



North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



Learning that works for North Carolina

CTE™

Education and Workforce Innovation Commission Grants

2023-2024 Grant Cycle

Legislative and Application Updates

Table of Contents

Updated EWIC Legislation.....	3
§ 115C-64.15. North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.....	3
§ 115C-64.16. The Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program; innovation grants.....	3
§ 115C-64.17. The Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Grants.....	5
Other Application Information for Both EWIC Grants.....	7
How To Apply.....	7
Quick Guide to Understanding Legislative Changes to the EWIC Grants.....	8

DISCLAIMER: GRANT APPLICATIONS WILL BE COLLECTED USING CCIP. FUNDS WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE STATE AID MANAGEMENT SYSTEM.

Updated EWIC Legislation:

[§ 115C-64.15](#). North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.

To learn more about the Education and Workforce Innovation Commission (EWIC), please view the above linked legislation.

The EWIC Commission oversees two grants:

- The Expansion Grant
- The CTE Grade Expansion Program

Per the 2023 Appropriations Act, Section 7.43. Article 6C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, several changes were made to the programs and how the EWIC Commission awards grants.

Program – Innovation Grant (updated legislation)

§ 115C-64.16. The Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program; innovation grants.

(a) Program Establishment. –There is established the Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program (Program) to foster innovation in education that will lead to more students graduating career and college ready and to prioritize the inclusion of students in sixth and seventh grades through grant awards provided to selected local school administrative units and charter schools.

(a1) Types of Grant Awards. – Funds appropriated to the Program shall be used to award competitive grants depending on the needs of the State, as determined by the Commission, by dividing the grants between each type as innovation grants pursuant to the provisions of this section or as grants for grade expansion for career and technical education pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 115C-64.17.

(a2) Innovation Grants. – Competitive grants shall be awarded to a charter school, an individual school in a local school administrative unit, a local school administrative unit, or a regional partnership of more than one local school administrative units to advance comprehensive, high-quality education that equips teachers and other hired personnel with the knowledge and skill required to succeed with all students.

Before receiving an innovation grant, applicants must meet all of the following conditions:

- (1) Form a partnership, for the purposes of the grant, with either a public or private university or a community college.
- (2) Form a partnership, for the purposes of the grant, with regional businesses and 40 business leaders.
- (3) Demonstrate the ability to sustain innovation once grant funding ends

(b) Applicant Categories and Specific Requirements for Innovation Grants. –

- (1) Individual schools. – Individual public schools Charter schools and individual public schools in local school administrative units must demonstrate all of the following in their applications:
 - a. Partnerships with business and industry to determine the skills and competencies needed for students' transition into growth sectors of the regional economy.
 - b. Aligned pathways to employment, including students' acquisition of college credit or industry recognized credentials.

- c. Development of systems, infrastructure, capacity, and culture to enable teachers and school leaders to continuously focus on improving individual student achievement.

(2) Local school administrative units. – Local school administrative units must demonstrate all of the following in their applications:

- a. Implementation of comprehensive reform and innovation.
- b. Appointment of a senior leader to manage and sustain the change process with a specific focus on providing parents with a portfolio of meaningful options among schools.

(3) Regional partnerships of two or more local school administrative units. –

Partnerships of two or more local school administrative units must demonstrate all of the following in their applications:

- a. Implementation of resources of partnered local school administrative units in creating a tailored workforce development system for the regional economy and fostering innovation in each of the partnered local school administrative units.
- b. Promotion of the development of knowledge and skills in career clusters of critical importance to the region.
- c. Benefits of the shared strengths of local businesses and higher education.
- d. Usage of technology to deliver instruction over large geographic regions and build networks with industry.
- e. Implementation of comprehensive reform and innovation that can be replicated in other local school administrative units.

(c) Consideration of Factors in Awarding of Innovation Grants. – All applications must include information on at least the following in order to be considered for an innovation grant:

- (1) Describe the aligned pathways from school to high-growth careers in regional economies.
- (2) Leverage technology to efficiently and effectively drive teacher and principal development, connect students and teachers to online courses and resources, and foster virtual learning communities among faculty, higher education partners, and business partners.
- (3) Establish a comprehensive approach to enhancing the knowledge and skills of teachers and administrators to successfully implement the proposed innovative program and to graduate all students ready for work and college.
- (4) Link to a proven provider of professional development services for teachers and administrators capable of providing evidence-based training and tools aligned with the goals of the proposed innovative program.
- (5) Form explicit partnerships with businesses and industry, which may include business advisory councils, internship programs, and other customized projects aligned with relevant workforce skills.
- (6) Partner with community colleges or public or private universities to enable communities to challenge every student to graduate with workplace credentials or college credit.
- (7) Align K-12 and postsecondary instruction and performance expectations to reduce the need for college remediation courses.
- (8) Secure input from parents to foster broad ownership for school choice options and to foster greater understanding of the need for continued education beyond high school.
- (9) Provide a description of the funds that will be used and a proposed budget for each of the grant years.
- (10) Describe the source of matching funds required in subsection (d) of this 2 section.
- (11) Establish a strategy to achieve meaningful analysis of program outcomes due to the receipt of grant funds under this section.

