

BSOP - PRC 201 - Educational and Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Awards

April 2024

Background

FUNDING SOURCE/AMOUNT:

- Session Law 2023-134 provides **\$1,000,000** from **Federal ESSER III funds** to continue the **Educational and Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Program** during the **2023-2024 school year**.
- The **initial window** for applications resulted in **46 applications with just over \$2.1 million** in funding.
 - SBE approved reallocating \$1,163,446 from PRC 189 Supplemental Academic Enrichment Program to PRC 201 Educational and Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Program.

Timeline

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• October, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget approved with funding for PRC 201- Robotics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• November 15, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guidance and Proposal documentation released to all PSUs
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• December 31, 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Application closed per legislation
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 7, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review committee established with representation from Office of Academic Standards, Digital Teaching and Learning, Office of Charter Schools, Learning Recovery and Acceleration, and Business Operations
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 31, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presented first set of recommendations to State Board of Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• March 7, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• State Board of Education approved transfer of funds from PRC 189 Supplemental Academic Enrichment Program to PRC 201 - After School Robotics Program

Request For Proposal

LEGISLATIVE PURPOSE:

- **Increase** the number of students demonstrating **proficiency in science and math**.
- Support schools in their efforts to **increase** the number of **students** interested in pursuing **education and career opportunities** in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (**STEM**).

Funds may be used for:

- Establishing a relationship with a **robotics partner**, purchasing **robotics kits**.
- Paying **fees** (registration, membership, etc.) incurred as part of the administration of a robotics team, providing **stipends** for coaches
- Making payments associated with **participation** in a **robotics league or robotics competition** (e.g., travel, tools, equipment, uniforms, promotional items, etc).

Robotics Partner

Defined in Statute:

- **Third-party entity** (e.g., nonprofit organization or institution of higher education)
- **Approved** by the Department of Public Instruction
- Ability to provide adequate **support** for an **after-school robotics program**

In order to provide adequate support, a robotics partner must meet ***all*** of the following criteria:

- Have a **national presence** in robotics education and competition.
- Provide adequate **instruction and programming** for students and adult volunteers in (i) robotics education, (ii) **project-based** learning, and (iii) **competitive robotics**.
- Promote a **safe and equitable** social environment (live or virtual).

Budget Requirements

The proposed budget must:

- Clearly **align** with program activities.
- Be **reasonable** and **necessary**.
- Provide a **breakdown** of costs by category.
- The district, charter, or lab must verify **no supplanting** occurs.

Review Process

- **46 applications with just over \$2.1 million** in requests
- **Inter-agency Review Team**
- **All applications were evaluated by each reviewer.**
- **Robotics Rubric: 5 Components with each component receiving a rating and a maximum overall score for the application of 75**
 - Demographics
 - Description of Service Model
 - Operational Capacity
 - Evaluation Capacity
 - Budget Narrative and Alignment
- SBE approved 22 applications in January that fit within the \$1million funded by SL 2023-134.
- These additional 23 represent those that could not be funded due to budgetary constraints.

Targeted Areas for Consideration

- **Quality** of the application based on the grant rubric
- Priority for **new** applications or those who did not receive an award under the previous grant application
- **Sought to maximize** funding to serve the greatest number of robotics teams to **increase student participation** across a **broad geographical distribution**.
- Schools serving **economically disadvantaged** populations.
- **First time teams** participating in Robotics competitions.
- Districts establishing **feeder teams to build sustainability**.
- Schools ready and able to implement in the **2023-24 season**

