

ARP – ESSER III – NC PRESCHOOL PYRAMID EXPANSION (PRC 190)

PROGRAM REPORT CODE: 190
UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS CODE: 3-XXXX-190-XXX
STATUTORY REFERENCE: SL 2021-180 Section 7.27.(a)(8)
CFDA #: 84.425U

TYPE: Dollars
TERM: Funds are available through September 30, 2024.
PURPOSE: To support expansion of the North Carolina Preschool Pyramid Model (NCPMM) across and within LEA preschool programs and to support the implementation of NCPMM in kindergarten in a developmentally appropriate and vertically aligned manner.
ELIGIBILITY: LEAs
FORMULA: Eligible applicants may apply for funds through the Exceptional Children Division, with priority given to low-performing schools and LEAs affected by COVID-19 that receive low-wealth supplemental funding.

The State Board of Education shall approve all awards prior to allotment of funds.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

- 1) Funds shall be used to provide training, consultation, and ongoing support for LEAs to implement the NCPMM framework to prekindergarten and kindergarten classrooms.
- 2) The State Board of Education may utilize unallotted funds as of March 15, 2022 to cover any shortfall in funding for PRC 203, or to use for expenditures on or after March 15, 2022 to meet additional public school unit needs, in compliance with federal law.

Approved February 3, 2022

ARP – ESSER III – STEM PILOT PROGRAM (PRC 196)

PROGRAM REPORT CODE: 196
UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS CODE: 3-XXXX-196-XXX
STATUTORY REFERENCE: SL 2021-180 Section 7.27.(a)(25)
CFDA #: 84.425U

TYPE: Dollars
TERM: Effective 2021-22 through September 30, 2024.
PURPOSE: To promote access to innovative digital and personalized learning solutions for high school students that bridge the gap between chemistry and physical science curricula and career and technical education (CTE) career pathways.
ELIGIBILITY: LEAs
FORMULA: Competitive Grant

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

- 1) LEAs participating in the pilot shall incorporate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) focused educational software programs developed by Plasma Games, Inc., in select STEM classes as well as in their CTE programs to encourage student interest and workforce development for chemistry-dependent industries located in North Carolina, including careers in the pharmaceutical, agricultural technology, biotechnology, textile, material science, energy, minerals and mining, and chemical manufacturing fields.
- 2) Funds shall be used for licensing fees for the educational software, Plasma Games' operating costs, and for implementation of the pilot by the LEA.
- 3) A LEA participating in the pilot must provide the Department with a plan for the placement of the STEM-focused educational technology developed by Plasma Games, Inc., in its schools and may include a plan from the pilot program established pursuant to Section 4.2D of S.L.2020-4, as enacted by Section 1.1(e) of S.L. 2020-80, if the unit participated in that pilot. The plan shall:
 - a) Include implementation of the educational game as a teaching tool for classroom teachers and a new learning platform for students to increase student engagement and discussion, enrich lessons with real-world applications and purpose in STEM fields, and create moments of connection for students with lasting impact on their career pathways; and
 - b) Provisions for professional development and training for teachers, administrators, and other school personnel to facilitate the implementation and success of the pilot.

- 4) The State Board of Education may utilize unallotted funds as of March 15, 2022 to cover any shortfall in funding for PRC 203, or to use for expenditures on or after March 15, 2022 to meet additional public school unit needs, in compliance with federal law.

Approved February 3, 2022

ARP –ESSER III – NATIONAL BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHING STANDARDS (NBPTS) CERTIFICATION FEE REIMBURSEMENT PROGRAM (PRC 198)

PROGRAM REPORT CODE: 198
UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS CODE: XXXX-198-XXX
STATUTORY REFERENCE: SL 2021-180 Section 7.27.(a)(28)
CFDA #: 84.425U

TYPE: Dollars
TERM: Funds are available through September 30, 2024.
PURPOSE: To reimburse teachers at qualifying public schools for the cost of the participation fee for National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification.
ELIGIBILITY: Public school units (LEA, charter, regional, innovative, lab and residential schools); and North Carolina School of the Arts, NC School of Science and Math, with at least one qualifying public school
FORMULA: By application. Public school units with qualifying public schools may apply to DPI for grant funds to reimburse teachers employed at a qualifying public school for the cost of the participation fee for NBPTS certification (up to the maximum cost of the program for each individual teacher).

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

- 1) Qualifying public schools within eligible public school units are those schools that meet any of the following criteria:
 - a) Is identified as a low-performing school pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37 or G.S. 115C-218.94.
 - b) Is identified as an innovative school.
 - c) Enrolled a student body in the school year prior to the application for reimbursement consisting of at least ten percent (10%) of students identified as at-risk pursuant to State Board of Education policy DROP-001.
- 2) Public school units receiving grant funds shall prioritize reimbursements for teachers based on the need of the school where the teacher is employed at the time of the reimbursement, including prioritizing:
 - a) Teachers employed in a qualifying public school with more qualifying factors as listed in special provision 1) above.

