

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2025

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HOUSE BILL 1020

Short Title: PESA Class Aides & Child. Wartime Vets Funds. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Paré, Blackwell, Chesser, and Loftis (Primary Sponsors).  
*For a complete list of sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly web site.*

Referred to: Appropriations, if favorable, Rules, Calendar, and Operations of the House

April 22, 2026

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO AUTHORIZE THE USE OF PERSONAL EDUCATION STUDENT ACCOUNT  
3 FUNDS FOR EDUCATION-RELATED SUPPORT SERVICES PROVIDED BY A  
4 ONE-TO-ONE CLASSROOM AIDE AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT  
5 THE CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.

6 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

7  
8 **PART I. AUTHORIZE USE OF PERSONAL EDUCATION STUDENT ACCOUNT**  
9 **FUNDS FOR ONE-TO-ONE CLASSROOM AIDES**

10 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 115C-591 reads as rewritten:

11 **"§ 115C-591. Definitions.**

12 The following definitions apply in this Article:

13 ...

14 (4a) One-to-one classroom aide. – A person who holds at least a high school  
15 diploma, or its equivalent, and who supports an eligible student in a classroom,  
16 and other educational settings as necessary, at the request of the Part 1 or 2  
17 nonpublic school in which the eligible student is enrolled.

18 ...."

19 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 115C-595 reads as rewritten:

20 **"§ 115C-595. Parental agreement; use of funds.**

21 (a) Parental Agreement. – The Authority shall provide the parent of a scholarship  
22 recipient with a written agreement, applicable for each year the eligible student receives  
23 scholarship funds under this Article, to be signed and returned to the Authority prior to receiving  
24 the scholarship funds. The agreement shall be submitted to the Authority electronically. The  
25 parent shall not designate any entity or individual to execute the agreement on the parent's behalf.  
26 A parent or eligible student's failure to comply with this section shall result in a forfeit of  
27 scholarship funds and those funds may be awarded to another eligible student. The parent shall  
28 agree to the following conditions in order to receive scholarship funds under this Article:

29 ...

- 30 (3) Use the scholarship funds deposited into a personal education student account  
31 only for the following qualifying education expenses of the eligible student:
- 32 a. Tuition and fees for a G.S. 115C-562.5 compliant school, disbursed as  
33 provided in subdivision (1) of subsection (a1) of this section.
  - 34 b. Textbooks required by a nonpublic school.



- 1 c. Tutoring and teaching services provided by an individual or facility  
2 accredited by a State, regional, or national accrediting organization.
- 3 d. Curricula.
- 4 e. Fees for nationally standardized norm-referenced achievement tests,  
5 advanced placement tests, or nationally recognized college entrance  
6 exams.
- 7 f. Fees charged to the account holder for the management of the PESA.
- 8 g. Fees for services provided by a public school, including individual  
9 classes and extracurricular programs.
- 10 h. Premiums charged to the account holder for any insurance or surety  
11 bonds required by the Authority.
- 12 i. Educational therapies from a licensed or accredited practitioner or  
13 provider.
- 14 j. Educational technology defined by the Authority as approved for use  
15 pursuant to G.S. 115C-591(2a).
- 16 k. Student transportation, pursuant to a contract with an entity that  
17 regularly provides student transportation, to and from (i) a provider of  
18 education or related services or (ii) an education activity.
- 19 l. Transaction or merchant fees charged to the account holder, not to  
20 exceed two and one-half percent (2.5%) of the cost of the item or  
21 service.
- 22 m. Education-related support services provided by a one-to-one  
23 classroom aide to an eligible student enrolled in a Part 1 or 2 nonpublic  
24 school. A one-to-one classroom aide shall not provide services to other  
25 students during the instructional day. The nonpublic school in which  
26 an eligible student is enrolled shall submit documentation to the  
27 Authority describing the education-related support services requested  
28 for an eligible student each semester in the manner prescribed by the  
29 Authority.
- 30 (3a) Use of scholarship funds for reimbursement of tuition. – Notwithstanding  
31 sub-subdivision a. of subdivision (3) of this subsection, a parent of an eligible  
32 student may pay tuition to Part 1 or 2 nonpublic schools that are not  
33 G.S. 115C-562.5 compliant schools with funds other than funds available in  
34 the personal education student account and then request reimbursement from  
35 the Authority from scholarship funds if the parent complies with the  
36 provisions of subdivision (2) of subsection (a1) of this section.
- 37 (4) Not use scholarship funds for any of the following purposes:
- 38 a. Computer hardware or other technological devices not defined by the  
39 Authority as educational technology approved for use pursuant to  
40 G.S. 115C-591(2a).
- 41 b. Consumable educational supplies, including paper, pen, or markers.
- 42 c. Tuition and fees at an institution of higher education, as defined in  
43 G.S. 116-143.1, or a private postsecondary institution.
- 44 d. Tuition and fees for a nonpublic school that meets the requirements of  
45 Part 3 of Article 39 of this Chapter.
- 46 e. Educational-related support services provided by a one-to-one  
47 classroom aide who is any of the following:
- 48 1. A parent, guardian, legal custodian, sibling, or grandparent of  
49 the eligible student.
- 50 2. An employee or independent contractor of the Part 1 or 2  
51 nonpublic school in which the eligible student is enrolled.

1 ...."

2 SECTION 1.(c) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning  
3 with the 2026-2027 school year.  
4

5 **PART II. FUNDS FOR THE CHILDREN OF WARTIME VETERANS SCHOLARSHIP**

6 SECTION 2.(a) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of  
7 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2025-2026 fiscal year the sum of one  
8 million dollars (\$1,000,000) in nonrecurring funds to be allocated to the State Education  
9 Assistance Authority (Authority) to increase award amounts for recipients of scholarships for the  
10 children of wartime veterans for the 2025-2026 academic year up to the full amounts permitted  
11 under Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes to the extent those award  
12 amounts were reduced by the Secretary of the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs  
13 pursuant to the award flexibility provided in Part VI of S.L. 2025-72. If any of these funds remain  
14 after increasing award amounts for scholarship recipients in accordance with this subsection, the  
15 Authority may use the remaining funds to award additional scholarships for qualifying children  
16 of wartime veterans under Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes, beginning  
17 in the 2026-2027 academic year.

18 SECTION 2.(b) There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of  
19 Governors of The University of North Carolina for the 2026-2027 fiscal year the sum of seven  
20 million dollars (\$7,000,000) in recurring funds to support additional scholarships for qualifying  
21 children of wartime veterans under Part 2 of Article 14 of Chapter 143B of the General Statutes,  
22 beginning in the 2026-2027 academic year.

23 SECTION 2.(c) Subsection (b) of this section becomes effective July 1, 2026.  
24

25 **PART III. EFFECTIVE DATE**

26 SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes  
27 law.