

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

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HOUSE BILL 159

Short Title: Education Law Changes.-AB (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Torbett and Blackwell (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, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

March 1, 2021

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR LEGISLATIVELY MANDATED
COMPENSATION BONUSES FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
PERSONNEL IN CERTAIN PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES
TO EDUCATION LAWS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC
INSTRUCTION.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**PART I. BONUSES FOR TEACHERS AND INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
PERSONNEL IN SCHOOLS FOR STUDENTS WITH VISUAL AND HEARING
IMPAIRMENTS**

SECTION 1.(a) No later than April 30, 2021, the Department of Public Instruction shall administer a one-time lump sum bonus of three hundred fifty dollars (\$350.00) to every teacher who, as of April 1, 2021, is employed as a teacher in a school for students with visual and hearing impairments. It is the intent of the General Assembly that the bonuses provided pursuant to this section will complement the bonuses provided to other teachers in Section 2 of S.L. 2020-45.

SECTION 1.(b) As used in this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(1) Teacher. – Teachers and instructional support personnel.

(2) School for students with visual and hearing impairments. – A public school governed by the State Board of Education under Article 9C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes.

SECTION 1.(c) The bonuses awarded pursuant to this section shall be in addition to any regular wage or other bonus the teacher receives or is scheduled to receive.

SECTION 1.(d) Notwithstanding G.S. 135-1(7a), the bonuses awarded pursuant to this section are not compensation under Article 1 of Chapter 135 of the General Statutes, Retirement System for Teachers and State Employees.

SECTION 1.(e) The bonuses awarded pursuant to this section do not apply to any teacher no longer employed as a teacher due to resignation, dismissal, reduction in force, death, or retirement or whose last workday is prior to April 1, 2021.

SECTION 1.(f) Funds provided pursuant to this section shall supplement the compensation of a public school employee and not supplant local funds.



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1 **SECTION 1.(g)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of
2 Public Instruction for the 2020-2021 fiscal year the sum of fifty-five thousand dollars (\$55,000)
3 in nonrecurring funds to provide the bonuses authorized by this section.
4

5 **PART II. FLEXIBILITY FOR SCHOOL EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE ANNUAL**
6 **SALARY IN TWELVE MONTHLY INSTALLMENTS**

7 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-302.1(b) reads as rewritten:

8 "(b) Salary Payments. – State-allotted teachers shall be paid for a term of 10 months.
9 Except for career and technical education agriculture teacher personnel positions as provided for
10 in this subsection, State-allotted months of employment for career and technical education to
11 local boards shall be used for the employment of teachers of career and technical education for a
12 term of employment to be determined by the local boards of education. Beginning with the
13 2018-2019 school year, career and technical education agriculture teacher personnel positions
14 serving students in grades nine through 12 shall be for a term of employment for 12 calendar
15 months. A local board of education may fund these positions using any combination of State
16 funds, local funds, or any other funds available to the local board.
17

18 ...

19 Any individual teacher who is not employed in a year-round school may be paid in 12
20 monthly installments if the teacher so ~~requests on or before the first day of the school year~~
21 requests. The request shall be filed in the local school administrative unit which employs the
22 teacher. The payment of the annual salary in 12 installments instead of 10 shall not increase or
23 decrease the teacher's annual salary nor in any other way alter the contract made between the
24 teacher and the local school administrative unit. ~~Teachers employed for a period of less than 10
25 months shall not receive their salaries in 12 installments.~~

26 "

27 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-316(a)(2) reads as rewritten:

