

CARES Act & CRSSA Updates

CARES ACT 10% Statewide Plans January 2022 Update

FUNDS FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS: \$2,226,662 (PRC 164)

Business Owner: Townsend

Initiative Description: Allotments will be made to the ineligible, waived, and underfunded charter schools to ensure all PSUs in NC have access to CARES Act funds.

Processing Steps: Application

January 2022 Update:

Supplementary to PRC 163 (90%)

Balance: \$304, 277

DIGITAL CURRICULUM RESOURCES: \$10,800,000 (PRC 165)

Business Owner: Wrenn

Initiative Description: Funding will be used to improve access to quality K-12 packaged curricula to enhance the ability of schools to offer blended learning. Funding to PSUs to purchase a 1-year subscription to high quality, standards aligned digital curriculum packages selected by PSUs.

Processing Steps: Application

January 2022 Update:

254 PSU Expenditures Approved

\$7,624,963 Expended as of
November 30, 2021

Expenditures Allowed Until September
30, 2022

LEARNING MANAGEMENT PLATFORM STANDARDIZATION: \$3,500,000 (PRC 166)

Business Owner: Wrenn

Initiative Description: NCDPI will provide infrastructure support for digital content delivery by assisting districts with the cost of attaining a Learning Management System (LMS).

Processing Steps: Application

January 2022 Update:

104 PSU Expenditures Approved

\$3,234,535 Expended
as of November 30, 2021

Expenditures Allowed Until September 30, 2022

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT RESERVE FUNDING FOR EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN: \$10,000,000 (PRC 167)

Business Owner: Thomas

Initiative Description: This initiative provides exceptional children's funding to offer instructional support to students and provide ongoing growth toward learning targets.

Processing Steps: Application

January 2022 Update:

Majority of funds have been allotted to PSUs who completed a grant application

42 grants (13%) were submitted for allotment in mid-December

Delay for the 42 was due to late submission/edits needed prior to approval

Use of funds will be part of IDEA fiscal monitoring.

GRANT PROGRAM FOR CHILDCARE DURING REMOTE INSTRUCTION (INNOVATIVE CHILDCARE AND REMOTE EXTERNAL SUPPORT (ICARES) GRANT): \$4,471,200 (PRC 168)

Business Owner: Townsend

Initiative Description: Public school units may partner with community organizations to provide supervised care for Pre-K-8 students without at-home supervision available on remote learning days.

Processing Steps: RFP, Application, Contract/Procurement Processes

January 2022 Update:

13 Recipients

Funds Remaining: \$2,067,773.57

EXTERNAL EVALUATION: \$200,000

Business Owner: Townsend

Initiative Description: An external evaluation will be conducted to provide an overview of the implementation and impact of the NC CARES Act Funding. A contract will be put in place with one of our external partners from NC State Friday Institute or UNC Greensboro SERVE Center.

Processing Steps:
Contract/Procurement Processes

SBE Approval: Approved

January 2022 Update:

The project was cancelled when OLR was created. All research activities will be coordinated through the Drs. Maher and Corn.

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT PARTNERSHIP: \$1,000,000

Business Owner: Mullennix/Wrenn

Initiative Description: The purpose of the initiative is to expand partnerships to provide broadcast/passive educational content for home consumption and to provide non-digital instructional support. DPI and UNC-TV, the local affiliate of Public Broadcast Service (PBS) piloted a partnership beginning March 30, with positive response. Funds would be needed to continue the programming.

Processing Steps: Contract/Procurement Processes

January 2022 Update:

This project is complete.

It resulted in 192 PreK-5th grade literacy and math lessons with video recordings, lesson plans, and extension activities. It also included a program evaluation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR K-12 SCHOOL LEADERS: \$322,941

Business Owner:

Colbert/McBroom/Mullennix

Initiative Description: Funding will provide professional development for NC leaders as they build their capacity for high-quality culturally relevant instruction to navigate remote instruction and teacher support. Specifically, a series of professional development opportunities will be created to provide leader-specific training on supporting teachers in remote instruction.

Processing Steps:

Contract/Procurement Processes

January 2022 Update:

This project is a multi-tiered project. Tiers 1 and 2 are complete.

