

Q&A
Industry Certifications and Credentials Teacher Bonuses
(Continuations Budget of Session Law 2023-134, [HB 259, Section 7A.3](#))
School Year 2025-2026

Allotments

State Board of Education Allotment Policies related to these bonuses are posted on the NC DPI [Allotments website here](#).

CTE Bonus funds will be allotted through **PRC 0048** – (along with AP, IB, AICE Bonuses), for ALL PSUs, including Charter Schools.

Expenditures

Full chart of accounts for PRC 0048 is located at [Chart of Accounts website here](#).

The bonus is NOT subject to retirement. It is subject to Social Security

Coding is as follows:	CTE Credentials	1X-51200-0048-01800
	CTE Social Security	1X-51200-0048-02110

Note that PRC 0048 is also used for AP/IB/AICE and Principal Bonuses. It is extremely important that you use correct account codes for each individual bonus, so DPI is able to accurately report to the General Assembly on each bonus type.

Procedure

Bonus of \$25 or \$50 for each student taught by a teacher who provided instruction in a course that led to the attainment of an industry certification or credential.

Maximum allowable amount per teacher for bonuses for Industry Certifications and Credentials is capped at \$3,500 per year.

DPI will:

- Provide the entities with the SBE approved value of the bonus for each credential/certification
- Provide a list of the eligible teachers with the associated credentials/certifications.
 - *The CTE Dept at NCDPI provides the names of qualified individuals into the secure shell for the school district. See contact information below if questions or you cannot access the data.*
- Allot funds to each entity based on the total number of credentials/certifications multiplied by the appropriate value (plus social security). This is an estimated allotment and should be in excess of what is needed.

The Public School Units are responsible for:

- Validating that the eligible teacher:
 - Remains employed in the same qualifying LEA, charter school, regional school or lab school at least until January 1, 2026
 - OR**
 - Retired, between the last day of the school year in which the data is collected and January 1, 2026 after attaining one of the following:
 - The age of at least 65 with 5 years of creditable service,

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- The age of at least 60 with 25 years of creditable service, or
 - 30 years of creditable service
 - Ensuring the CTE bonus does NOT exceed \$3,500
 - Paying the teachers for the bonus in January 2026
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Frequently Asked Questions

1. Will funds be provided for CTE bonuses in FY 2026?

Yes. Session Law 2023-134 specified that DPI shall administer the bonus pay to qualifying teachers in January.

2. If a teacher retired effective January 1, 2026 do they qualify for this bonus provided they meet all the other criteria?

Per SL 2023-134 Section 7A.3.(b)(6), an eligible teacher or eligible career and technical education teacher must meet one of the following criteria:

- a. Remains employed teaching in the same qualifying public school unit, or, if an eligible advanced course teacher is only employed by the North Carolina Virtual Public School program, remains employed teaching in that program, at least from the school year the data is collected until January 1 of the corresponding school year that the bonus is paid.
- b. Retired, between the last day of the school year in which the data is collected and January 1 of the corresponding school year in which the bonus is paid, after attaining one of the following:
 1. The age of at least 65 with five years of creditable service.
 2. The age of at least 60 with 25 years of creditable services.
 3. Thirty years of creditable service.

DPI defines “last day of the school year” as the last day of school with students.

This would include a teacher who retired with an effective retirement date of January 1st provided they meet the requirements of (b) above.

3. When does this bonus need to be paid?

There is no date stipulated required for payment. We would request if possible that all bonus payments be paid by January 31, 2026 to ensure they are reflected accurately in the report due to the General Assembly in early March.

4. Are part-time or contract employees eligible to receive the bonus?

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Part-time employees may qualify for the bonus; however, contract employees are not considered “employed by the public school unit” and would not be able to receive the bonus.

If you have any questions, contact Nancy Cross with NC DPI Career and Technical Education via email at Nancy.Cross@dpi.nc.gov or via phone at 984-236-2890