



**NORTH CAROLINA**  
State Board of Education  
Department of Public Instruction

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# Report to the North Carolina General Assembly

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Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund  
FY2025-26 Annual Report  
*GS 115C-546.14.(b)*

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**Date Due: May 1, 2026**  
DPI Chronological Schedule, 2025-2026

## STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION VISION

Every public school student in North Carolina will be empowered to accept academic challenges, prepared to pursue their chosen path after graduating high school, and encouraged to become lifelong learners with the capacity to engage in a globally-collaborative society.

### STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MISSION

The mission of the North Carolina State Board of Education and the North Carolina Superintendent of Public Instruction is to use their constitutional authority to guard and maintain the right to a public education for every student in North Carolina and to support public school units in providing every student an excellent education that prepares them for success in their next phase of life.

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## NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

**Maurice "Mo" Green, State Superintendent / 301 N. Wilmington Street, Raleigh, North Carolina 27601**

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### **Inquiries or complaints regarding discrimination issues should be directed to:**

Thomas Tomberlin, Senior Director, Educator Preparation, Licensure, and Performance, NCDPI  
6301 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-6301 / Phone: (984) 236-2114

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# Executive Summary

## BACKGROUND

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In 2017 legislation, the General Assembly stated its intent to increase the amount of NC Education Lottery revenue dedicated to assisting local governments and LEAs in meeting critical school capital needs to forty percent (40%) of net Lottery revenue collected, by no later than FY 2028-29. Through passage of *S.L. 2017-57*, *S.L. 2017-212*, and later *S.L. 2018-5*, the General Assembly established the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund (NBPSCF). Additional legislative changes in the years that followed have resulted in the current law governing the program as found in *G.S. 115C – Article 38B*.

The NBPSCF is an interest-bearing, non-reverting, special fund that provides grant-based funding for eligible counties as determined by provisions in the governing statute. In FY2025-26 there were 90 counties eligible to apply for grants.

The State Treasurer acts as custodian of the NBPSCF and is charged with investing its assets in accordance with provisions of *G.S. 147-69.2* and *G.S. 147-69.3*. It is the responsibility of the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) to receive applications and award grants from the NBPSCF based upon priorities established in *G.S. 115C – Article 38B*. The NBPSCF is administered by the DPI Office of School Facilities.

Lottery revenue supporting the NBPSCF is appropriated by the General Assembly in each fiscal year as part of the State Budget. For FY 2025-26, a total of \$258 million was appropriated. Additional Lottery revenue is provided under the provisions of *G.S. 18C-164(b3)*. For FY2025-26, a total of \$141 million in 'excess' net lottery revenue was transferred into the NBPSCF, resulting in a total availability of \$399 million for new grant awards in the FY2025-26 grant cycle.

Since program inception, NBPSCF grants totaling **\$2,459,172,915** in funding have been awarded. These grants have enabled design and construction of **87 grant projects** serving thousands of public school students across North Carolina.

# Executive Summary

## IMPLEMENTATION

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Grant applications for funding through the NBPSCF are accepted and reviewed by DPI once a year. The grant application and award schedule is established following annual State Budget certification, and typically occurs in the 'late Summer/early Fall' timeframe.

Grant applications are made jointly, and must be signed by both the chair of the local Board of Education, and the chair of the County Commissioners. Each year, prior to the opening of the application period, **G.S. 115C – Article 38B** requires DPI to publish updated NBPSCF Eligibility and Local Match Requirements. Annual program guidance and application materials are published under the NBPSCF heading on the Capital Funding page of the DPI School Planning website at:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning/capital-funding>

As required by **G.S. 115C – Article 38B**, DPI awards grants from the NBPSCF to counties to assist with their critical public school building capital needs in accordance with the following priorities:

- (1) Counties designated as development tier one areas.
- (2) Counties with greater need and less ability to generate sales tax and property tax revenue.
- (3) Counties with a high debt-to-tax revenue ratio.
- (4) The extent to which a project will address critical deficiencies in adequately serving the current and future student population.
- (5) Projects with new construction or complete renovation of existing facilities.
- (6) Projects that will consolidate two or more schools into one new facility.
- (7) Counties that have not received a grant under this Article in the previous three years.

Maximum NBPSCF grant amounts are set by statute as follows:

- (1) Up to forty-two million dollars (\$42,000,000) for an elementary school.
- (2) Up to fifty-two million dollars (\$52,000,000) for a middle school or a combination of an elementary and middle school.
- (3) Up to sixty-two million dollars (\$62,000,000) for a high school.