28 "(2) School Employees Paid on an Hourly or Other Basis. – Salary payments to
29 employees other than those covered in G.S. 115C-272(b)(1), 115C-285(a)(1)
30 and (2), 115C-302.1(b) and 115C-316(a)(1) shall be made at a time
31 determined by each local board of education. Expenditures for the salary of
32 these employees from State funds shall be within allocations made by the State
33 Board of Education and in accordance with rules and regulations approved by
34 the State Board of Education concerning allocations of State funds: Provided,
35 that school employees employed for a term of 10 calendar months in
36 year-round schools shall be paid in 12 equal installments: Provided further,
37 that any individual school employee employed for a term of 10 calendar
38 months who is not employed in a year-round school may be paid in 12 monthly
39 installments if the employee so ~~requests on or before the first day of the school
40 year~~ requests. Such request shall be filed in the administrative unit which
41 employs the employee. The payment of the annual salary in 12 installments
42 instead of 10 shall not increase or decrease said annual salary nor in any other
43 way alter the contract between the employee and the said administrative unit.
44 Employees may be prepaid on the set pay date for days not yet worked. An
45 employee who fails to attend scheduled workdays or who has not worked the
46 number of days for which the employee has been paid and who resigns or is
47 dismissed shall repay to the local board any salary payments received for days
48 not yet worked. An employee who has been prepaid and who continues to be
49 employed by a local board but fails to attend scheduled workdays may be
50 subject to dismissal or other appropriate discipline. The daily rate of pay shall
51 equal the number of weekdays in the pay period. Included within the term of
employment shall be provided for full-time employees annual vacation leave

1 at the same rate provided for State employees, computed at one-twelfth (1/12)
2 of the annual rate for State employees for each calendar month of
3 employment, to be taken under policies determined by each local board of
4 education. On a day that employees are required to report for a workday but
5 pupils are not required to attend school due to inclement weather, an employee
6 may elect not to report due to hazardous travel conditions and to take one of
7 his annual vacation days or to make up the day at a time agreed upon by the
8 employee and his immediate supervisor or principal. On a day that school is
9 closed to employees and pupils due to inclement weather, the employee shall
10 work on the scheduled makeup day. Included within their term of
11 employment, each local board of education shall designate the same or an
12 equivalent number of legal holidays occurring within the period of
13 employment as those designated by the State Human Resources Commission
14 for State employees."
15

16 **PART III. REVISE STUDENT MEAL DEBT REPORT AND CARRYFORWARD** 17 **FUNDS FOR SCHOOL LUNCHES**

18 **SECTION 3.(a)** Section 2.3(a) of S.L. 2020-80 reads as rewritten:

19 **"SECTION 2.3.(a)** No later than October 15, ~~2021~~, 2022, the State Board of Education shall
20 report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on unpaid meal charges in local
21 school administrative units. At a minimum, the report shall include the following information:

- 22 (1) The percentage of students of all grade levels in each local school
23 administrative unit who (i) qualify for and participate in reduced-price meals
24 and (ii) do not carry an unpaid meal charge.
- 25 (2) The total amount of debt carried by each local school administrative unit
26 related to unpaid meal charges.
- 27 (3) Summaries of approaches adopted by each local school administrative unit
28 regarding unpaid meal charges.
- 29 (4) Options for a statewide policy on the uniform administration of unpaid meal
30 charges in local school administrative units. Every option shall ensure that
31 students are not prevented from receiving nutritious meals because of an
32 unpaid meal charge."

33 **SECTION 3.(b)** Section 2.3(b) of S.L. 2020-80 reads as rewritten:

34 **"SECTION 2.3.(b)** For the 2020-2021 fiscal year, the Department of Public Instruction shall
35 transfer the sum of three million nine hundred thousand dollars (\$3,900,000) in nonrecurring
36 funds from the cash balance in the School Bus Replacement Fund (Budget Code: 73510; Fund
37 Code: 7200) to the State Public School Fund (Budget Code: 13510; Fund Code: 1830). Funds
38 transferred pursuant to this section are hereby appropriated to provide school lunches at no cost
39 to students of all grade levels qualifying for reduced-price meals in all schools participating in
40 the National School Lunch Program in the 2020-2021 school year and 2021-2022 school year.
41 These funds shall not revert at the end of the 2020-2021 fiscal year, but shall remain available
42 until the end of the 2021-2022 fiscal year. If these funds are insufficient to provide school lunches
43 at no cost to students qualifying for reduced-price meals, the Department of Public Instruction
44 shall also use any excess funds appropriated for the National School Breakfast Program for the
45 purposes of this subsection."

