

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019**

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**HOUSE BILL 74**

Short Title: 2019 School Safety Grants Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Torbett, Lewis, Dobson, and Bell (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Appropriations, Education, if favorable, Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

February 14, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO ENACT THE 2019 SCHOOL SAFETY GRANTS PROGRAM AND TO INCREASE FUNDING FOR SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER GRANTS, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL SAFETY.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.(a)** Definitions. – For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

- (1) Community partner. – A public or private entity, including, but not limited to, a nonprofit corporation or a local management entity/managed care organization (LME/MCO), that partners with a local school administrative unit to provide services or pay for the provision of services for the unit.
- (2) Public school unit. – A local school administrative unit, regional school, innovative school, laboratory school, or charter school.
- (3) School mental health support personnel. – School nurses, school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers.

**SECTION 1.(b)** Program; Purpose. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall establish the 2019 School Safety Grants Program (program). The purpose of the program shall be to improve safety in public school units by providing grants for (i) services for students in crisis, (ii) school safety training, (iii) safety equipment in schools, and (iv) school mental health support personnel.

**SECTION 1.(c)** Grant Applications. – A public school unit or community partner, as appropriate, may submit an application to the Superintendent of Public Instruction for a grant pursuant to this section. The application shall include an assessment, to be performed in conjunction with a local law enforcement agency, of the need for improving school safety within the public school unit that would receive the funding or services. The application shall identify current and ongoing needs and estimated costs associated with those needs.

**SECTION 1.(d)** Criteria and Guidelines. – By August 1, 2019, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall develop criteria and guidelines for the administration and use of the grants pursuant to this section, including any documentation required to be submitted by applicants. In assessing grant applications, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall consider at least all of the following factors:

- (1) The level of resources available to the public school unit that would receive the funding or services.



- 1 (2) Whether the public school unit has received other grants of funding for school  
2 safety.  
3 (3) The overall impact on student safety in the public school unit if the identified  
4 needs are funded.

5 **SECTION 1.(e)** Grants for Students in Crisis. – Of the funds appropriated to the  
6 Department of Public Instruction by this act for the program in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the  
7 Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human  
8 Services, shall use up to four million five hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$4,580,000) in  
9 recurring funds to award grants to community partners to provide or pay for the provision of any  
10 of the following crisis services:

- 11 (1) Crisis respite services for parents or guardians of an individual student to  
12 prevent more intensive or costly levels of care.  
13 (2) Training and expanded services for therapeutic foster care families and  
14 licensed child placement agencies that provide services to students who (i)  
15 need support to manage their health, welfare, and safety and (ii) have any of  
16 the following:  
17 a. Cognitive or behavioral problems.  
18 b. Developmental delays.  
19 c. Aggressive behavior.  
20 (3) Evidence-based therapy services aligned with targeted training for students  
21 and their parents or guardians, including any of the following:  
22 a. Parent-child interaction therapy.  
23 b. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.  
24 c. Dialectical behavior therapy.  
25 d. Child-parent psychotherapy.  
26 (4) Any other crisis service, including peer-to-peer mentoring, that is likely to  
27 increase school safety. Of the funds allocated to the Superintendent for grants  
28 pursuant to this section, the Superintendent shall not use more than ten percent  
29 (10%) for the services identified in this subdivision.

30 **SECTION 1.(f)** Grants for Training to Increase School Safety. – Of the funds  
31 appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction by this act for the program in the 2019-2020  
32 fiscal year, the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of  
33 Health and Human Services, shall use up to four million five hundred seventy thousand dollars  
34 (\$4,570,000) in recurring funds to award grants to community partners that will address school  
35 safety by providing training to help students develop healthy responses to trauma and stress. The  
36 training shall be targeted and evidence-based and shall include any of the following services:

- 37 (1) Counseling on Access to Lethal Means (CALM) training for school mental  
38 health support personnel, local first responders, and teachers on the topics of  
39 suicide prevention and reducing access by students to lethal means.  
40 (2) Training for school mental health support personnel on comprehensive and  
41 evidence-based clinical treatments for students and their parents or guardians,  
42 including any of the following:  
43 a. Parent-child interaction therapy.  
44 b. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.  
45 c. Behavioral therapy.  
46 d. Dialectical behavior therapy.  
47 e. Child-parent psychotherapy.  
48 (3) Training for students and school employees on community resilience models  
49 to improve understanding and responses to trauma and significant stress.

