



NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

Catherine Truitt, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

www.dpi.nc.gov

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

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas, Senior Director *STH*

DATE: October 26, 2022

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION FOR 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 PRC 118 funds to support recruitment, retention and professional learning (PL) of related service providers and Autism Support Teams. Funds are intended to assist Public School Units (PSUs) to:

- Recruit related service personnel,
- Retain related service personnel and
- Develop professional learning programs for:
 - Occupational Therapy (OT)
 - Physical Therapy (PT)
 - Speech-Language Services (SLP)
 - Psychological Services
 - Orientation and Mobility (O&M)
 - Audiology
 - Educational Interpretation/Transliteration*
 - Autism Support Teams

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

Related Service Providers

For the 2022-2023 school year traditional PSUs will receive a total of **\$4,500** (OT, PT, SLP, Psychological Services) and an additional **\$1,000** for the following services that are provided: Educational Audiologists, Orientation and Mobility Specialists, and Educational Interpreters/Translitterators. Charter schools/ state-operated programs will receive a total of **\$900** (OT, PT, SLP, School Psychology) and an additional **\$200** for the following services that are provided: Educational Audiology, Orientation & Mobility, and Educational Interpretation/Transliteration.

The funds should support representation for each PSU at two statewide/lead meetings each school year (travel, lodging and subsistence). Each Exceptional Children Director/Coordinator should identify an individual (may be an employee or contractor) from each discipline to attend each meeting. Representatives who participate in statewide/lead meetings should disseminate information to colleagues to promote best practices throughout the PSU. These PRC 118 funds are also intended to support other professional development and initiatives, build capacity and/or programs for all related services staff, such as participation in conferences or virtual professional learning opportunities.

This allocation cannot be used to fund positions, purchase classroom-specific or student-specific materials, or pay for service delivery contracts.

OFFICE OF EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Please find suggestions below for appropriate use of the PRC 118 RSP allocation:

- Reimbursement for state licensure fees
- Reimbursement for individual malpractice insurance
- Reimbursement for continuing competence and professional development activities
- Reimbursement for membership in professional organizations
- Professional journal subscriptions and other professional resources
- PSU library of professional resources (as above) and reference materials
- Administrative supports and technology for itinerant providers (e.g., laptops, mobile phones/communication)
- Assessment and treatment materials/supplies

Capacity Building in the Area of Support for Students with ASD

Allocations should be used to increase capacity in the implementation of an effective autism program support to improve outcomes for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (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.

Allocated funds for 2022-2023 are to be utilized following the guidelines below.

General Support

Utilize PRC 118 Autism funds to access ASD specific PL for the purpose of increasing educators' knowledge and use of evidence-based programming in the provision of services to students with ASD.

Team Support

Utilize PRC 118 Autism funds to:

- Access PL for the purpose of increasing educators' implementation of effective services to students with ASD.
- Develop or maintain an Autism Support Team (AST) with the skills needed to provide support within the PSU.
- Provide professional learning (PL) and ongoing support (including but not limited to consultation, coaching, PLCs, etc.) within the PSU.

Allocations 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 for 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 professional learning and ongoing support efforts. Consumable materials (i.e., make and take materials) are limited to no more than 20% of the PSU's allocated PRC 118 AU funds. **Allocations 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 2022-2023 to ensure that they are aligned with allowable expenses.

Other Support

PSUs are encouraged to spend or encumber these PRC 118 funds (RSP and ASD) by June 30, 2023. Expenditures must be reported in the Combined Expenditure Report (CER) as required by the Office of Exceptional Children. PSU's should receive their personalized CER by the end of 2022.

Questions regarding PRC 118 funding for related service personnel support and capacity building in the area of services for students with ASD can be directed to Dreama McCoy, dreama.mccoy@dpi.nc.gov or Matt Hoskins, Assistant Director, matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov. For questions regarding appropriate expenditure or content-specific meetings, 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
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- o Perry Flynn, Consultant for Speech-Language Pathology
pfflynn@uncg.edu
- o Lynn Makor, Consultant for Psychological Services
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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SHT/DM/AP/lr