Tier 3, the practitioners' network, is being partially funded with these funds (\$32,921), as well as other funds secured through NCPAPA. This project will expand into a Tier 4, the AP Accelerator, utilizing Title II funds. This project included a program evaluation.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR K-12 TEACHERS: \$325,000



Business Owner:

Colbert/Murphy/Mullennix

Initiative Description: Funding will provide professional development for NC Educators as they build their capacity for high-quality culturally relevant virtual and remote teaching and learning. Specifically, a four-week asynchronous, facilitated course focused on teaching online and creating content for online instruction.

Processing Steps:

Contract/Procurement Processes

January 2022 Update:

This project is near completion. All the administrative money is spent, and there is slightly more than \$20,000 that is continuing to be utilized for the webinars, modules, and teaching of the online six-week course. In total thus far, these supports have resulted in over 30,000 enrollments.

VIDEO LESSONS: \$100,000

Business Owner: Mullennix/Wrenn

Initiative Description: NCDPI will contract with regional/state teachers of the year, English language learner (ELL) teacher representatives, and exceptional children (EC) teacher representatives to record video lessons for use by other schools/teachers and for possible inclusion into digital curricula platforms.

Processing Steps:
Contract/Procurement Processes

January 2022 Update:

This project is complete. This is part of the 192 lessons project (At Home Learning Initiative). This portion funded the teacher stipends for their work on this project.

The content is accessible through NCDPI OER, #GoOpenNC, and YouTube Channel. Additionally, it is being incorporated into the ReThink courses.

BLENDING LEARNING SUPPORT: \$75,000

Business Owner: Wrenn/Mullennix

Initiative Description: The Friday Institute will provide online teacher professional development that addresses research-based approaches to blended learning.

Processing Steps:
Contract/Procurement Process

January 2022 Update:

The ReThink Grant addressed this need. The work has pivoted to provide administrators professional development that addresses how to support teachers using blended learning in the classroom.

The courses have been outlined and are currently in development. They are aligned with the vocabulary and strategies presented to teachers through ReThink.

CONNECTIVITY EXPLORATION: \$250,000

Business Owner: Wrenn/Nicolaides

January 2022 Update:

Initiative Description: This pilot will explore how to expand internet connectivity in remote areas of the state. This will enable digital remote learning in the future to areas that do not have the necessary broadband access. This "proof of concept" project will be led in the hopes of finding innovative ways to close the connectivity gap.

Processing Steps:
Contract/Procurement Process

DISTRICT & REGIONAL SUPPORT: \$4,528,800

Business Owner: Martin

Initiative Description: The purpose of this initiative is to assist those in need of the greatest intervention to manage obstacles encountered in achieving student success during the pandemic.

Processing Steps:
Contract/Procurement and Human Resources Process

January 2022 Update:

- CARES Support (78 schools in 24 districts)
- 4 District Leadership Coaches hired/contracted
- 14 School Leadership Coaches hired
- Piloting of North Carolina Instructional Leadership Academy (NC ILA) in one district involving 12 principals, their principal supervisors, and school leadership teams
- District Curriculum Coaches have implemented PD plans in 2 districts for improving instruction and building capacity.

FEDERAL PROGRAM MONITORING AND SUPPORT AND INTERNAL AUDIT PERSONNEL: \$720,000*

Business Owner: Rousseau/Townsend

Initiative Description: CARES Act Program Administrators housed in the Federal Program Monitoring and Support Division (1.6) will provide oversight for subgrantee application and budget review, offer technical assistance, and complete programmatic monitoring for PRC 163 and PRC 164. 2 Internal Auditors will provide information about how the overall CARES Act grant administration process. 2 additional Fiscal Monitors are requested to complete fiscal monitoring for PSUs to ensure compliance with fund use.

Processing Steps: Human Resources Process

January 2022 Update:

Federal Program Staff have been hired and lead the work with programmatic monitoring.

CRSSA 10% Statewide Plans January 2022 Update

PSU STATE AID: \$10,000,000 (PRC 172)

Business Owner: Townsend

Description: To provide a minimum allocation of \$180 to each PSU in the State Aid

Steps: SBE policy and application approved at April 9 2021 SBE meeting.