- 1 (4) Training for school mental health support personnel on Modular Approach to  
2 Therapy for Children with Anxiety, Depression, Trauma, or Conduct  
3 problems (MATCH-ADTC), including any of the following components:  
4 a. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.  
5 b. Parent and student coping skills.  
6 c. Problem solving.  
7 d. Safety planning.
- 8 (5) Any other training, including the training on the facilitation of peer-to-peer  
9 mentoring, that is likely to increase school safety. Of the funds allocated to  
10 the Superintendent for grants pursuant to this section, the Superintendent shall  
11 not use more than ten percent (10%) for the services identified in this  
12 subdivision.

13 **SECTION 1.(g)** Grants for Safety Equipment. – Of the funds appropriated to the  
14 Department of Public Instruction by this act for the program in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the  
15 Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Health and Human  
16 Services, shall use up to six million one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$6,140,000) in  
17 nonrecurring funds to award grants to local school administrative units, regional schools,  
18 innovative schools, or laboratory schools for the purchase of safety equipment for  
19 government-owned school buildings.

20 **SECTION 1.(h)** Grants for School Mental Health Support Personnel. – Of the funds  
21 appropriated to the Department of Public Instruction by this act for the program in the 2019-2020  
22 fiscal year, the Superintendent of Public Instruction shall use up to eighteen million two hundred  
23 thousand dollars (\$18,200,000) in recurring funds to award grants to public school units to  
24 provide all or a portion of the salary and benefits costs needed to employ additional school mental  
25 health support personnel on a full-time, part-time, or contractual basis. Grants shall be matched  
26 on the basis of two dollars (\$2.00) in State funds for every one dollar (\$1.00) in non-State funds.

27 **SECTION 1.(i)** Supplement Not Supplant. – Grants provided to public school units  
28 or community partners pursuant to the program shall be used to supplement and not to supplant  
29 State or non-State funds already provided for these services.

30 **SECTION 1.(j)** Administrative Costs. – Of the funds appropriated to the Department  
31 of Public Instruction by this act for the program in the 2019-2020 fiscal year, the Superintendent  
32 of Public Instruction may retain up to one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2019-2020  
33 fiscal year for administrative costs associated with the program.

34 **SECTION 1.(k)** Report. – No later than April 1, 2020, the Superintendent of Public  
35 Instruction shall report on the program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee,  
36 the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services, the Joint Legislative  
37 Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety, the Joint Legislative Commission on  
38 Governmental Operations, and the Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the identity  
39 of each entity that received a grant through the program, the amount of funding provided to each  
40 entity that received a grant, the use of funds by each entity that received a grant, and  
41 recommendations for the implementation of additional effective school safety measures.

42 **SECTION 2.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
43 Public Instruction for the 2019-2020 fiscal year the following sums for the following purposes:

- 44 (1) The sum of six million one hundred forty thousand dollars (\$6,140,000) in  
45 nonrecurring funds for school safety equipment pursuant to Section 1(g) of  
46 this act.
- 47 (2) The sum of thirty-five million fifty thousand dollars (\$35,050,000) in  
48 recurring funds for (i) grants for students in crisis pursuant to Section 1(e) of  
49 this act, (ii) grants for school safety training pursuant to Section 1(f) of this  
50 act, (iii) grants for school mental health support personnel pursuant to Section  
51 1(h) of this act, and (iv), beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year, an

1 additional seven million seven hundred thousand dollars (\$7,700,000) in  
2 recurring funds for school resource officers in accordance with the grant  
3 program established pursuant to Section 7.27(e) of S.L. 2018-5.

4 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019.