Disabilities Grant Program
Links and Definitions

“Academic Year” means two Semesters, beginning with the fall Semester.

“Authority” means the State Education Assistance Authority.

“Child with a disability” means a child with at least one disability who because of that disability requires special education and related services.

N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 115C-112.5(1a) and 115C-106.3(1).

“CPA” means a certified public accountant licensed by the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners.

Disability includes mental retardation; hearing impairment, including deafness; speech or language impairment; visual impairment, including blindness; serious emotional disturbance; orthopedic impairment; autism; traumatic brain injury; other health impairments, specific learning disability, or other disability as may be required to be included under IDEA. For a child ages three through seven, this term also includes developmental delay.

N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 115C-112.5(1b) and 115C-106.3 (2).

“Educational Technology” as defined by the Authority, means an item, piece of equipment, material, product, or system which may be purchased commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized and that is used primarily for education purposes for a Child with a Disability.

N.C. Gen Stat. § 115C-112.5(1c).

“Eligible School” means a North Carolina nonpublic school as defined in N.C. Gen Stat. § 115C-112.5(3) or a North Carolina public school for which the payment of tuition is required that has completed the Program registration process established by the Authority.

“Graduation Rate” means the percentage of Program recipients who started the fall Semester of their senior year and graduated.

“Grant” means funds awarded under the Program.

N.C. Gen Stat. § 115C-112.5(4).

“Home School” means a nonpublic school consisting of the children of not more than two families or households, where the parents or legal guardians or members of either household determine the scope and sequence of academic instruction, provide academic instruction, and determine additional sources of academic instruction.


“IDEA” means The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act, 20 U.S.C. § 1400, et seq., as amended, and federal regulations adopted under this act.

N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-106.3 (6).
"Individualized education program" or "IEP" means a written statement for each child with a disability that is developed, reviewed, implemented, and revised consistent with IDEA and State law.
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-106.3(8).

“Licensed Psychologist” means an individual who has been issued a license pursuant to the North Carolina Psychology Practice Act, 21 NCAC 54, whose license is in good standing and permits him or her to engage in the practice of psychology as defined in 21 NCAC 54 and who maintains a practice with a focus on school psychology.

"Local Educational Agency" or “LEA” includes any of the following that provides Special Education and Related Services to children with disabilities:
- A local school administrative unit;
- A charter school;
- The Department of Health and Human Services;
- The Division of Adult Correction of the Department of Public Safety;
- The Division of Juvenile Justice of the Department of Public Safety; and
- Any other State agency or unit of local government.
N.C. Gen. Stat. §§ 115C-106.3(11)

“Nationally Standardized Test” means a published, nationally normed test or other nationally standardized equivalent measurement which provides a valid and reliable measure of a student’s present achievement level in comparison with age or grade and also measures achievement in the areas of English grammar, reading, spelling, and mathematics.

"Parent" means:
- A natural, adoptive, or foster parent
- A guardian, but not the State if the child is a ward of the State
- An individual acting in the place of a natural or adoptive parent, including a grandparent, stepparent, or other relative, and with whom the child lives
- An individual who is legally responsible for the child's welfare
- A surrogate if one is appointed under G.S. 115C-109.2
N.C. Gen. Stat. § 115C-106.3 (14)

“Participation Agreement” means the agreement, in a form acceptable to the Authority, by which an Eligible School agrees to comply with the Act and the Program Rules and otherwise meets the requirements for receiving Grants on behalf of students who are eligible for the Program.

“Program” means the Disabilities Grant Program.

“Related Services” means transportation and such developmental, corrective, and other supportive services as are required to assist a child with a disability to benefit from special education, and includes speech-
language pathology and audiology services, interpreting services, psychological services, physical and occupational therapy, recreation, including therapeutic recreation, early identification and assessment of disabilities in children, counseling services, including rehabilitation counseling, orientation and mobility services, and medical services for diagnostic or evaluation purposes. Related services also include school health services and school nurse services, social work services in schools, and parent counseling and training.

Exception: services that apply to children with surgically implanted devices, including cochlear implants.

Related services do not include a medical device that is surgically implanted, the optimization of that device's functioning (e.g. mapping), maintenance of that device, or the replacement of that device.

This exception does not:

- Limit the right of a child with a surgically implanted device (e.g., cochlear implant) to receive related services (as listed in paragraph (a) of this section) that are determined by the IEP Team to be necessary for the child to receive FAPE.

- Limit the responsibility of a public agency to appropriately monitor and maintain medical devices that are needed to maintain the health and safety of the child, including breathing, nutrition, or operation of other bodily functions, while the child is transported to and from school or is at school; or

- Prevent the routine checking of an external component of a surgically implanted device to make sure it is functioning properly, as required in § 300.113(b).

