



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | Mark Johnson, *Superintendent of Public Instruction*

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MEMORANDUM

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

FROM: Sherry H. Thomas, Interim Director
Exceptional Children Division *SHH*

DATE: November 8, 2018

SUBJECT: Funding through PRC 118 for Capacity Building for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

The Exceptional Children Division is pleased to continue allocating PRC 118 funds to educators who support students with ASD. LEAs were provided the opportunity to apply for two distinct levels of funding for the 2018-2019 school year: General Support and Team Support.

These funds are intended to assist LEAs in Capacity building (staff knowledge and skills) in services for students with ASD through professional learning (PL) and ongoing support. **These funds should not be used to fund positions, purchase classroom-specific or student-specific materials, or pay for service delivery contracts.**

General Support

Utilize PRC 118 Autism funds to:

- Access and provide ASD specific PL for increasing educators' knowledge and use of Evidence Based Practices (EBPs) to provide services to students with ASD.

Team Support

Utilize PRC 118 Autism funds to:

- Access ASD specific PL for increasing educators' knowledge and use of EBPs to provide services to students with ASD.
- Develop or maintain an Autism Support Team with the skills needed to provide support within the LEA.
- Provide PL and ongoing support within the LEA through consultation and/or coaching.
- Purchase curricula and/or book resources to support PL and ongoing support (i.e.: books for a book study, not to stock a lending library)
 - No more than 20% of your allotment may be spent to purchase materials.
 - If you are planning to purchase materials, it is recommended that you encumber those funds prior to April 2019.

Since there has been some misunderstanding regarding the appropriate use of PRC 118 Autism funds in previous years, below is further clarification.

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN DIVISION

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AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY/AFFIRMATIVE ACTION EMPLOYER

Examples of funding uses that are allowed:

- Sending staff to local, state, and national conferences relative to ASD (registration fees, substitute pay, mileage and travel costs).
- Providing PL and ongoing support relative to ASD to staff within the LEA (substitute pay, curricula, and/or book resources needed to meet the needs).

Examples of funding uses that are not allowed:

- Classroom-specific or student-specific materials
- Resource/lending library materials
- Hardware (Smart Boards, iPads/other tablets, iPods, computers, laptops, printers, laminator, etc.)
- Software (Boardmaker, TeachTown, Classroom Suite, etc.), iTunes/Google Play Store cards
- Professional organization memberships/certifications
- Parent nights
- Indirect costs
- Funding of stipends, positions, service delivery contracts or workman's compensation

If your LEA has carryover funds, it is recommended that they are utilized prior to spending your new allocation. You are also encouraged to spend or encumber your entire allotment prior to the end of the 2018-2019 fiscal year, due to the possibility that carryover may have a negative impact on your funding in the future. Expenditures **must** be reported in the mid-year Combined Expenditure Report (CER) by January 31, 2019 and the end-of-year CER by July 15, 2019.

Priorities should align with your LEA Self-Assessment. For LEAs receiving funding, expenses should align with the PL and ongoing support delineated in their Request for Funding. In addition, LEAs must submit the End of Year Report, which will be due on May 31, 2019.

Questions regarding PRC 118 funding for capacity building for students with ASD can be directed to Dreama McCoy, Section Chief, at dreama.mccoy@dpi.nc.gov or (919) 807-3920.

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

- Maureen Kaniuka, Consultant for Autism (SE & NE Regions)
maureen.kaniuka@dpi.nc.gov
(910) 604-1912
- Nancy Childress, Consultant for Autism (NC & SH Regions)
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- Amanda Passmore, Consultant for Autism (PT & SW Regions)
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- Heidi Carico, Consultant for Autism (NW and W Regions)
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SHT/DM/ap