46 **SECTION 3.(c)** Subsection (b) of this section becomes effective June 30, 2021.
47

48 **PART IV. REVISE OPERATING BALANCE RESTRICTIONS FOR SCHOOL** 49 **NUTRITION PROGRAMS**

50 **SECTION 4.(a)** G.S. 115C-450 reads as rewritten:

51 **"§ 115C-450. School food services.**

1 (a) ~~School food-nutrition services shall be included in the budget of each local school~~
2 ~~administrative unit-public school unit that provides school nutrition services,~~ and the State Board
3 of Education shall provide for school ~~food-nutrition services~~ in the uniform budget format
4 required by G.S. 115C-426.

5 (b) ~~No local school administrative unit-public school unit that provides school nutrition~~
6 ~~services shall assess indirect costs to a child-school nutrition program unless the program has a~~
7 ~~minimum of one month's an operating balance. One month's operating balance shall be derived~~
8 ~~from net cash resources divided by one month's operating costs. "Net cash resources" means all~~
9 ~~monies, as determined in accordance with the State agency's established accounting system, that~~
10 ~~are available to or have accrued to a school food authority's nonprofit child nutrition account at~~
11 ~~any given time, less cash payables and other liabilities. When calculating the average month's~~
12 ~~operating balance, the Department of Public Instruction shall use the complete and final figures~~
13 ~~obtained from the annual financial report from each child nutrition program's operation. An~~
14 ~~average month's operating balance shall be calculated and published by the Department of Public~~
15 ~~Instruction for each child nutrition program and shall be equal to the average of the three prior~~
16 ~~fiscal years' monthly operating balances. balance of at least three months. The Department of~~
17 ~~Public Instruction shall calculate the operating balance of a school nutrition program of a public~~
18 ~~school unit that provides school nutrition services. If complete and final financial reports for a~~
19 ~~given year are not yet available for a child-school nutrition program, the Department of Public~~
20 ~~Instruction may use projected figures-figures, but shall update the published average month's~~
21 ~~operating balance once complete and final financial reports become available. As used in this~~
22 ~~subsection, the term "indirect costs" is as defined in the United States Office of Budget and~~
23 ~~Management Circular A-87, as revised, and the term "net cash resources" is as defined in 7 C.F.R.~~
24 ~~§ 210.2-2 C.F.R. § 200.414."~~

25 **SECTION 4.(b)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2021.

26 **PART V. TEMPORARILY EXTEND CPR GRADUATION REQUIREMENT CHANGES**

27 **SECTION 5.** Notwithstanding G.S. 115C-12(9d)a., for the 2020-2021 school year,
28 any student in grade 12 who has not satisfied the requirement for completion of instruction in
29 cardiopulmonary resuscitation shall be eligible to graduate if both of the following apply:

- 30 (1) Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation cannot be completed due to the
31 COVID-19 emergency.
32 (2) The student is eligible to graduate in all respects other than the statutory
33 requirement described in this section, as determined by the principal of the
34 school to which the student is assigned.
35

36 **PART VI. REVISE ANNUAL CENSUS OF SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICERS**

37 **SECTION 6.** G.S. 115C-105.57(e) reads as rewritten:

38 "(e) Annual Census of School Resource Officers. – The Center for Safer Schools shall
39 conduct an annual census of school resource officers located in each public school unit. ~~The~~
40 ~~Center shall submit a report based on this census to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight~~
41 ~~Committee and the State Board of Education by March 1 of each year. At a minimum, the report~~
42 ~~shall include all of the following information: As part of the census, each public school unit shall~~
43 ~~report to the Center by January 15 of each year with the following information regarding school~~
44 ~~resource officers in the unit:~~

- 45 (1) ~~The total number of school resource officers in the State and in each public~~
46 ~~school unit officers.~~
47 (2) Data regarding school resources officers' education levels, years as sworn law
48 enforcement officers, and years as school resource officers.
49

- 1 (3) Training required of school resource officers and training actually completed
2 by school resource officers, including training specific to the position of
3 school resource officer and other advanced or additional training.
4 (4) The funding source for all school resource officers.
5 (5) The location of school resource officers, differentiated by grade levels and
6 type of public school unit, levels.
7 (6) The percentage of school resource officers assigned to more than one school.
8 (7) The law enforcement affiliation of school resource officers.