January 2022 Update:

- Companion to PRC 171
- 81 Eligible
- All have approved applications

INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT: \$10,000,000 (PRC 173)

Business Owner: Townsend

Description: Contracted services for school health support personnel to provide additional physical and mental health support services for students. school counselors, school nurses, school psychologists, and school social workers.

Steps: SBE policy and application approved at April 9 2021 SBE meeting.

January 2022 Update:

- All applications have been approved
- \$9,627,416.17 remaining
- Similar to PRC 169- GEER

SCHOOL NUTRITION: \$10,000,000 (PRC 174)

Business Owner: Harvey

Description: Provision of recruitment and/or retention bonuses for School Nutrition personnel

Steps: SBE policy and application approved September 2021; policy amended November 2021; application closed December 15, 2021

January 2022 Update:

- Performance indicators and monitoring plan developed
- **\$9,706,802** allocated to **113** traditional public schools
- **\$189,816** allocated to **44** charter schools
- **\$9,896,618** used for the intended purpose; **\$103,382** will be reallocated to PRC 171

(Note: 5 PSUs were ineligible; 18 PSUs waived funding, 5 PSUs did not meet deadlines for applying)

ELISS GRANTS: \$15,000,000 (PRC 175)

Business Owner: Townsend

Description: The purpose of the Extended Learning and Integrated Student Supports Competitive Grant Program (ELISS) is to fund high-quality, independently validated extended learning and integrated student support service programs for at-risk students whose learning has been negatively affected by COVID-19 impacts.

Steps: SBE policy and application approved at April 9 SBE meeting. SBE approval of awards in Oct 2021.

January 2022 Update:

Up to \$500K awarded for 2 years to mitigate learning loss

During school or afterschool programming

\$78-\$500K awarded to 19 organizations

SUMMER PROGRAMS: \$40,000,000 (PRC 176)

Business Owner: Maher, Barbour

Description: Grants to support in-person instruction programs to address learning loss and provide enrichment activities in the summer.

Steps: SBE policy approved
September 2021

January 2022 Update:

Summer Bridge Academies Program, open to all eligible PSUs.

As of Dec 15th, 183 PSUs have approved applications in CCIP for 176/177.

Draft program plans are being submitted via Qualtrics. Plan review and state-wide learning cohorts will begin in mid-January.

SUMMER PROGRAMS: \$26,046,144 (PRC 177)

Business Owner: Maher, Barbour

Description: In-person instruction programs to address learning loss and provide enrichment activities in the summer.

Steps: SBE policy approved
September 2021

January 2022 Update:

Career Accelerator Programs, open to eligible PSUs. These will be high-quality, workforce aligned programs for grades 6-12.

As of Dec 15th, 168 PSUs have approved applications in CCIP for 176/177. Some Charter schools waived this PRC.

Draft program plans are being submitted via Qualtrics. Plan review and state-wide learning cohorts will begin in mid-January.

COMPETENCY BASED ASSESSMENT: \$8,200,000 (PRC 178)

Business Owner: Maher, Barbour

Description: Competency Based Assessment to support SL2021-7, School Extension Program.

Steps: SBE policy approved September 2021

January 2022 Update:

113 LEAs applied for the funds.

2 LEAs waived the application.

PRC is closed.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF UNC: \$1,000,000

Business Owner: Maher

Description: North Carolina New Teacher Support Program

Steps: Funds Transferred

January 2022 Update:

MOU was executed on Nov. 8, 2021

The OLR is currently working with NCNTSP on program evaluation.

DIGITAL LITERACY: \$500,000

Business Owner: Maher, Barbour

Description: State Library for the NC Kids Digital Library project through the NC Department of Natural Resources

Steps: Funds Transferred

January 2022 Update:

MOU executed.

Follow-up meeting scheduled for mid-January to review current spending in alignment with program plan.

NC SCHOOLS GO OUTSIDE GRANTS: \$1,200,000

Business Owner: Maher, Barbour

Description: Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council's NC Schools Go Outside grant program through the Wildlife Resources Commission

Steps: Funds Transferred

January 2022 Update:

MOU is fully executed.

OLR team meeting with NC Outdoor Heritage Advisory Council on a regular cadence. Next meeting is February 2022.

