



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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TO: Directors, Exceptional Children Programs
Lead Administrators, Charter Schools
Directors, State-Operated Programs

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas

DATE: January 5, 2022

FUNDING FOR RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT OF RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS (RSPs) AND BUILDING CAPACITY TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS/ SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to continue allocating funding through PRC 118 to support retention, recruitment, and Professional Learning (PL) of related service providers. These funds will also support capacity building for related service programs and programs/services of students with ASD. These funds are intended to assist LEAs in:

- Recruiting and retaining related service personnel and developing related service programs for:
 - Occupational therapy practitioners (OT/OTA)
 - Physical therapy practitioner (PT/PTA)
 - Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP)
 - School Psychologists
 - Orientation and Mobility Specialists (O&M)
 - Audiologists
 - Educational Interpreters/Transliterators*

*Please note that Educational Interpreters/Transliterators must have met the minimum requirements to serve as an interpreter in the public schools.

(1) Related Service Retention

For the 2021-2022 school year, traditional PSUs will receive \$4,500 for OT, PT, SLP, School Psychologists and an additional \$1,000 for each of the following services that are provided:

Educational Audiologists, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, and Educational Interpreters/Transliterators. Charter schools/state-operated programs will receive \$900 for OT, PT, SLP, School Psychology and an additional \$200 each for each of the following services that are provided: Educational Audiologists, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, and Educational Interpreters/Transliterators. The funds should support representation for each PSU at two statewide/lead meetings each school year (travel, lodging and subsistence). Each Exceptional Children Director should identify an individual from each discipline to attend each meeting. Additionally, these funds are intended to support recruitment and retention of related service providers through professional learning, supporting initiatives, building capacity and/or programs for all related services staff.

Representatives who attend these lead meetings should disseminate information to colleagues to promote best practices throughout the PSU. **These funds cannot be used for positions or service delivery contracts, purchase classroom-specific or student-specific materials.**

Please find below additional suggestions for use of the funds through PRC 118 RSP allocation:

- Reimbursement for state licensure

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- Reimbursement for individual malpractice insurance
- Reimbursement for continuing competence activities
- Reimbursement for membership in professional organizations
- Professional journal subscriptions and other professional resources
- PSU library of professional resources (as above) and reference materials phones/communication)
- Assessment and treatment materials

(2) Capacity Building in the Area of Services for Students with ASD

Allocations should be used to increase capacity in the implementation of quality programming, including the use of evidence-based practices, to improve outcomes for students with ASD. Two levels of support are available: General and Team. Allocation amounts were determined based on a review of PSU Requests for Funding and Average Daily Membership (ADM), and will be communicated individually to PSUs by their regional Autism Consultant in the near future.

Current carryover funds may be utilized for any expenditure delineated in the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction [Chart of Accounts](#). Allocated funds for 2021-2022 are to be utilized following the guidelines below.

General Support

Utilize funds through PRC 118 (Autism) to access ASD specific PL for the purpose of increasing educators' knowledge and use of Evidence-Based Practices (EBPs) to provide services to students with ASD.

Team Support

Utilize funds through PRC 118 (Autism) to:

- Access PL for the purpose of increasing educators' implementation of effective services to students with ASD
- To develop or maintain an Autism Support Team with the skills needed to provide support within the PSU
- To provide PL and ongoing support within the PSU.

Funds should be used to build capacity by providing educators access to PL (including registration fees, travel, and lodging, if in person, and providing substitute teachers) and through local training efforts. Allocations can also be used to support the provision of ongoing support through coaching, consultation, networking, and other job-embedded support mechanisms. The PSU can use funds to purchase resources needed to support ASD specific training and ongoing support efforts. **Funds should not be used for any student specific needs, payment of stipends, funding of positions, service delivery contracts, certifications/licensure, membership/subscriptions, digital resources, or to cover indirect costs.**

The [Decision Making Flow Chart](#) should be used when spending the allotted funds from 2021-2022 to ensure that they are aligned with allowable expenses.

Expenses should align with PSU Self-Assessment priorities. For PSUs receiving Autism Team Support funding, expenses should align with the professional learning and ongoing support delineated in their Request for Funding. In addition, PSUs receiving Team Level support must submit an End of Year Report, which will be due on June 1, 2022.

Additional Information

PSUs are encouraged to spend or encumber these funds (RSP and ASD) by June 30, 2022. Expenditures must be reported in the end-of-year Combined Expenditure Report (CER).

Questions regarding funding through PRC 118 for Related Service Personnel Support and capacity building in the area of services for students with ASD can be directed to Dreama McCoy, Section Chief of Supporting Teaching and Related Services, dreama.mccoy@dpi.nc.gov or Matt Hoskins, Assistant Director, matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov.

For questions regarding content-specific meetings or appropriate expenditure or suggestions, please contact the appropriate consultant:

RSP

- o Bridgette LeCompte, Consultant for Occupational Therapy
Bridgette.LeCompte@dpi.nc.gov
- o Laurie Ray, Consultant for Physical Therapy and Medicaid
laurie.ray@dpi.nc.gov
- o Perry Flynn, Consultant for Speech-Language Pathology
pfflynn@uncg.edu
- o Lynn Makor, Consultant for School Psychology
lynn.makor@dpi.nc.gov
- o Sherri Vernelson, Support for Audiology
Sherri.Vernelson@dpi.nc.gov
- o Antwan Campbell, Consultant for Deaf/Hard of Hearing and Interpreter Support
Antwan.Campbell@dpi.nc.gov
- o Crystal Patrick, Consultant for Vision Impairment and O&M Support
Crystal.Patrick@dpi.nc.gov

ASD

- o Nancy Childress, Consultant for Autism (NC & SH Regions)
Nancy.Childress@dpi.nc.gov
- o Maureen Kaniuka, Consultant for Autism (SE & NE Regions)
Maureen.Kaniuka@dpi.nc.gov
- o Amanda Passmore, Consultant for Autism (PT & SW Regions)
Amanda.Passmore@dpi.nc.gov
- o Heidi Carico, Consultant for Autism (NW and W Regions)
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