

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2019**

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**SENATE BILL 580**

Short Title: Classroom Supplies to Teachers. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Wells, Ballard, and Tillman (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to: Rules and Operations of the Senate

April 4, 2019

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PROVIDE THAT FUNDS IN THE CLASSROOM MATERIALS, INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPLIES, AND EQUIPMENT ALLOTMENT FOR THE PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHALL BE USED FOR THE NORTH CAROLINA CLASSROOM SUPPLY PROGRAM TO PERMIT TEACHERS TO PURCHASE CLASSROOM SUPPLIES THROUGH AN ELECTRONIC ACCOUNT.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** Establishment of the Program. – Notwithstanding any other provision of law, beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year, funds appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction each fiscal year for the Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies/Equipment allotment shall be used for the North Carolina Classroom Supply Program (Program) in accordance with this act. The Program shall provide for electronic access to funds for eligible classroom teachers to purchase supplies for their classrooms on behalf of public school units participating in the Program to support educational needs of the public school students assigned to those classroom teachers.

**SECTION 2.** Definitions. – For purposes of this act, the following definitions apply:

- (1) Eligible classroom teacher. – Any school-based classroom teacher, including teachers for special student populations, such as exceptional children, reading resource, English language learners, and program enhancement courses, employed by a public school unit to teach students in grades kindergarten through twelfth grade. School personnel in central office positions, instructional support personnel, and school-based administrators shall not be deemed eligible. A classroom teacher must be employed as of August 31 of each fiscal year from any funds available to the public school unit to be eligible under this act. The public school unit may include classroom teachers employed after August 31 within funds available.
- (2) Public school unit. – A local school administrative unit, a charter school, a regional school, and a school providing elementary or secondary instruction operated by the State Board of Education, including schools operated under Article 7A and Article 9C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes, or by The University of North Carolina, including schools operated under Articles 4, 29, and 29A of Chapter 116 of the General Statutes.

**SECTION 3.** Allotment of Funds. – Of the funds allocated to local school administrative units from the Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies/Equipment allotment by the Department of Public Instruction each fiscal year, beginning with the 2019-2020 fiscal year, each local school administrative unit shall transfer the sum of four hundred dollars



1 (\$400.00) per eligible classroom teacher as of August 31 each year to a program report code for  
2 a classroom teacher electronic account administered pursuant to Section 4 of this act. A public  
3 school unit, other than a local school administrative unit, may also opt in to the Program by  
4 August 1 of the fiscal year using funds available to that public school unit. The local school  
5 administrative unit operating a renewal school system plan pursuant to Section 6 of S.L. 2018-32  
6 shall also not be required to participate in the Program but may opt in to the Program in  
7 accordance with this section.

8 **SECTION 4.(a)** Program Administration. – The Department of Public Instruction  
9 shall utilize the same administrative system used by the North Carolina State Education  
10 Assistance Authority (Authority) to manage funds for the Personal Education Savings Account  
11 Program pursuant to G.S. 115C-597 and shall model its contract in a manner that meets the  
12 requirements of this act and includes capabilities for at least the following:

- 13 (1) The ability to restrict purchases, which may include an automated prior  
14 authorization process for allowable purchases or reimbursement of allowable  
15 purchases.
- 16 (2) Automation for the capture of purchase receipts, which shall be required for  
17 the Department of Public Instruction and the teacher to store electronically for  
18 a total of four years for reporting and audit purposes, and transparent  
19 transactions, making accountability and tracking simple.
- 20 (3) Ability for teachers to crowd-fund for certain products.

21 **SECTION 4.(b)** In the event that the vendor contracted with the Authority is unable  
22 to meet the requirements of the Program, then the Department shall contract with a vendor that  
23 provides a virtual e-wallets platform and an e-commerce marketplace that enables teachers to  
24 receive and spend funds online and includes the capabilities described in subsection (a) of this  
25 section.

26 **SECTION 5.** Use of Funds for the Program. – The funds appropriated for the  
27 Program shall be used to supplement the materials and supplies otherwise available to classroom  
28 teachers. Classroom supply funds made available under the Program shall not be used to purchase  
29 electronic devices, such as computers, or software and shall not be expended for administrative  
30 purposes. Eligible classroom teachers shall utilize these funds in a manner that addresses  
31 individual classroom needs and supports the overall goals of the school regarding supplies and  
32 instructional materials. Any supplies purchased by teachers through the Program shall be the  
33 property of the public school unit. Supplies not consumed during the school year shall be made  
34 available to the teacher for the following school year or for other eligible classroom teachers as  
35 appropriate. Any unexpended funds in the classroom teacher accounts established in Section 3  
36 of this act shall revert to the General Fund at the end of each fiscal year.

37 **SECTION 6.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies beginning with  
38 the 2019-2020 school year.