9 The Center shall compile the information submitted pursuant to this subsection and submit a
10 report detailing this information at the statewide and local levels to the Joint Legislative
11 Education Oversight Committee and the State Board of Education by March 1 of each year."
12

13 PART VII. CLARIFY CHARTER SCHOOL APPLICATION FEE

14 SECTION 7. G.S. 115C-218.1(c) reads as rewritten:

15 "(c) The State Board shall establish ~~reasonable fees of no less than five hundred dollars~~
16 ~~(\$500.00) and no more than one thousand dollars (\$1,000)~~ for initial and renewal charter
17 applications, in accordance with Article 2A of Chapter 150B of the General Statutes. No
18 application fee shall be refunded in the event the application is rejected or the charter is revoked."
19

20 PART VIII. LIFETIME LICENSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR PROFESSIONAL 21 EDUCATORS

22 SECTION 8. G.S. 115C-270.20(b) reads as rewritten:

23 "(b) Administrator and Student Services Personnel. – The State Board shall establish
24 classification and levels of preparation necessary for issuance of licenses for administrators and
25 student services personnel. The State Board shall provide that a professional educator who meets
26 the requirements of subdivision (4) of subsection (a) of this section as a professional educator is
27 issued a lifetime license."
28

29 PART IX. COMBINING OF THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INNOVATION 30 COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAMS

31 SECTION 9.(a) Article 6C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes reads as
32 rewritten:

33 "Article 6C.

34 "Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program.

35 "**§ 115C-64.15. North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.**

36 (a) There is created the North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation
37 Commission (Commission). The Commission shall be located administratively in the
38 Department of Public Instruction but shall exercise all its prescribed powers independently of the
39 Department of Public Instruction. Of the funds appropriated for the Education and Workforce
40 Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program established under G.S. 115C-64.16, up to ten
41 percent (10%) of those funds each fiscal year may be used by the Department of Public
42 Instruction to provide technical assistance and administrative assistance, including staff, to the
43 Commission and for reimbursements and expenses for the Commission for the Education and
44 Workforce Innovation ~~Program and the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion and~~
45 CTE Grade Expansion Program.

46 (b) The Commission shall consist of the following 14 members:

- 47 (1) The Secretary of Commerce or his or her designee.
48 (2) The State Superintendent of Public Instruction or his or her designee.
49 (3) The Chair of the State Board of Education or his or her designee.
50 (4) The President of The University of North Carolina or his or her designee.

