

North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission

2025-26 Grade Expansion Grantee Recommendations

*Jacqueline Wyatt
Career Readiness Specialist
Career and Technical Education
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction*





Education and Workforce Innovation Commission

The Commission shall consist of the following 14 members:

- The Secretary of Commerce (or designee)
- The State Superintendent of Public Instruction (or designee)
- The Chair of the State Board of Education (or designee)
- The President of the University of North Carolina (or designee)
- The President of the North Carolina Community College System (or designee)
- Three appointed members by the Governor who have experience in education
- Three appointed members by the General Assembly upon recommendation of the Speaker of the House of Representatives who have experience in businesses operating in North Carolina
- Three appointed members by the General Assembly upon the recommendation of the President Pro Tempore of the Senate who have experience in businesses operating in North Carolina



Education and Workforce Innovation Commission

§ 115C-64.15

“The Commission shall be located administratively in the Department of Public Instruction but shall exercise all its prescribed powers independently of the Department of Public Instruction.”

“The Commission shall develop and administer the Education and Workforce Innovation Program, as established under G.S. 115C-64.16, and make awards of grants under the Program.

“The Commission shall develop and administer, in coordination with the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program, as established under G.S. 115C-64.17, and shall make awards of grants under the Program.



Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Grant Program

§ 115C-64.17

“There is established the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program to expand career and technical education (CTE) programs by prioritizing the inclusion of students in sixth and seventh grade through grant awards provided to selected local school administrative units for up to seven years.”

“Grant funds shall be used only for employing additional licensed personnel in career and technical education areas, career development coordination areas, and support service areas necessary for expanding the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade students.”



Consideration of Factors in Awarding Grants

§ 115C-64.17

1. A plan for expansion of the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade students, the significance of CTE in the local school administrative unit, and how a grade expansion would enhance the education program and the community.
2. A request for the amount of funds, a description of how the funds will be used, and any other sources of funds available to accomplish the purposes of this program.
3. A proposed budget for seven years that provides detail on the use of the amount of funds to add personnel, increase career development efforts, and provide support services.
4. A strategy to achieve meaningful analysis of program outcomes due to the receipt of grant funds under this section.



Process of Allocating Funds

Per § 115C-64.17

“Of the funds available for the Program in each fiscal year, the Commission shall first allocate funds to applicants who received grant funds for the prior fiscal year for up to seven years. After funds are allocated to prior fiscal year grant recipients, any remaining funds may be used by the Commission to select new grant recipients.”



Grade Expansion Grant Parameters

- The maximum budget amount is \$65,000 per grant year.
- The current grant cycle is one year.



Grade Expansion Grant Parameters

- This year, the EWIC Commission formed a subcommittee to generate a rigorous new scoring rubric based on legislated consideration of factors in awarding grants. The Commission also updated the application to reflect the scoring rubric and change in grant funding amount per grantee from \$50,000 to \$65,000.
- Per EWIC vote, EWIC Commissioners must score the grants in an allotted time period after the grant application deadline.
- Each application was scored by three Commissioners, producing fair and average final scores.



Application Scoring Process

- There were 64 applications submitted for this competitive grant for the 2025-26 school year.
- Per legislation, the Commission must give priority to previous grantees during the awarding process.
- After a lengthy discussion on the applications, legislation, and grant parameters, the Commission voted to recommend the 27 recurring grantees who reapplied to the State Board for approval for the upcoming grant cycle. This allowed the Commission to fund their other grant, the Innovation Grant, as well.



2025-26 Grant Recommendations

PSU or School Name	Amount Requested	State Board Region
Alexander County Schools	\$65,000.00	Northwest - District 7
Alleghany County Schools	\$65,000.00	Northwest - District 7
Brunswick County Schools	\$65,000.00	Southeast - District 2
Cabarrus County Schools	\$65,000.00	Southwest - District 6
Carteret County Schools	\$65,000.00	Southeast - District 2
Cumberland County Schools	\$65,000.00	Sandhills - District 4
Currituck County Schools	\$59,446.30	Northeast - District 1
Elkin City Schools	\$65,000.00	Piedmont -Triad - District 5
Franklin County Schools	\$65,000.00	North Central - District 3
Hickory City Schools	\$65,000.00	Northwest - District 7
Hyde County Schools	\$65,000.00	Northeast - District 1
Johnston County Schools	\$65,000.00	North Central - District 3
Lenoir County Schools	\$65,000.00	Southeast - District 2
Martin County Schools	\$62,089.00	Northeast - District 1
McDowell County Schools	\$65,000.00	Northwest - District 7
Mount Airy City Schools	\$65,000.00	Piedmont -Triad - District 5
Mountain Island Charter School	\$65,000.00	Southwest - District 6
New Hanover County Schools	\$65,000.00	Southeast - District 2
North East Carolina Preparatory School	\$62,500.00	North Central - District 3
Pender County Schools	\$65,000.00	Southeast - District 2
Randolph County Schools	\$65,000.00	Piedmont -Triad - District 5
Roanoke Rapids County Schools	\$65,000.00	Northeast - District 1
Robeson County Schools	\$65,000.00	Sandhills - District 4
Rockingham County Schools	\$64,325.40	Piedmont -Triad - District 5
Sampson County Schools	\$27,642.37	Sandhills - District 4
Surry County Schools	\$65,000.00	Piedmont -Triad - District 5
Wilkes County Schools	\$65,000.00	Northwest - District 7
\$1,706,003.07		



Thank you.

Questions?

