

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA SESSION 2017
SESSION LAW 2017-57**

EXTENDED LEARNING AND INTEGRATED STUDENT SUPPORTS COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM

SECTION 7.24.(a) Of the funds appropriated by this act for the At-Risk Student Services Alternative School Allotment for the 2017-2019 fiscal biennium, the Department of Public Instruction shall use up to six million dollars (\$6,000,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and up to six million dollars (\$6,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year for the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program (Program). Of these funds, the Department of Public Instruction may use up to two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) for each fiscal year to administer the Program.

SECTION 7.24.(b) The purpose of the Program is to fund high-quality, independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for at-risk students that raise standards for student academic outcomes by focusing on the following: (1) Use of an evidence-based model with a proven track record of success. (2) Inclusion of rigorous, quantitative performance measures to confirm effectiveness of the program. (3) Deployment of multiple tiered supports in schools to address student barriers to achievement, such as strategies to improve chronic absenteeism, anti-social behaviors, academic growth, and enhancement of parent and family engagement. (4) Alignment with State performance measures, student academic goals, and the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. (5) Prioritization in programs to integrate clear academic content, in particular, science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) learning opportunities or reading development and proficiency instruction. (6) Minimization of student class size when providing instruction or instructional supports and interventions. (7) Expansion of student access to high-quality learning activities and academic support that strengthen student engagement and leverage community-based resources, which may include organizations that provide mentoring services and private-sector employer involvement. (8) Utilization of digital content to expand learning time, when appropriate.

SECTION 7.24.(c) Grants shall be used to award funds for new or existing eligible programs for at-risk students operated by (i) nonprofit corporations and (ii) nonprofit corporations working in collaboration with local school administrative units. Grant participants Page 64 Session Law 2017-57 Senate Bill 257 are eligible to receive grants for up to two years in an amount of up to five hundred thousand dollars (\$500,000) each year. Programs should focus on serving (i) at-risk students not performing at grade level as demonstrated by statewide assessments, (ii) students at-risk of dropout, and (iii) students at-risk of school displacement due to suspension or expulsion as a result of anti-social behaviors. Priority consideration shall be given to applications demonstrating models that focus services and programs in schools that are identified as low-performing pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.37. A grant participant shall provide certification to the Department of Public Instruction that the grants received under the program shall be matched on the basis of three dollars (\$3.00) in grant funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in nongrant funds. Matching funds shall not include other State funds. The Department shall also give priority consideration to an applicant that is a nonprofit corporation working in partnership with a local school administrative unit resulting in a match utilizing federal funds under Part A of Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, as amended, or Title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended, and other federal or local funds. Matching funds may include in-kind contributions for up to fifty percent (50%) of the required match.

SECTION 7.24.(d) A nonprofit corporation may act as its own fiscal agent for the purposes of this Program. Grant recipients shall report to the Department of Public Instruction for the year in which grant funds were expended on the progress of the program, including alignment with State academic standards, data collection for reporting student progress, the source and amount of matching funds, and other measures, before receiving funding for the next fiscal year. Grant recipients shall also submit a final report on key performance data, including statewide test results, attendance rates, graduation rates, and promotion rates, and financial sustainability of the program.

SECTION 7.24.(e) The Department of Public Instruction shall provide an interim report on the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by September 15, 2018, with a final report on the Program by September 15, 2019. The final report shall include the final results of the Program and recommendations regarding effective program models, standards, and performance measures based on student performance, leveraging of community-based resources to expand student access to learning activities, academic and behavioral support services, and potential opportunities for the State to invest in proven models for future grants programs.