- 1 (5) The President of the North Carolina Community College System or his or her
2 designee.
- 3 (6) Three members appointed by the Governor who have experience in education.
- 4 (7) Three members appointed by the General Assembly upon recommendation of
5 the Speaker of the House of Representatives, as provided in G.S. 120-121,
6 who have experience in businesses operating in North Carolina.
- 7 (8) Three members appointed by the General Assembly upon the
8 recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate, as provided in
9 G.S. 120-121, who have experience in businesses operating in North Carolina.
- 10 (b1) Members appointed by the Governor or the General Assembly shall serve for
11 three-year terms commencing July 1 of the year of appointment and may serve successive terms.
- 12 (c) The Commission members shall elect a chair from the membership of the
13 Commission. The Commission shall meet at least three times annually on the call of the Chair or
14 as additionally provided by the Commission. A quorum is six members of the Commission.
15 Members may not ~~send designees to Commission meetings nor may they vote by proxy.~~
- 16 (d) The Commission shall develop and administer the Education and Workforce
17 Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program, as established under G.S. 115C-64.16, in
18 collaboration with the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., and
19 make awards of grants under the Program.
- 20 ~~(d1) The Commission shall develop and administer, in coordination with the State Board
21 of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and in collaboration with the North
22 Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., the Career and Technical Education
23 Grade Expansion Program, as established under G.S. 115C 64.17, and shall make awards of
24 grants under the Program.~~
- 25 (d2) The North Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., shall ~~serve as~~
26 ~~a grant administrator by providing~~ provide assistance and support to grantees for initiating,
27 expanding, improving, and promoting career and technical education initiatives.
- 28 (e) ~~The Commission, in consultation with the North Carolina Career and Technical
29 Education Foundation, Inc.,~~ Commission shall publish a report on the Education and Workforce
30 Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program ~~and the Career and Technical Education Grade
31 Expansion Program~~ on or before April 30 of each year. The report shall be submitted to the Joint
32 Legislative Education Oversight Committee, the State Board of Education, the State Board of
33 Community Colleges, and the Board of Governors of The University of North Carolina. The
34 report shall include at least all of the following information:
- 35 (1) An accounting of how funds and personnel resources were utilized for ~~each~~
36 the program and their impact on student achievement, retention, and
37 employability.
- 38 (2) Recommended statutory and policy changes.
- 39 (3) Recommendations for improvement of ~~each~~ the program.
- 40 (4) For the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion ~~Program, Grants,~~
41 recommendations on increasing availability of grants after the first two years
42 ~~of the program~~ to include additional local school administrative units or
43 providing additional grants to prior recipients.
- 44 **"§ 115C-64.16. The Education and Workforce Innovation Program and CTE Grade**
45 **Expansion Program; Innovation Grants.**
- 46 (a) Program Establishment. – There is established the Education and Workforce
47 Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program (Program) to foster innovation in education that
48 will lead to more students graduating career and college ~~ready~~ and to prioritize the inclusion of
49 students in sixth and seventh grades through grant awards provided to selected local school
50 administrative units.

1 (a1) Types of Grant Awards. – Funds appropriated to the Program shall be used to award
2 competitive grants depending on the needs of the State, as determined by the Commission, by
3 dividing the grants between each type as innovation grants pursuant to the provisions of this
4 section or as grants for grade expansion for career and technical education pursuant to the
5 provisions of G.S. 115C-64.17.

6 (a2) Innovation Grants. – Competitive grants shall be awarded to an individual school, a
7 local school administrative unit, or a regional partnership of more than one local school
8 administrative unit to advance comprehensive, high-quality education that equips teachers and
9 other hired personnel with the knowledge and skill required to succeed with all students. Before
10 receiving ~~a~~an innovation grant, applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

- 11 (1) Form a partnership, for the purposes of the grant, with either a public or private
12 university or a community college.
- 13 (2) Form a partnership, for the purposes of the grant, with regional businesses and
14 business leaders.
- 15 (3) Demonstrate the ability to sustain innovation once grant funding ends.

16 (b) Applicant Categories and Specific Requirements. – Requirements for Innovation
17 Grants. –

- 18 (1) Individual schools. – Individual public schools must demonstrate all of the
19 following in their applications:
 - 20 a. Partnerships with business and industry to determine the skills and
21 competencies needed for students' transition into growth sectors of the
22 regional economy.
 - 23 b. Aligned pathways to employment, including students' acquisition of
24 college credit or industry recognized credentials.
 - 25 c. Development of systems, infrastructure, capacity, and culture to
26 enable teachers and school leaders to continuously focus on improving
27 individual student achievement.
- 28 (2) Local school administrative units. – Local school administrative units must
29 demonstrate all of the following in their applications:
 - 30 a. Implementation of comprehensive reform and innovation.
 - 31 b. Appointment of a senior leader to manage and sustain the change
32 process with a specific focus on providing parents with a portfolio of
33 meaningful options among schools.
- 34 (3) Regional partnerships of two or more local school administrative units. –
35 Partnerships of two or more local school administrative units must
36 demonstrate all of the following in their applications:
 - 37 a. Implementation of resources of partnered local school administrative
38 units in creating a tailored workforce development system for the
39 regional economy and fostering innovation in each of the partnered
40 local school administrative units.
 - 41 b. Promotion of the development of knowledge and skills in career
42 clusters of critical importance to the region.
 - 43 c. Benefits of the shared strengths of local businesses and higher
44 education.
 - 45 d. Usage of technology to deliver instruction over large geographic
46 regions and build networks with industry.
 - 47 e. Implementation of comprehensive reform and innovation that can be
48 replicated in other local school administrative units.