Additional guidance and procedures for applicants and recipients are published under the NBPSCF heading on the Capital Funding page of the School Planning website at:

<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning/capital-funding>

# Summary of Applications Received

## APPLICATIONS RECEIVED (SINCE PROGRAM INCEPTION)

Applications and awards in the first nine years of the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund:

<i>Fiscal Year</i>	<i>Number of Applications</i>	<i>Number of Awards</i>	<i>Total Funds Requested</i>	<i>Total Funds Available</i>	<i>Total Funds Awarded</i>
FY 2017-18	24	4	\$ 230,738,463	\$ 30,000,000	\$ 30,000,000
FY 2018-19	22	13	\$ 245,767,689	\$ 146,968,039	\$ 140,684,581
FY 2019-20	10	5	\$ 123,200,000	\$ 75,000,000	\$ 73,200,000
FY 2020-21	16	9	\$ 119,710,000	\$ 116,314,856	\$ 115,311,011
FY 2021-22	176	15	\$ 2,683,517,761	\$ 395,787,699	\$ 395,785,890
FY 2022-23	164	13	\$ 2,435,988,796	\$ 437,216,492	\$ 437,030,033
FY 2023-24	129	11	\$ 2,294,733,986	\$ 417,252,972	\$ 416,532,925
FY 2024-25	122	7	\$ 1,776,190,485	\$ 455,339,175	\$ 458,192,625
FY 2025-26	92	10	\$ 1,992,625,671	\$ 399,576,949	\$ 392,435,850
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>\$ 11,902,472,851</b>	<b>\$ 2,473,456,182</b>	<b>\$ 2,459,172,915</b>

## APPLICATIONS RECEIVED (FY 2025-26 HIGHLIGHTS)

Highlights of the ninth year of the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant program include:

- \$399 million available in FY2025-26.
- 90 of 100 Counties eligible to apply.
- 92 Applications received totaling over \$1.99 billion in requested funding.
- 10 Grants were awarded to the following Counties / School Districts:
  - Caswell County / Caswell County Schools
  - Duplin County / Duplin County Schools
  - Greene County / Greene County Schools
  - Hertford County / Hertford County Schools
  - McDowell County / McDowell County Schools
  - Richmond County / Richmond County Schools
  - Rockingham County / Rockingham County Schools
  - Transylvania County / Transylvania County Schools
  - Tyrrell County / Tyrrell County Schools
  - Wilson County / Wilson County Schools

# Grant Awards

## FY 2025-26

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- **Caswell County Schools – \$18.8 million**
  - Complete renovation of Oakwood Elementary School to address major safety and operational issues affecting the learning environment.
- **Duplin County Schools – \$32.4 million**
  - Complete renovation of East Duplin High School to enhance student learning and ensure a safe, modern educational environment.
- **Greene County Schools – \$42 million**
  - Replacement of West Greene Elementary School to address increased enrollment and meet modern education, safety and accessibility standards.
- **Hertford County Schools – \$7.1 million**
  - Renovation of Riverview Elementary School to construct a new gymnasium and new classrooms connected to the main school building, to address security and aging infrastructure.
- **McDowell County Schools – \$42 million**
  - Construction of a new East Marion Elementary School to consolidate aging East Global Magnet and Marion Elementary schools.
- **Richmond County Schools – \$42 million**
  - Complete replacement of L.J. Bell Elementary School to address aging facilities and ensure safe and effective learning environments.
- **Rockingham County Schools – \$42 million**
  - Construction of a new Reidsville Elementary School to consolidate two under-resourced elementary schools.
- **Transylvania County Schools – \$62 million**
  - Complete transformation of the Brevard High School campus to consolidate Davidson River Alternative School with Brevard High School while constructing a new CTE facility.
- **Tyrrell County Schools – \$62 million**
  - Construction of a new PK-13 CTE facility to replace outdated and flood-prone buildings with a modern structure.
- **Wilson County Schools – \$42 million**
  - Construction of a new Wilson Elementary School to consolidate two outdated elementary schools into a safe, environmentally modern and accessible building.

# Grant Awards

## CASWELL COUNTY / CASWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS

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### Renovations to OAKWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades K-5)

Serves 360 Students

Complete Renovation of an existing Elementary School

Project Budget

• Needs-Based Grant	\$18,805,850
• <u>Local Match (0% req.)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
• Total Cost	\$19,795,650

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2025-26
- Construction – 2026-28
- Completion – 2028

Construction Delivery Method – Design-Build (anticipated)

### Project Description

Complete renovation of Oakwood Elementary School to address major safety and operational issues affecting the learning environment.

