

North Carolina Aquarium Society

The North Carolina Aquariums' attractions includes three aquarium sites and Jennette's Pier, and accommodates over 1.3 million visitors annually. Aquarium educators provide various STEM educational programs for K-12 students at the various sites. A decline in attendance from Title 1 Schools was noticed over the last couple of years and the *Aquarium Scholars* program is designed to provide access to the educational programs for Title I Schools in North Carolina. The Aquarium Scholars education programs are small grants available to teachers and students for the Aquarium's educational programs. The *Aquarium Scholars* pilot cycle created three educational avenues for Title I teachers to apply for funding:

- **Aquarium Visits/Programs** – teachers apply for funding for fuel, buses, substitute teachers and program fees incurred with a visit to an aquarium
- **Outreach Programs** - secure free outreach educational programs in their school classroom provided by Aquarium staff and includes live animals
- **Distance Learning** – website distance learning provided via Skype or Google Classroom programs

A typical grant award for a Title 1 teacher is \$300 - \$1,250 depending on distance, class size and the educational programming requested. A \$75,000 Traditional grant will be in place from 2019 to 2022.