49 (c) Consideration of Factors in Awarding of Innovation Grants. – All applications must
50 include information on at least the following in order to be considered for ~~a~~an innovation grant:

- 1 (1) Describe the aligned pathways from school to high-growth careers in regional
2 economies.
- 3 (2) Leverage technology to efficiently and effectively drive teacher and principal
4 development, connect students and teachers to online courses and resources,
5 and foster virtual learning communities among faculty, higher education
6 partners, and business partners.
- 7 (3) Establish a comprehensive approach to enhancing the knowledge and skills of
8 teachers and administrators to successfully implement the proposed
9 innovative program and to graduate all students ready for work and college.
- 10 (4) Link to a proven provider of professional development services for teachers
11 and administrators capable of providing evidence-based training and tools
12 aligned with the goals of the proposed innovative program.
- 13 (5) Form explicit partnerships with businesses and industry, which may include
14 business advisory councils, internship programs, and other customized
15 projects aligned with relevant workforce skills.
- 16 (6) Partner with community colleges or public or private universities to enable
17 communities to challenge every student to graduate with workplace
18 credentials or college credit.
- 19 (7) Align K-12 and postsecondary instruction and performance expectations to
20 reduce the need for college remediation courses.
- 21 (8) Secure input from parents to foster broad ownership for school choice options
22 and to foster greater understanding of the need for continued education beyond
23 high school.
- 24 (9) Provide a description of the funds that will be used and a proposed budget for
25 five years each of the grant years.
- 26 (10) Describe the source of matching funds required in subsection (d) of this
27 section.
- 28 (11) Establish a strategy to achieve meaningful analysis of program outcomes due
29 to the receipt of grant funds under this section.

30 (d) ~~Matching Private and Local Funds.~~ Funds for Innovation Grants. – All innovation
31 grant applicants must match fifty percent (50%) of all State dollars. Matching funds shall not
32 include other State funds. Matching funds may include in-kind contributions.

33 (e) Awards for Innovation Grants. – Any innovation grants awarded by the Commission
34 may be spent over a five-year period from the initial award. Grants may be awarded for new or
35 existing projects. Grant funds shall not revert but shall be available until expended.

36 (f) Innovation Grant Recipient Reporting Requirements. – No later than September 1 of
37 each year, ~~a~~ an innovation grant recipient shall submit to the Commission an annual report for
38 the preceding grant year that describes the academic progress made by the students and the
39 implementation of program initiatives.

40 **§ 115C-64.17. The Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program Grants.**

41 (a) ~~Program Establishment.~~ CTE Grade Expansion Grants. – ~~There is established the~~
42 ~~Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program (Program) to expand Career and~~
43 Technical Education Grade Expansion grants shall be awarded under the Program for the purpose
44 of expanding career and technical education (CTE) programs by prioritizing the inclusion of
45 students in sixth and seventh grade through grant awards provided to selected local school
46 administrative units for up to seven years. ~~Funds appropriated for the Program~~ Grant funds shall
47 be allocated to selected local school administrative units as competitive ~~grants of (i) up to seven~~
48 ~~hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and (ii) grants,~~ to the extent
49 funds are available, of up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and
50 subsequent fiscal years. Grant funds shall be used only for employing additional licensed
51 personnel in career and technical education areas, career development coordination areas, and

1 support service areas necessary for expanding the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade
2 students. The funds may be used for CTE programs at one or more schools in the local school
3 administrative unit. Grant funds allocated to the local school administrative unit each fiscal year
4 ~~under the Program~~ shall not revert but shall be available for the purpose of the grant program
5 until expended.