### Critical Needs Addressed

- Renovation of existing facility built in 1962
- Life Safety Systems
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency

# Grant Awards

## DUPLIN COUNTY / DUPLIN COUNTY SCHOOLS

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### Additions and Renovations to EAST DUPLIN HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)

Serves 855 Students

Complete Renovation of an existing High School

Project Budget

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Needs-Based Grant            | \$32,480,000        |
| • <u>Local Match (5% req.)</u> | <u>\$ 1,624,000</u> |
| • Total Cost                   | \$34,104,000        |

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2025-26
- Construction – 2026-27
- Completion – 2027

Construction Delivery Method – TBD

### Project Description

Complete renovation of East Duplin High School to enhance student learning and ensure a safe, modern educational environment.

### Critical Needs Addressed

- Renovation of existing facility built in 1962
- Modernize Building Systems
- Eliminate old Modular Classrooms
- Construction of Additional Permanent Classroom Space
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency

# Grant Awards

## GREENE COUNTY / GREENE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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### New WEST GREENE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades K-3)

Serves 500 Students

New Elementary School / replaces 1 existing elementary school

Project Budget

• Needs-Based Grant	\$42,000,000
• Local Match (0% req.)	\$ 0
• Total Cost	\$42,000,000

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2026-27
- Construction – 2027-28
- Completion – 2028

Construction Delivery Method – TBD

### Project Description

Replacement of West Greene Elementary School to address increased enrollment and meet modern education, safety and accessibility standards.

### Critical Needs Addressed

- Replace existing facility built in 1965
- Respond to enrollment growth
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency
- Vehicular and Pedestrian Safety

# Grant Awards

## HERTFORD COUNTY / HERTFORD COUNTY SCHOOLS

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### Additions and Renovations to RIVERVIEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades K-5)

Serves 308 Students

Renovation of an existing Elementary School

Project Budget

• Needs-Based Grant	\$ 7,150,000
• <u>Local Match (0% req.)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
• Total Cost	\$ 7,150,000

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2025-26
- Construction – 2026-27
- Completion – 2027

Construction Delivery Method – TBD

### Project Description

Renovation of Riverview Elementary School to construct a new gymnasium and new classrooms connected to the main school building, to address security and aging infrastructure.

### Critical Needs Addressed

- Renovation of existing facility built in 1958
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency

# Grant Awards

## McDOWELL COUNTY / McDOWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS

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### New EAST MARION ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades K-5)

Serves 600 Students

New Elementary School / replaces 2 existing elementary schools

Project Budget

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Needs-Based Grant            | \$42,000,000        |
| • <u>Local Match (5% req.)</u> | <u>\$ 6,000,000</u> |
| • Total Cost                   | \$48,000,000        |

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2026-27
- Construction – 2027-29
- Completion – 2029

Construction Delivery Method – Design-Bid-Build

### Project Description

Construction of a new East Marion Elementary School to consolidate aging East Global Magnet and Marion Elementary schools.

### Critical Needs Addressed

- Replace existing facilities built in 1955 and 1975
- Respond to declining enrollment
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency
- Long-Term Operational Efficiency

# Grant Awards

## **RICHMOND COUNTY / RICHMOND COUNTY SCHOOLS**

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### **New L.J. BELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades K-5)**

Serves 532 Students

New Elementary School / replaces 1 existing elementary school

Project Budget

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Needs-Based Grant            | \$42,000,000        |
| • <u>Local Match (5% req.)</u> | <u>\$ 2,100,000</u> |
| • Total Cost                   | \$44,100,000        |

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2026-27
- Construction – 2027-28
- Completion – 2028

Construction Delivery Method – TBD

### **Project Description**

Complete replacement of L.J. Bell Elementary School to address aging facilities and ensure safe and effective learning environments.

### **Critical Needs Addressed**

- Replace existing facility built in 1952
- Eliminate old Modular Classrooms
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency
- Long-Term Operational Efficiency

# Grant Awards

## ROCKINGHAM COUNTY / ROCKINGHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

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### New REIDSVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades K-5)

Serves 650 Students

New Elementary School / replaces 2 existing elementary schools

Project Budget

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Needs-Based Grant            | \$42,000,000        |
| • <u>Local Match (5% req.)</u> | <u>\$ 2,100,000</u> |
| • Total Cost                   | \$44,100,000        |

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2026-27
- Construction – 2027-28
- Completion – 2028

Construction Delivery Method – TBD

### Project Description

Construction of a new Reidsville Elementary School to consolidate two under-resourced elementary schools.