As of Nov. 2021 seventy-five (75) \$15,000 grants have been awarded. There are 80 grants in total.

RESEARCH STUDY: \$1,000,000

Business Owner: Maher, Corn

Description: Contract with a third-party entity, SAS, to collect, analyze, and report data related to the overall impacts of COVID.

Steps: Funds Transferred

January 2022 Update:

Research and evaluation ongoing. Preliminary report due to JLEOC March 15, 2022.

CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM: \$9,000,000

Business Owner: Wrenn

January 2022 Update:

Description: Contract with a third-party entity to implement a statewide cybersecurity program to improve the cybersecurity infrastructure of the public schools.

Steps:

CYBERSECURITY ASSESSMENT: \$1,000,000

Business Owner: Wrenn

January 2022 Update:

Description: Contract with a third-party entity, Accenture, to conduct a statewide assessment of the cybersecurity capabilities of public schools

Steps: SBE approved April 9, 2021

VOYAGER SOPRIS LEARNING: \$12,000,000

Business Owner: Rhyne

Description: Contract to provide Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling training for teachers

Steps: SBE approved August 19, 2021

January 2022 Update:

- Districts completed survey to select cohort of choice
- Cohort 1- 30 districts- currently participating in LETRS PD
- Cohort 2- 29 districts- initial LETRS PD kickoff by February 2022
- Cohort 3- 57 districts- planning meetings begin February/March 2022- LETRS PD to begin after July 1

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE: \$200,000

Business Owner: VanAuken/Stegall

Description: North Carolina Portrait of a Graduate - a shared vision of the knowledge, skills and abilities required for post-secondary success. Development of a graduate profile to support accountability reform within Operation Polaris.

Steps: SBE approved November 8, 2021

January 2022 Update:

- Contract with vendor in pipeline for approval this month
- Work will include 8 in-person stakeholder engagement sessions and 1 virtual meeting
- Presented to 100+ educators at the AIM conference and received exceptional feedback
- Work will lay the groundwork for a new multi-measured accountability model
- NC Portrait scheduled to debut in late summer 2022

INSTRUCTIONAL AND LEADERSHIP COACHING SUPPORT: \$150,000

Business Owner: Edmonds, Jordan

January 2022 Update:

Description: The School Leadership Coach(es), in partnership with the transformation team in District and Regional Support will provide support to the state's three residential schools, Southside-Ashpole Elementary (ISD), and possibly designated lab schools while helping to build capacity to implement and sustain innovative, strategic, and results-oriented school-improvement strategies.

Steps: SBE approved November 8, 2021

RESEARCH & EVALUATION: \$500,000

Business Owner: Maher, Corn

Description: Contract with third party entities to collect, analyze, and report qualitative data related to learning recovery programs including School Extension, Summer Bridge (PRC 176), and Career Accelerator programs (PRC 177).

Steps: SBE approved November 8, 2021

January 2022 Update:

- Call for qualitative research partners went out November 22
- Webinar held November 29
- Research plans due December 21
- Partners announced January 14
- OLR envisions ~4 region-based studies: East (SBE Districts 1-2); Triangle (SBE Districts 3-4); Piedmont (SBE Districts 5-6); West (SBE Districts 7-8)
- Budget Range: \$75,000-\$125,000

TEACHNC: \$100,000

Business Owner: Tomberlin,
Edmonds

Description: FTE to support the nation-wide teacher recruitment effort that is supported by Teach.org

Steps: SBE approved November 8, 2021

January 2022 Update:

The TeachNC position was created in SL 2021-180. These funds can be reassigned.

UNC WORLDVIEW: \$150,000

Business Owner: Taylor

January 2022 Update:

Description: FTE to support the nation-wide teacher recruitment effort that is supported by Teach.org

Steps: SBE approved November 8, 2021

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL PROFILES: \$175,000

Business Owner: Taylor

January 2022 Update:

Description: Schools will be provided the resources to develop socio-emotional profiles on their student body. This data will be collected from a variety of resources including YRBS data. Schools will be able to catalogue various data points to determine COVID mitigation strategies impacting their students.

Steps: SBE approved November 8, 2021