34 CFR 300.34

- Related services – Individual terms defined

Audiology includes --

- Identification of children with hearing loss
- Determination of the range, nature, and degree of hearing loss, including referral for medical or other professional attention for the habilitation of hearing
- Provision of habilitative activities, such as language habilitation, auditory training, speech reading (lip-reading), hearing evaluation, and speech conservation
- Creation and administration of programs for prevention of hearing loss
- Counseling and guidance of children, parents, and teachers regarding hearing loss
- Determination of children’s needs for group and individual amplification, selecting and fitting an appropriate aid, and evaluating the effectiveness of amplification

34 CFR 300.34(c)(1)

Counseling services means services provided by qualified social workers, psychologists, guidance counselors, or other qualified personnel.

34 CFR 300.34(c)(2)

Early identification and assessment of disabilities in children means the implementation of a formal plan for identifying a disability as early as possible in a child’s life.

34 CFR 300.34(c)(3)
Interpreting services include:
- The following, when used with respect to children who are deaf or hard of hearing: Oral transliteration services, cued language transliteration services, sign language transliteration and interpreting services, and transcription services, such as communication access real-time translation (CART), C-Print, and TypeWell
- Special interpreting services for children who are deaf-blind

34 CFR 300.34(c)(4)

Medical services mean services provided by a licensed physician to determine a child's medically related disability that results in the child's need for special education and related services.

34 CFR 300.34(c)(5)

Occupational therapy --
Means services provided by a qualified occupational therapist and includes
- Improving, developing, or restoring functions impaired or lost through illness, injury, or deprivation
- Improving ability to perform tasks for independent functioning if functions are impaired or lost
- Preventing, through early intervention, initial or further impairment or loss of function

34 CFR 300.34(c)(6)

Orientation and mobility services --
- Means services provided to blind or visually impaired children by qualified personnel to enable those students to attain systematic orientation to and safe movement within their environments in school, home, and community
- Includes teaching children the following, as appropriate
- Spatial and environmental concepts and use of information received by the senses (such as sound, temperature and vibrations) to establish, maintain, or regain orientation and line of travel (e.g., using sound at a traffic light to cross the street)
- To use the long cane or a service animal to supplement visual travel skills or as a tool for safely negotiating the environment for children with no available travel vision
- To understand and use remaining vision and distance low vision aids
- Other concepts, techniques, and tools

34 CFR 300.34(c)(7)

Parent counseling and training means
- Assisting parents in understanding the special needs of their child
- Providing parents with information about child development
- Helping parents to acquire the necessary skills that will allow them to support the implementation of their child's IEP or IFSP

34 CFR 300.34(c)(8)

Physical therapy means services provided by a qualified physical therapist.
Psychological services includes --

- Administering psychological and educational tests, and other assessment procedures
- Interpreting assessment results
- Obtaining, integrating, and interpreting information about child behavior and conditions relating to learning
- Consulting with other staff members in planning school programs to meet the special educational needs of children as indicated by psychological tests, interviews, direct observation, and behavioral evaluations
- Planning and managing a program of psychological services, including psychological counseling for children and parents
- Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies

Recreation includes --

- Assessment of leisure function
- Therapeutic recreation services
- Recreation programs in schools and community agencies
- Leisure education

Rehabilitation counseling services means services provided by qualified personnel in individual or group sessions that focus specifically on career development, employment preparation, achieving independence, and integration in the workplace and community of a student with a disability. The term also includes vocational rehabilitation services provided to a student with a disability by vocational rehabilitation programs funded under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended (29 U.S.C. 701 et seq.).

School health services and school nurse services means health services that are designed to enable a child with a disability to receive FAPE as described in the child's IEP. School nurse services are services provided by a qualified school nurse. School health services are services that may be provided by either a qualified school nurse or other qualified person.

Social work services in schools includes --

- Preparing a social or developmental history on a child with a disability
- Group and individual counseling with the child and family
- Working in partnership with parents and others on those problems in a child's living situation (home, school, and community) that affect the child's adjustment in school
- Mobilizing school and community resources to enable the child to learn as effectively as possible in his or her educational program
- Assisting in developing positive behavioral intervention strategies
34 CFR 300.34(c)(14)

Speech-language pathology services includes --

- Identification of children with speech or language impairments;
- Diagnosis and appraisal of specific speech or language impairments;
- Referral for medical or other professional attention necessary for the habilitation of speech or language impairments;
- Provision of speech and language services for the habilitation or prevention of communicative impairments; and
- Counseling and guidance of parents, children, and teachers regarding speech and language impairments.

34 CFR 300.34(c)(15)

Transportation includes --

- Travel to and from school and between schools
- Travel in and around school buildings
- Specialized equipment (such as special or adapted buses, lifts, and ramps), if required to provide special transportation for a child with a disability

34 CFR 300.34(c)(16)

“Semester” means one of two semesters; the spring semester is January 1 through June 30 and the fall semester is July 1 through December 31.

"Special Education" means specially designed instruction to meet the unique needs of a Child with a Disability and includes instruction in physical education and instruction conducted in a classroom, the home, a hospital or institution, and other settings.


“State” means the State of North Carolina.