

- 1 (1) The total number of recipients shall not exceed 20 public school units.
- 2 (2) Recipients shall reflect the geographic diversity of the State.
- 3 (3) Recipients shall reflect the population diversity of public school units in the
- 4 State by selecting recipients from the following:
- 5 a. Up to five public school units consisting of no more than one school.
- 6 b. Up to five units with an average daily membership from the previous
- 7 school year of 4,000 students or fewer.
- 8 c. Up to five units with an average daily membership from the previous
- 9 school year of between 4,001 and 20,000 students.
- 10 d. Up to five units with an average daily membership from the previous
- 11 school year of 20,001 students or greater.

12 If there are fewer than five applicants in any of the categories listed in subdivision (3)
13 of this subsection, the Superintendent may, in the Superintendent's discretion, award additional
14 grants to applicants from other categories.

15 **SECTION 1.(e)** Initial Report. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall
16 submit an initial report on the application process for the Program to the Joint Legislative
17 Education Oversight Committee by May 15, 2024. The initial report shall include the following:

- 18 (1) A list of public school units that applied for grants.
- 19 (2) A list of public school units that received grants.
- 20 (3) A summary of how the grant funds will be spent on Program activities
21 according to the plans submitted by grant recipients.
- 22 (4) Any other information the Superintendent deems relevant.

23 **SECTION 1.(f)** Final Report. – At the conclusion of the 2024-2025 school year,
24 public school units that received grants shall report to the Superintendent any information
25 required by the Superintendent on the outcomes of their plans. The Superintendent shall submit
26 a final report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee by December 15, 2025.
27 The final report shall include the following:

- 28 (1) An accounting of expenditures.
- 29 (2) The number and percentage of students enrolled in the school who participated
30 in the Program, including demographic data for participating students.
- 31 (3) Student performance data in STEM-related courses.
- 32 (4) How public school units would continue to use grant funds in the future if the
33 Program were to continue beyond the 2024-2025 school year.
- 34 (5) Any recommendations by the Superintendent to modify the Program to be
35 more effective at furthering the purpose of the Program.

36 **SECTION 1.(g)** It is the intent of the General Assembly to reauthorize this Program
37 for the 2025-2026 school year.

38 **SECTION 2.(a)** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to
39 the Department of Public Instruction the sum of one million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring
40 funds for the 2023-2024 fiscal year to implement the provisions of this act. These funds shall not
41 revert at the end of the 2023-2024 fiscal year but shall remain available until the end of the
42 2024-2025 fiscal year.

43 **SECTION 2.(b)** Evaluation. – As a condition of receipt of grant funds, a public
44 school unit shall designate both students who complete the grant-funded activities in the
45 Common Education Data Analysis and Reporting System and a matched set of students with
46 similar demographic characteristics who did not complete the grant-funded activities, when
47 possible, in a manner directed by the Department of Public Instruction that will allow future
48 analysis of outcomes for these students related to all of the following:

- 49 (1) Enrollment in STEM-related elective clusters in high school.
- 50 (2) Graduation from high school within four years of entry.

- 1 (3) Enrollment in a postsecondary STEM-related major, degree program, or
2 certificate program within three years of high school graduation.
3 (4) Completion of a postsecondary STEM-related major, degree program, or
4 certificate program within six years of high school graduation.
5 (5) Employment in a STEM-related field within eight years of high school
6 graduation.

7 The North Carolina Longitudinal Data System shall, in cooperation with all agencies
8 with relevant data, report annually to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee on
9 the outcomes for both groups of students on each available data point beginning December 15,
10 2028, and ending December 15, 2039.

11 **SECTION 3.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.