



North Carolina House Democrats *News Release*



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATE GRANTS AWARDED TO DROPOUT PREVENTION PROGRAMS ACROSS THE STATE

Programs to assist students at risk of dropping out of high school

RALEIGH _ The state Department of Public Instruction has announced that 83 new state grants have been awarded to dropout prevention programs across the state.

This is the third time since 2007 the grants have been awarded and they have helped serve tens of thousands of students in the state. These students are in large, urban school systems and in small, rural school systems across the state. The legislature continues to evaluate which programs are most effective in hopes of eventually replicating them in other places.

According to the State Board of Education, the overall dropout rate in North Carolina fell from 5.24 percent during the 2006-07 school year to 4.97 percent in the 2007-08 school year. This was the first decline after two years of increase and we must work to keep pushing that number lower.

The Dropout Prevention Grant program was created in 2007 at the urging of House Speaker Joe Hackney and has since awarded more than 200 small grants worth a total of \$34 million.

For more information on dropout prevention initiatives in North Carolina and a comprehensive list of the most recent grant recipients, please visit: <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/newsroom/news/2009-10/20091222-01>
<<http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/newsroom/news/2009-10/20091222-01>> .

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