(d) Matching Private and Local Funds for Innovation Grants. – All innovation grant applicants must match

fifty percent (50%) of all State dollars. Matching funds shall not include other State funds. Matching funds may include in-kind contributions.

(e) Awards for Innovation Grants. – Any innovation grants awarded by the Commission may be spent over a five-year period from the initial award. Grants may be awarded for new or existing projects. Grant funds shall not revert but shall be available until expended.

(f) Innovation Grant Recipient Reporting Requirements. – No later than September 1 of each year, an innovation grant recipient shall submit to the Commission an annual report for the preceding grant year that describes the academic progress made by the students and the implementation of program initiatives.

Program – CTE Grade Expansion Grants (updated legislation)

§ 115C-64.17. The Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Grants.

(a) CTE Grade Expansion Grants. – Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion grants shall be awarded under the Program for the purpose of expanding career and technical education (CTE) programs by prioritizing the inclusion of students in sixth and seventh grade through grant awards provided to selected local school administrative units and charter schools for up to seven years. Grant funds shall be allocated to selected local school administrative units and charter schools as competitive grants of (i) up to seven hundred thousand dollars (\$700,000) for the 2017-2018 fiscal year and (ii) grants, to the extent funds are available, of up to one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year and subsequent fiscal years. Grant funds shall be used only for employing additional licensed personnel in career and technical education areas, career development coordination areas, and support service areas necessary for expanding the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade students. The funds may be used for CTE programs at one or more schools in the local school administrative unit. For a local school administrative unit, the funds may be used for CTE programs at one or more schools in the unit. Grant funds allocated to the local school administrative unit or charter school each fiscal year under the Program shall not revert but shall be available for the purpose of the grant program until expended.

(b) Consideration of Factors in Awarding of CTE Grade Expansion Grants. – Local school administrative units and charter schools applying for CTE grade expansion grants shall submit an application that includes at least the following information:

- (1) A plan for expansion of the CTE program to sixth and seventh grade students, including the specific programs that will be expanded, the significance of CTE in the local school administrative unit or charter school, and how a grade expansion would enhance the education program and the community.
- (2) A request for the amount of funds, a description of how the funds will be used, and any other sources of funds available to accomplish the purposes of this program.
- (3) A proposed budget for seven years that provides detail on the use of the amount of funds to add personnel, increase career development efforts, and provide support services.
- (4) A strategy to achieve meaningful analysis of program outcomes due to the receipt of grant funds under this section.

(c) Selection of CTE Grade Expansion Grant Recipients. – For the 2017-2018 fiscal year, the Commission shall accept applications for a grant until November 30, 2017. For subsequent fiscal years that funds are made available for the CTE grade expansion grants, the Commission shall accept applications for a grant until August 1 of each year. The Commission shall consult with the North Carolina Career and Technical Education Foundation, Inc., to select recipients in a manner that considers diversity among the pool of applicants, including geographic location, location of

industries in the area in which a local school administrative unit or charter school is located, and the size of the student population served by the unit, or charter school, in order to award funds to the extent possible to grant recipients that represent different regions and characteristics of the State. The Commission shall recommend recipients of the grants to the State Board of Education. The State Board, upon consultation with the Superintendent of Public Instruction, shall approve the recipients of grant awards.

- (d) Allocation of Funds. – Of the funds available for the Program in each fiscal year, the Commission shall first allocate funds to applicants who received CTE grade expansion grant funds for the prior fiscal year for up to seven years. After funds are allocated to prior fiscal year grant recipients, any remaining funds may be used by the Commission to select new grant recipients, as provided in G.S. 115C-64.16(a1). The Commission shall establish rules regarding any requirements for grant recipients to continue eligibility to receive funds each fiscal year, including timely and accurate reporting as required under subsection (e) of this section.
- (e) Reporting Requirements. – No later than August 1 of each year, for up to seven years after the initial grant award, a grant recipient shall submit to the Department of Public Instruction, Local Planning Systems Regional Services staff within the Division of Career and Technical Education, an annual report for the preceding year in which CTE grade expansion grant funds were expended that provides at least the following information on the program for sixth and seventh grade students:
 - (1) The use of grant funds, including the CTE programs and courses that have been expanded in the local school administrative unit or charter school to include sixth and seventh grade students.
 - (2) The number of students enrolled in CTE courses as part of the expansion.
 - (3) The number of students who subsequently enrolled in CTE courses in high school.
 - (4) The number of students who subsequently participated in internships, cooperative education, or apprenticeship programs.
 - (5) The number of students who subsequently earned (i) college credit and (ii) approved industry certification and credentials.
 - (6) Any other information the Division of Career and Technical Education deems necessaryThe Superintendent of Public Instruction shall provide a report to the Commission by October 15 of each year based on the information reported to the Local Planning Systems Regional Services staff under this subsection, including how the grant recipients compare to CTE programs statewide and whether the programs are aligned with the Master Plan for Career and Technical Education adopted by the State Board.

