

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019

H

1

HOUSE BILL 199

Short Title: Permanent Charter School Transportation Grant. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Hardister, Saine, Iler, and Brockman (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Appropriations, Education, if favorable,  
Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

February 27, 2019

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT CHARTER SCHOOL TRANSPORTATION  
3 GRANT PROGRAM.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 **SECTION 1.** Article 14A of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
6 inserting a new section to read:

7 "**§ 115C-218.41. Charter school transportation grant program.**

8 (a) Purpose; Definition. – There is established the Charter School Transportation Grant  
9 Program (Program). The purpose of the Program shall be to award grant funds to a charter school  
10 meeting the requirements of subsection (b) of this section for the reimbursement of up to  
11 sixty-five percent (65%) of the eligible student transportation costs incurred by the school in  
12 accordance with the provisions of this section. For purposes of this section, the term "eligible  
13 student transportation costs" means costs incurred by the charter school for (i) transportation fuel,  
14 (ii) vehicle maintenance, (iii) contracted transportation services, and (iv) transportation personnel  
15 salaries.

16 (b) Program Eligibility. – If a charter school has a student enrollment in a semester of the  
17 school year of at least fifty percent (50%) of its students either (i) residing in households with an  
18 income level not in excess of the amount required for a student to qualify for the federal free or  
19 reduced-price lunch program or (ii) qualifying as "identified students" under the Community  
20 Eligibility Provision of the Healthy, Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010, the charter school may apply  
21 to the Department for grant funds under the Program for reimbursement of up to sixty-five  
22 percent (65%) of the eligible student transportation costs incurred by the school for that semester.

23 (c) Applications. – By August 1 of the fall semester, the Department shall establish the  
24 criteria and guidelines for the grant application process for the upcoming school year, including  
25 any documentation required to be submitted with the application. Each school year, the  
26 Department shall accept applications until December 31 for eligible student transportation costs  
27 incurred during the fall semester of the school year and until May 15 for eligible student  
28 transportation costs incurred during the spring semester of the school year.

29 (d) Award of Funds. – From funds made available for the Program, the Department shall  
30 award grant funds to the selected charter schools by February 15 for eligible student  
31 transportation costs incurred during the fall semester of the same school year and by June 15 for  
32 eligible student transportation costs incurred during the spring semester of the prior school year.  
33 The total amount of each grant awarded under the Program shall not exceed one hundred  
34 thousand dollars (\$100,000).



1       (e)     Reporting. – The Department shall provide a report by March 15 of each year in which  
2 funds are awarded to the Fiscal Research Division, the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight  
3 Committee, and the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on the administration of  
4 the Program, including (i) the number of charter schools that received grant funds, (ii) the amount  
5 of grant funds awarded to those charter schools, (iii) whether implementing the Program has led  
6 to an increase in charter schools offering lunch, (iv) whether implementing the Program has led  
7 to an increase in student lunch participation at charter schools offering lunch, (v) whether  
8 implementing the Program has increased or expanded the offering of student transportation by  
9 charter schools, and (vi) the modes of student transportation offered by charter schools that  
10 received grant funds."

11           **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
12 Public Instruction the sum of two million five hundred thousand dollars (\$2,500,000) in recurring  
13 funds for the 2019-2020 fiscal year to operate the charter school transportation grant program  
14 established pursuant to this act.

15           **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies beginning with  
16 the 2019-2020 school year.