



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *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 *SHC*

DATE: January 30, 2020

FUNDING: SUPPORT FOR RECRUITING AND RETAINING RELATED SERVICES PERSONNEL RETENTION & CAPACITY BUILDING IN THE AREA OF SERVICES FOR STUDENTS WITH AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD)

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to continue allocating PRC 118 funds to support retention and Professional Learning (PL) of related service personnel and capacity building in the area of services for students with ASD. These funds will be released in the near future and are intended to assist LEAs in:

- Recruiting and retaining Related Service personnel and developing related service programs for
 - Occupational Therapists (OT)
 - Physical Therapists (PT)
 - Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP)
 - School Psychologists
 - Orientation and Mobility Specialist (O&M)
 - Audiologists
- Capacity building (staff knowledge and skills) in the area of services for students with ASD through professional learning (PL) and ongoing support.

Related Services Recruitment and Retention

For the 2019-2020 school year traditional LEAs will receive \$4,500 each. Charter schools/state-operated programs will receive \$900 each. This will assist to support LEA representation at two statewide lead meetings this school year (travel, lodging and subsistence). Through PRC 118, each Exceptional Children Director should identify an individual from each discipline to attend each meeting. The PRC 118 funds are also intended to support other professional development and/or capacity building initiatives for all related services staff, such as participation in the Pre-Conference on Exceptional Children/Conference Institutes and Summer Institutes (<http://ec.ncpublicschools.gov/conferences-profdev/annual-conference>).

Representatives who attend these PL sessions are expected to disseminate information to colleagues to promote best practices throughout the LEA. **These funds cannot be used to fund positions, purchase classroom-specific or student-specific materials, or pay for service delivery contracts.**

Please find below additional approved use of the PRC 118 RSP allocation:

- Reimbursement for state licensure
- Reimbursement for individual malpractice insurance
- Reimbursement for continuing competence activities
- Reimbursement for membership in professional organizations
- Professional journal subscriptions and other professional resources

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

- LEA library of professional resources (as above) and reference materials
- Administrative supports and technology for itinerant providers (e.g. laptops, mobile phones/communication equipment)
- Assessment and treatment materials

Capacity Building in the Area of Services for Students with ASD

Allocations should be used to build capacity (staff knowledge and skills) in the provision of services to students with ASD. Two levels of support are available: General and Team. Allocation amounts were determined based on a review of LEA applications, considering previous use of funds, and will be communicated individually to LEAs by their regional Autism Consultant in the near future.

General Support

To utilize PRC 118 Autism funds 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

To utilize PRC 118 Autism funds to:

- Access ASD specific PL for the purpose of increasing educators' knowledge and use of EBPs to provide services to students with ASD.
- To develop or maintain an Autism Support Team with the skills needed to provide support within the LEA.
- To provide PL and ongoing support within the LEA.

Allocations should be used to build capacity by sending educators to PL (including travel, lodging, and substitutes) and through local training efforts. The LEA can use funds to purchase materials needed to provide ASD specific training. However, materials can compromise no more than 10% of the allocated PRC 118 Autism funds. Allocations can also be used to support the provision of ongoing support through coaching, consultation, networking, and other job-embedded support mechanisms. **It should not be used for any student specific needs, paid websites, payment of stipends, funding of positions, service delivery contracts, certifications, or to cover indirect costs.**

Expenses should align with LEA Self-Assessment priorities. For LEAs receiving Team Support funding, expenses should align with the professional learning and ongoing support delineated in their Request for Funding. In addition, Team Support LEAs must submit the End of Year Report, which will be due on June 1, 2020.

Expenditures **must** be reported in the end-of-year CER and returned by July 1, 2020.

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 at dreama.mccoy@dpi.nc.gov or Matt Hoskins, Assistant Director at matt.hoskins@dpi.nc.gov.

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

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