Other Application Information for Both EWIC Grants

Eligible Organizations

- Any charter school, public school unit, or a regional partnership of more than one public school units is eligible to apply to the Innovation Grant.
- Any charter school or public school unit is eligible to apply to the CTE Grade Expansion Grant.

Funding Availability

- Grant awards will be capped at a maximum of \$60,000 per applicant for the Innovation Grant.
- Grant awards will be capped at a maximum of \$50,000 per applicant for the CTE Grade Expansion Program.

Applicants should be mindful of their capacity to spend all requested funds in the time period defined by the grant. All funding disbursements and reporting will be managed by CCIP.

Grant Application and Reporting Requirements

Applicants shall submit their application to receive grant funds to the NCDPI no later than December 22, 2023 at 5:00 pm for both EWIC grants.

Reporting Requirements

Reports for this grant cycle (2023-2024) will be due per the following grant types:

1. Innovation Grant: no later than August 1, 2024
2. CTE Grade Expansion Program: no later than September 1, 2024

Review Process

The EWIC Commission will review all applications. Each application will be scored against the uploaded scoring rubrics by 3 EWIC Commissioners.

***Disclaimer:** it is recommended that the funds be spent by the end of FY 23-24 in the event they revert.

HOW TO APPLY

2023-24 EWIC grant applications must be completed on the web-based grants management system, the North Carolina Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP). <https://ccip.schools.nc.gov>

Applicants may find it helpful to use the information contained in this document to begin collecting the necessary data and to ensure that all narratives are drafted prior to entering the information into the CCIP system. Applicants may also find it helpful to use the scoring rubrics uploaded to each application in CCIP.

Only applications submitted through CCIP will be reviewed and evaluated. **The applications will be available beginning at 8:00 am on November 6, 2023. Applications must be submitted through CCIP by 5:00 pm EDT on December 22, 2023.**

Quick Guide to Understanding Legislative Changes to the EWIC Grants:

The new legislation is titled, “COMBINING OF THE EDUCATION AND WORKFORCE INNOVATION COMMISSION GRANT PROGRAMS.”

Article 6C

Major Changes Include:

1. Combining the two grants under one funding program – the two grants will still exist individually, but the funding will come from one source.
2. Changing the name of the CTE 6th and 7th Grade Expansion Grant to the, “CTE Grade Expansion Program.”
3. Changing the name of the Education and Workforce Innovation Program Fund (EWIF) to, “Innovation Grants.”
4. Removing the five-year budget requirement for the Innovation Grants.
5. Adding non-reversion language to the Innovation Grant legislation.
6. Allowing charter schools to now apply for both grants.

§ 115C-64.15. North Carolina Education and Workforce Innovation Commission.

This section pertains to the Education and Workforce Innovation Commission (EWIC).

- The grants have been combined into one program that houses two separate grants. There are still two grants: the CTE Grade Expansion Program, formerly known as the Grade Expansion Grant, and the Innovative Grants, formerly known as the Education and Workforce Innovation Program Fund (EWIF). Though, grant funding has been combined, allowing the EWIC Commission more autonomy over how much funding is allocated per each grant under the program.
- The new, or combined, grant program is titled, “The Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program.”
- Section (d1) has been removed: this section stated that the Commission shall develop and administer, in coordination with the State Board of Education and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program, as established under G.S. 115C-64.17, and shall make awards of grants under the Program.
 - As of now, there are no significant changes to Commission functionality due to this change.
- Reporting:
 - The report will now be sent to not only the State Board of Education, Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee, State Board of Community Colleges, and the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina, but also the Senate Appropriations Committee on Education/Higher Education, the House Appropriations Committee on Education, and the Fiscal Research Division.
 - The report shall provide an annual report for the program as a whole, rather than each program individually.

§ 115C-64.16. The Education and Workforce Innovation Program. (Previous legislative section title)

This section pertains to what we formerly called the EWIF program. It is now named

§ 115C-64.16. The Education and Workforce Innovation and CTE Grade Expansion Program; Innovation grants.

- Section (a1) – Types of Grant Awards) states, “Funds appropriated to the Program shall be used to award competitive grants depending on the needs of the State, as determined by the Commission, by dividing the grants between each type as innovation grants pursuant to the

provisions of this section or as grants for grade expansion for career and technical education pursuant to the provisions of G.S. 115C-64.17.

- Adds language specifically including charter schools as eligible for applying for the “Innovative Grants.”
- Removes language where applicants must provide a proposed budget for five years. The legislation now reads, “(9) Provide a description of the funds that will be used and a proposed budget for each of the grant years.”
- Section (e) adds non-reversion language specifically noting that funds shall not revert. The legislation now reads, “Grant funds shall not revert but shall be available until expended.”

§ 115C-64.17. The Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Program.

This section pertains to what we formerly called the Grade Expansion program. It is now named **§ 115C-64.17. Career and Technical Education Grade Expansion Grants.**

- Now allowing charter schools to apply for the Grade Expansion Grant.