### Critical Needs Addressed

- Replace existing facilities built in 1935 and 1963
- Eliminate old Modular Classrooms
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency
- Long-Term Operational Efficiency

# Grant Awards

## TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY / TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

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### New BREVARD HIGH SCHOOL (Grades 9-12)

Serves 866 Students

New High School / replaces 2 existing high schools

Project Budget

- |                                 |                     |
|---------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Needs-Based Grant             | \$62,000,000        |
| • <u>Local Match (15% req.)</u> | <u>\$ 9,300,000</u> |
| • Total Cost                    | \$71,300,000        |

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2026-27
- Construction – 2027-29
- Completion – 2029

Construction Delivery Method – TBD

### Project Description

Complete transformation of the Brevard High School campus to consolidate Davidson River Alternative School with Brevard High School while constructing a new CTE facility.

### Critical Needs Addressed

- Replace existing facilities built in 1945 and 1959
- Construct new CTE Facility
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency
- Long-Term Operational Efficiency

# Grant Awards

## **TYRRELL COUNTY / TYRRELL COUNTY SCHOOLS**

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### **New TYRRELL PK-13 SCHOOL (Grades PK-13)**

Serves 650 Students

New PK-13 Consolidated School / replaces 3 existing schools

Project Budget

• Needs-Based Grant	\$62,000,000
• <u>Local Match (0% req.)</u>	<u>\$ 0</u>
• Total Cost	\$62,000,000

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2025-26
- Construction – 2026-28
- Completion – 2028

Construction Delivery Method – TBD

### **Project Description**

Construction of a new PK-13 CTE facility to replace outdated and flood-prone buildings with a modern structure.

### **Critical Needs Addressed**

- Replace existing facilities built in 1924 and 1980
- Respond to declining enrollment
- Eliminate flood-prone campus sites
- Construct new CTE Facility
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency
- Long-Term Operational Efficiency

# Grant Awards

## WILSON COUNTY / WILSON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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### New WILSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL (Grades K-5)

Serves 800 Students

New Elementary School / replaces 2 existing elementary schools

Project Budget

- |                                |                     |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|
| • Needs-Based Grant            | \$42,000,000        |
| • <u>Local Match (5% req.)</u> | <u>\$ 2,100,000</u> |
| • Total Cost                   | \$44,100,000        |

Project Schedule

- Planning – 2026-27
- Construction – 2027-29
- Completion – 2029

Construction Delivery Method – TBD

### Project Description

Construction of a new Wilson Elementary School to consolidate two outdated elementary schools into a safe, environmentally modern and accessible building.

### Critical Needs Addressed

- Replace existing facilities built in 1954 and 1963
- Campus Security & Visitor Control
- Obsolete Programmatic & Teaching Spaces
- ADA Accessibility
- HVAC & Energy Efficiency
- Long-Term Operational Efficiency

# Statewide LEA Capital Needs Projections

## THIRTY-YEAR CAPITAL COST PROJECTIONS

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The DPI Office of School Facilities conducts the statewide Facility Needs Survey (FNS) at five-year intervals as required by **G.S. 115C-521(a)**, and publishes a report. Consultation and technical support are provided in assisting the 115 school systems to identify current and projected facility needs over the next 5-year and 10-year periods.

The FNS employs a cloud-based data collection platform developed and maintained by the Office of School Facilities for collecting and reporting statewide school facility needs. The program contains baseline facilities data for 2,750 existing school campuses and current Best-1-of-2 ADM data for each school. School construction unit costs and building area standards from the N.C. Public Schools Facilities Guidelines are built into the cost estimating tool within the database platform.

Results of the DPI 2020-21 Facility Needs Survey identified total facility needs statewide of \$13 billion. This total is based upon needs identified by LEA administrators. The 2025-26 Facility Needs Survey is currently underway, with final reporting of statewide data anticipated in late 2026.

Extrapolation of recent FNS statewide totals for the purpose of a 30-year school facility needs projection is an extraordinarily challenging exercise. Using the FY2020-21 FNS survey data as a baseline, and accounting for anticipated annual construction cost escalation of 5%, would result in a 30-year statewide 'order of magnitude' cost figure well in excess of \$60 billion over the next 30-years.

# Legislative Recommendations

## **INCREASE NBPSCF BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS**

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Address the \$13+ billion in school construction needs identified across the state in the FY2020-21 Facility Needs Survey, by significantly increasing NBPSCF annual appropriations.