

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023**

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**SENATE BILL 819**

Short Title: School Psychologist Omnibus. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Grafstein, Batch, and Garrett (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

May 6, 2024

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ENACT PROVISIONS RELATED TO IMPROVING THE NUMBER AND  
3 QUALITY OF SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS IN NORTH CAROLINA.  
4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
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6 **PART I. INCREASE COMPENSATION FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

7 **SECTION 1.(a)** For the 2024-2025 fiscal year, in addition to any salary received  
8 under the teacher salary schedule, school psychologists shall receive the following salary  
9 supplements:

- 10 (1) The sum of six hundred fifty dollars (\$650.00) per month.  
11 (2) School psychologists who have a Nationally Certified School Psychologist  
12 (NCSP) credential shall receive a salary supplement each month of twelve  
13 percent (12%) of their monthly salary.

14 **SECTION 1.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
15 Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year the sum of eight million one hundred thousand  
16 dollars (\$8,100,000) in recurring funds to provide compensation increases for school  
17 psychologists pursuant to this section.  
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19 **PART II. SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS GRANT PROGRAM**

20 **SECTION 2.(a)** Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
21 adding a new section to read:

22 **"§ 115C-316.6. School Psychologists Grant Program.**

23 (a) The Department of Public Instruction shall establish the School Psychologists Grant  
24 Program (Program) to improve the safety, mental health, and well-being of students by providing  
25 grants to public school units to recruit school psychologists, to the extent funds are made  
26 available for this purpose, as follows:

- 27 (1) Grant application. – A public school unit may submit an application to the  
28 Superintendent of Public Instruction to receive a grant pursuant to this  
29 subdivision. The application shall identify current and ongoing needs for  
30 school psychologist services, including needs related to recruitment, and  
31 estimated costs associated with those needs.  
32 (2) Criteria and guidelines. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall  
33 develop criteria and guidelines for the administration and use of the grants  
34 under the Program, including any documentation required to be submitted by  
35 applicants.



1           (3) Award of funds. – The Superintendent of Public Instruction shall award grants  
2 to public school units to provide signing bonuses to recruit school  
3 psychologists, as follows:

4           a. The Department shall prioritize the award of funds to public school  
5 units that do not employ a full-time school psychologist at the time the  
6 application is submitted.

7           b. No individual bonus shall be greater than five thousand dollars  
8 (\$5,000).

9           c. As a condition of accepting a signing bonus, a school psychologist  
10 shall agree to remain employed in the public school unit for at least  
11 one year.

12           d. Grants provided to public school units pursuant to the Program shall  
13 be used to supplement and not to supplant State or non-State funds  
14 already provided for these services.

15           (b) Report. – No later than April 1, 2025, and each subsequent year thereafter in which  
16 funds allocated pursuant to this section are awarded, the Superintendent of Public Instruction  
17 shall report on the Program to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee and the  
18 Fiscal Research Division. The report shall include the identity of each public school unit that  
19 received a grant through the Program, the amount of funding provided to the public school unit,  
20 and the use of funds by the public school unit."

21           **SECTION 2.(b)** Appropriation. – There is appropriated from the General Fund to  
22 the Department of Public Instruction for the 2024-2025 fiscal year the sum of one million seven  
23 hundred thousand dollars (\$1,700,000) in recurring funds to establish and implement the School  
24 Psychologists Grant Program pursuant to G.S. 115C-316.6, as enacted by this act.  
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### 26 **PART III. SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS INTERNSHIP PROGRAM**

27           **SECTION 3.(a)** Article 21 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
28 adding a new section to read:

#### 29 **"§ 115C-316.7. School psychologists internship program.**

30           (a) The Department of Public Instruction shall establish an internship program for school  
31 psychologists in public school units. Participants in an approved full-time school psychology  
32 preparation program shall receive up to a 10-month stipend during the internship period of the  
33 program. The stipend shall be at the beginning salary of a school psychologist. The school  
34 psychology preparation program where the intern is enrolled shall provide the Department of  
35 Public Instruction with certification that the intern is an eligible full-time student.

36           (b) Field supervisors in public school units providing instruction to school psychology  
37 interns receiving stipends in accordance with this section shall be eligible to receive one lump  
38 sum salary supplement of between five hundred dollars (\$500.00) and one thousand two hundred  
39 dollars (\$1,200) in an amount to be determined by the public school unit."

40           **SECTION 3.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
41 Public Instruction the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) in recurring funds for the  
42 2024-2025 fiscal year to establish and implement the school psychologists internship program  
43 pursuant to G.S. 115C-316.7, as enacted by this act.  
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### 45 **PART IV. FUNDS FOR A VIRTUAL SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGY TRAINING PROGRAM**

46           **SECTION 4.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors  
47 of The University of North Carolina for the 2024-2025 fiscal year the sum of five million dollars  
48 (\$5,000,000) in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to Appalachian State University (ASU) to  
49 host a virtual school psychology training program at the ASU campus in Hickory, North Carolina.  
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1 **PART V. INCREASE FUNDS FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST TRAINING**  
2 **PROGRAMS**

3 **SECTION 5.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Governors  
4 of The University of North Carolina the sum of one million six hundred thousand dollars  
5 (\$1,600,000) in recurring funds for the 2024-2025 fiscal year to be allocated to the following  
6 constituent institutions of The University of North Carolina to support the school psychology  
7 programs at those institutions with the goal of doubling the number of school psychologists  
8 produced:

- 9 (1) Appalachian State University.
- 10 (2) East Carolina University.
- 11 (3) North Carolina State University.
- 12 (4) The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
- 13 (5) Western Carolina University.

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15 **PART VI. EFFECTIVE DATE**

16 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2024.