- b) Teachers employed in qualifying public schools with a higher percentage of at-risk students.
- 3) Priority to receive funding shall be based on the current school assignment of the teacher. The school of assignment when the loan was initiated or when the NBPTS certification was obtained shall not be considered for priority.
- 4) Public school units receiving grant funds shall not require a teacher to complete the NBPTS certification process in order to receive a reimbursement.
- 5) If a teacher leaves employment with a PSU receiving funds, the PSU shall not provide further reimbursement of certification fees for that teacher. However, the teacher shall not be required to repay the PSU for any portion of the NBPTS certification fees already provided if the teacher leaves employment by the PSU before the end of the NBPTS program.
- 6) If a teacher at a qualifying school is selected for NBPTS certification and is reassigned to a school that is not a qualifying public school, the district shall not provide further reimbursement for the cost of NBPTS certification fees for that teacher. The district may, however, provide reimbursement for another eligible teacher at a qualifying public school with any remaining funding in accordance with the priority factors listed above.
- 7) Funds may be used to reimburse any loans provided to teachers employed at qualifying public schools covering the cost of the certification fees if the PSU receiving funds elects to use the funds for those reimbursements. However, any reimbursements, including reimbursements of previously issued loans, shall be in accordance with the priority factors listed above.

Approved February 3, 2022

ARP – ESSER III – EDUCATIONAL AND COMPETITIVE AFTER-SCHOOL ROBOTICS GRANT PROGRAM (PRC 201)

PROGRAM REPORT CODE: 201
UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS CODE: 3-XXXX-201-XXX
STATUTORY REFERENCE: SL 2021-180 Section 7.27.(a)(31)
CFDA #: 84.425U

TYPE: Dollars
TERM: Funds are available through September 30, 2024.
PURPOSE: To promote evidenced-based, after-school programs for robotics education and competition, motivate students to pursue education and career opportunities in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics while building critical life and work-related skills, and to reengage students and remediate learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
ELIGIBILITY: Public school units (LEA, charter, regional, ISD, residential, and lab schools)
FORMULA: By application. Eligible applicants may apply for funds from DPI. Applications shall include, at a minimum, the following information:
a) Evidence that the applicant has or will be able to establish a relationship with a robotics partner that meets at least the minimum requirements; and
b) A proposed budget for the educational and competitive after-school robotics grant program.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

- 1) Funds shall be used for any of the following purposes:
 - a) Establishing a relationship with a robotics partner.
 - b) Purchasing robotics kits.
 - c) Providing stipends for coaches.
 - d) Making payments associated with participation in a robotics league or robotics competition.
 - e) Paying fees incurred as part of the administration of a robotics team
- 2) 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:

- a) Have a national presence in robotics education and competition.
 - b) Provide adequate instruction and programming for students and adult volunteers in:
 - i. robotics education;
 - ii. project-based learning; and
 - iii. competitive robotics.
 - c) Promote a safe and equitable social environment.
- 3) The State Board of Education may utilize unallotted funds as of March 15, 2022 to cover any shortfall in funding for PRC 203, or to use for expenditures on or after March 15, 2022 to meet additional public school unit needs, in compliance with federal law.

Approved February 3, 2022

ARP – ESSER III – SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS GRANT PROGRAM (PRC 204)

PROGRAM REPORT CODE: 204
UNIFORM CHART OF ACCOUNTS CODE: 3-XXXX-204-XXX
STATUTORY REFERENCE: SL 2021-180 Section 7.27.(a)(29)
CFDA #: 84.425U

TYPE: Dollars
TERM: Funds are available through September 30, 2024.
PURPOSE: To improve the safety, mental health, and well-being of students by providing grants to public school units to recruit school psychologists.
ELIGIBILITY: LEAs, charter schools, lab schools, regional schools, ISD, residential schools
FORMULA: By application. The award of funds will be prioritized to public school units that do not employ a full-time school psychologist at the time the application is submitted.

SPECIAL PROVISIONS:

- 1) The State Superintendent shall develop the criteria and guidelines for the grant program and award the grants to the PSUs. Applications will be administered through the Department’s Division of Exceptional Children.
- 2) The application must identify current and ongoing needs for school psychologist services, including needs related to recruitment, and estimated costs associated with those needs, as well as any other information required the Department of Public Instruction.
- 3) Funds shall be used to provide signing bonuses to recruit school psychologists. No individual bonus shall be greater than five thousand dollars (\$5,000). As a condition of accepting a signing bonus, a school psychologist shall agree to remain employed in the public school unit for at least one year.
- 4) Grants shall be used to supplement and not to supplant State or non-State funds already provided for these purposes.
- 5) The State Board of Education may utilize unallotted funds as of March 15, 2022 to cover any shortfall in funding for PRC 203, or to use for expenditures on or after March 15, 2022 to meet additional public school unit needs, in compliance with federal law.

Approved February 3, 2022