6 (b) Consideration of Factors in Awarding of CTE Grade Expansion Grants. – Local
7 school administrative units applying for ~~the Program~~ CTE grade expansion grants shall submit
8 an application that includes at least the following information:

- 9 (1) A plan for expansion of the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade students,
10 including the specific programs that will be expanded, the significance of CTE
11 in the local school administrative unit, and how a grade expansion would
12 enhance the education program and the community.
- 13 (2) A request for the amount of funds, a description of how the funds will be used,
14 and any other sources of funds available to accomplish the purposes of this
15 program.
- 16 (3) A proposed budget for seven years that provides detail on the use of the
17 amount of funds to add personnel, increase career development efforts, and
18 provide support services.
- 19 (4) A strategy to achieve meaningful analysis of program outcomes due to the
20 receipt of grant funds under this section.

21 (c) Selection of CTE Grade Expansion Grant Recipients. – For the 2017-2018 fiscal year,
22 the Commission shall accept applications for a grant until November 30, 2017. For subsequent
23 fiscal years that funds are made available for the ~~Program~~ CTE grade expansion grants, the
24 Commission shall accept applications for a grant until August 1 of each year. The Commission
25 shall consult with the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., to select
26 recipients in a manner that considers diversity among the pool of applicants, including geographic
27 location, location of industries in the area in which a local school administrative unit is located,
28 and the size of the student population served by the unit, in order to award funds to the extent
29 possible to grant recipients that represent different regions and characteristics of the State. The
30 Commission shall recommend recipients of the grants to the State Board of Education. The State
31 Board, upon consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall approve the
32 recipients of grant awards.

33 (d) Allocation of Funds. – Of the funds available for the Program in each fiscal year, the
34 Commission shall first allocate funds to applicants who received CTE grade expansion grant
35 funds for the prior fiscal year for up to seven years. After funds are allocated to prior fiscal year
36 grant recipients, any remaining funds may be used by the Commission to select new grant
37 ~~recipients~~ recipients as provided in G.S. 115C-64.16(a1). ~~The Commission, in consultation with~~
38 ~~the Superintendent of Public Instruction,~~ Commission shall establish rules regarding any
39 requirements for grant recipients to continue eligibility to receive funds each fiscal year,
40 including timely and accurate reporting as required under subsection (e) of this section.

41 (e) Reporting Requirements. – No later than August 1 of each year, for up to seven years
42 after the initial grant award, a grant recipient shall submit to the Department of Public Instruction,
43 Local Planning Systems Regional Services staff within the Division of Career and Technical
44 Education, an annual report for the preceding year in which CTE grade expansion grant funds
45 were expended that provides at least the following information on the program for sixth and
46 seventh grade students:

- 47 (1) The use of grant funds, including the CTE programs and courses that have
48 been expanded in the local school administrative unit to include sixth and
49 seventh grade students.
- 50 (2) The number of students enrolled in CTE courses as part of the expansion.

- 1 (3) The number of students who subsequently enrolled in CTE courses in high
2 school.
3 (4) The number of students who subsequently participated in internships,
4 cooperative education, or apprenticeship programs.
5 (5) The number of students who subsequently earned (i) college credit and (ii)
6 approved industry certification and credentials.
7 (6) Any other information the Division of Career and Technical Education deems
8 necessary.

9 The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall provide a report to the Commission by October
10 15 of each year based on the information reported to the Local Planning Systems Regional
11 Services staff under this subsection, including how the grant recipients compare to CTE programs
12 statewide and whether the programs are aligned with the Master Plan for Career and Technical
13 Education adopted by the State Board."

14 **SECTION 9.(b)** Of the funds appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction
15 from the General Fund for the 2021-2022 fiscal year for the North Carolina Education and
16 Workforce Innovation Commission for the Education and Workforce Innovation Program and
17 for the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program, beginning with the
18 2021-2022 fiscal year, the sum of three million one hundred seventy-one thousand one hundred
19 eighteen dollars (\$3,171,118) in recurring funds shall instead be appropriated to the Department
20 of Public Instruction for the North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission
21 for the Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program, established
22 pursuant to G.S. 115C-64.16, as amended by this section.

23 **SECTION 9.(c)** This section becomes effective July 1, 2021.
24

25 **PART X. EFFECTIVE DATE**

26 **SECTION 10.** Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes
27 law.