Recommendations

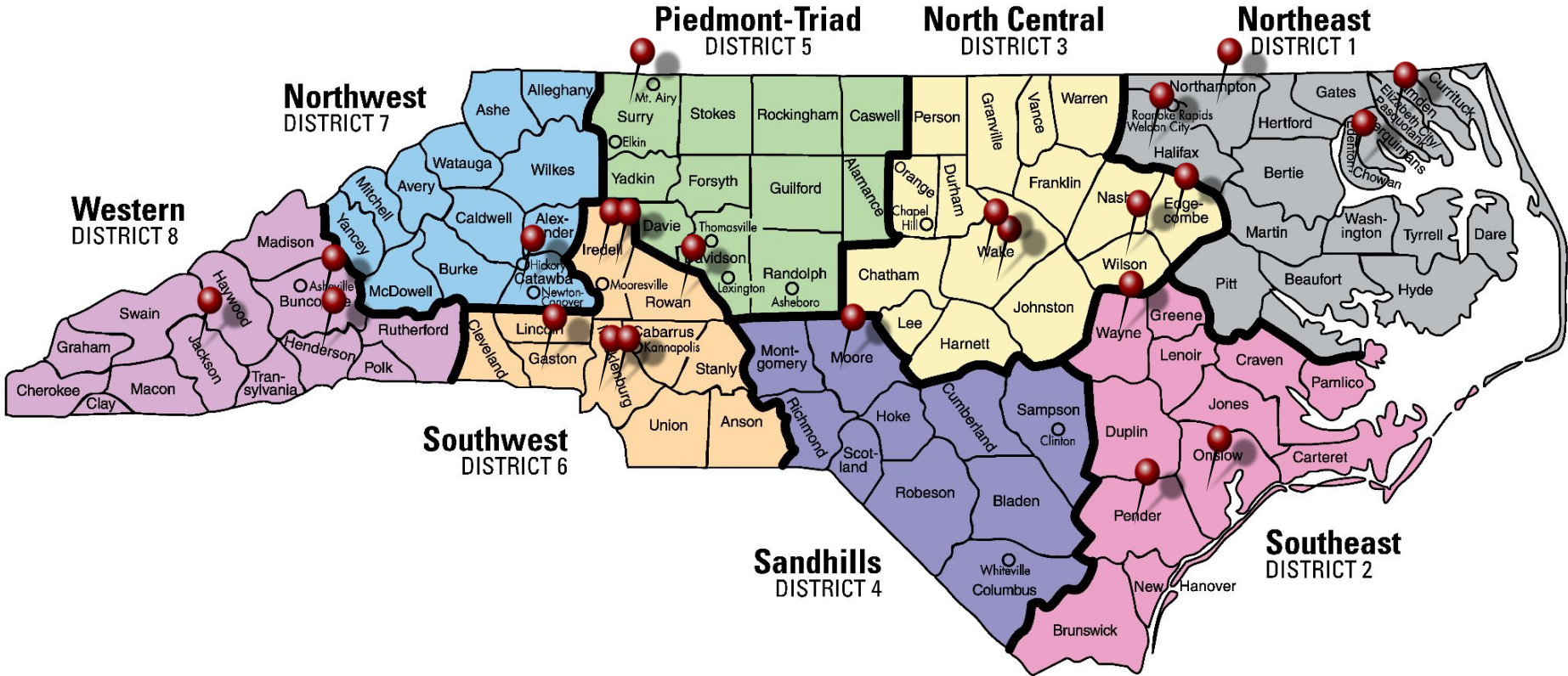
Approve requests from these 23 PSUs totaling \$1,123,454,41

- Additional recommended PSUs represent:
 - All 8 State Board Regions
 - 15 LEAs and 8 Charter Schools

Applications Recommended for Funding

Region	Number of Applicants	Amount of Funding Recommended
Northeast	4	\$192,102.54
Southeast	3	\$220,160.00
North Central	4	\$150,392.62
Sandhills	1	\$43,131.20
Piedmont - Triad	1	\$70,780.00
Southwest	6	\$240,053.57
Northwest	1	\$65,664.48
Western	3	\$141,170.00
TOTALS	23	\$1,123,454,41

Geographic Distribution of Recommended Grant Recipients



Applications Recommended for Funding

PSU	Region	Award Amount
American Renaissance School	Southwest	\$75,000.00
Buncombe County Schools	Western	\$54,230.00
Catawba County Schools	Northwest	\$65,664.48
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	Southwest	\$49,812.00
Edenton-Chowan Schools	Northeast	\$62,000.00
Edgecombe County Public Schools	North Central	\$70,823.38
Henderson County Schools	Western	\$61,940.00
Iredell Charter Academy of Arts and Sciences	southwest	\$6,649.00

Applications Recommended for Funding

PSU	Region	Award Amount
Jackson County Public Schools	Western	\$25,000.00
Lake Norman Charter	Southwest	\$10,000.00
Magellan Charter	North Central	\$8,778.24
Moore Montessori Community School	Sandhills	\$43,131.20
Mountain Island Charter	Southwest	\$25,000.00
Northampton County Schools	Northeast	\$34,300.00
Northeast Academy of Aerospace & Adv. Tech	Northeast	\$24,500.00
Onslow County Schools	Southeast	\$75,000.00

Applications Recommended for Funding

PSU	Region	Award Amount
Pender County Schools	Southeast	\$75,000.00
Rowan-Salisbury Schools	Southwest	\$73,592.57
Surry County Schools	Piedmont-Triad	\$70,780.00
Triangle Math and Science Academy	North Central	\$37,691.00
Wayne County Public Schools	Southeast	\$70,160.00
Weldon City Schools	Northeast	\$71,302.54
Wilson County Schools	North Central	\$33,100.00

Total funding of PRC 201- After School Robotics

Total Funding & Distribution

Region	Number of Applicants	Amount of Funding Recommended
Northeast	7	\$277,123.54
Southeast	4	\$254,055.00
North Central	8	\$324,644.62
Sandhills	5	\$256,152.32
Piedmont - Triad	5	\$234,099.50
Southwest	8	\$353,230.31
Northwest	2	\$140,664.48
Western	6	\$285,534.70
TOTALS	45	\$2,125,504.47

Questions?

Howard Ginsburg

K-12 Integrative STEM Specialist

Office of Academic Standards

howard.ginsburg@dpi.nc.gov

Dr. Charles Aiken

Section Chief for Math, Science, STEM

Office of Academic Standards

charles.aiken@dpi.nc.gov