,635.19
862	Mount Airy City Schools	1678	4%	\$ 88,374.00	\$ 3,093.09	43%	\$ 1,330.03
700	Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	4612	4%	\$ 2,337,917.00	\$ 81,827.10	43%	\$ 35,185.65
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	140437	4%	\$ 85,280,916.00	\$ 2,984,832.06	43%	\$ 1,283,477.79
620	Montgomery County Schools	3483	4%	\$ 1,890,633.00	\$ 75,625.32	43%	\$ 32,518.89

2023-2024 PRC 081 EXPENDITURES & LESSONS LEARNED

In total \$2,992,437 were awarded to 24 PSUs. Of that approximately 91% (\$2,719,471) was used to help with transportation expenses incurred by students experiencing homelessness or a foster setting.



Most PSUs reported that funds were used to cover fuel costs, salaries of bus drivers, and/or additional transportation contracts. Here are some statements collected from the PSUs:

- “We were able to cover the excess costs of transportation, including taxis & Ubers, to provide the opportunity to get to and from school, which would otherwise become a barrier for the families and the school district”
- “It allowed us to pay the cost of transportation for McKinney Vento students. The costs were more than what was allocated in the budget and this was a great support.”
- “Many of our MV cases include children in transition outside of our county. Working with only one company (the only transportation company in our county) it is very difficult to find other sources for

cost savings. While the company we work with does give us fair pricing the costs continue to increase without significant increases from the state.”

- “We truly appreciate the support we receive with PRC 081. With most of our district MV cases must be contracted transportation because our bus routes do not match up with the areas needed to get these students to/from school. Contracting transportation ultimately costs of more than being able to add the students to a bus route. If we could receive at least 75% of our costs that would truly help with the increasing costs we are seeing.”

With regards, to the 9% of unused PRC 081 funds (\$272,966), PSUs informed us that funds would have been used if they had been awarded earlier in the fiscal year. In 2023-2024, PSUs were told of the funds on June 11th and funds had to be spent by June 30th. We have made adjustments to deliver these funds three months earlier for 2024-2025. In addition, we will be expanding from 24 PSUs receiving funds to 40 PSUs receiving funds.

UNUTILIZED FUNDS BY PSU:

PSU Code	PSU	PRC 081 Funds Not Spent
050	Ashe County Schools	64,302.00
111	Asheville City Schools	0.00
060	Avery County Schools	0.00
090	Bladen County Schools	35,546.00
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	0.00
190	Chatham County Schools	0.00
320	Durham Public Schools	0.00
700	Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	12,822.76
400	Greene County Schools	0.00
410	Guilford County Schools	0.00
440	Haywood County Schools	0.00
520	Jones County Schools	7,847.00
530	Lee County Schools	0.00
291	Lexington City Schools	0.00
590	McDowell County Schools	57,145.00
620	Montgomery County Schools	33,378.00
862	Mount Airy City Schools	24.75
650	New Hanover County Schools	0.00
720	Perquimans County Schools	19,381.00
292	Thomasville City Schools	4,150.00
910	Vance County Schools	0.00
930	Warren County Schools	29,168.00
422	Weldon City Schools	9,201.12
970	Wilkes County Schools	0.00