

2025-2026 Opportunity Scholarship Report

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Statutory Requirements

- G.S. §115C-562.7(f), the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is tasked annually with reporting the **cumulative financial difference** between the Opportunity Scholarship grant amount awarded to students who previously attended public schools and the average State per-pupil allocation for students enrolled in public school units.

Statutory Requirements

- A "**prior public-school attendee**"
 - For the 2025–2026 report, prior public-attendees are defined as any student receiving an opportunity scholarship beginning in the 2024–2025 school year who were enrolled in any public school for the majority of either the first or second month of the school year prior to receiving the scholarship and those who received an opportunity scholarship from the 2024-2025 School Year and are still enrolled in private school.

Statutory Requirements

- The scholarship amount in each income tier is a percentage of the “average State per-pupil allocation for average daily membership in the prior fiscal year.”
- For 2025-2026 using the USDA guidelines a family of 4 equals:
 - Tier 1 \leq \$59,478
 - Tier 2 59,478-\$118,955
 - Tier 3 \$118,955-\$267,651
 - Tier 4 \geq \$267,651

Tier	Family Income as a Percentage of Federal Free or Reduced-price Lunch Income Amount	Percentage of Average State per-Pupil Allocation	FY 2025-26 Tier Amount
1	100%	100%	\$7,686
2	100% to 200%	90%	\$6,918
3	200% to 450%	60%	\$4,612
4	above 450%	45%	\$3,458

Methodology

- NCSEAA provided a dataset scholarship data for each recipients and each private school attended for the 2025-2026 Fall and Spring semesters.
- Along with pertinent scholarship data, NCSEAA provided student demographic and address information NCDPI used to match recipients to prior public school enrollment records.
 - Student first name
 - Student last name
 - Address
 - Date of birth
 - County of residence

Opportunity Scholarship Reporting Years

Scholarship Year	Reporting Year 1 (2024-2025)	Reporting Year 2 (2025-2026)	Reporting Year 3 (2026-2027)
2024-25 Fall	5,955	4,049	-
2024-25 Spring	-	370	-
2025-26 Fall	-	7,833	-
2025-26 Spring	-	-	636
Total	5,955	12,252	-

- 12,252 total prior year enrollees out of 106,704 total recipients
- 11.5% of those who received opportunity Scholarships

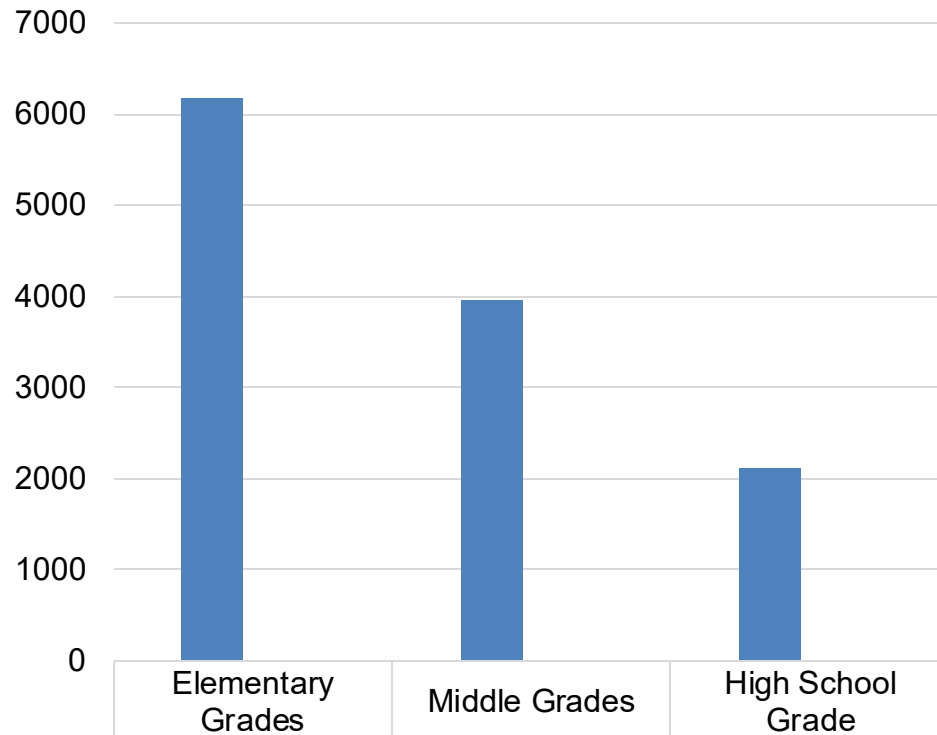
Opportunity Scholarship Reinvestment

1. SEC. 7.82(C) OF S.L. 2023-134 STATES: “It is the intent of the General Assembly to reinvest in the public schools any savings realized by the State each year, beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, because of the transfer of a student from a public school unit to a nonpublic school where the student accepts an opportunity scholarship grant award that is less than one hundred percent (100%) of the average State per-pupil allocation for average daily membership for a student in a public school unit.”
 - The total cumulative financial amount needed for **reinvestment** in FY 2026-27 is \$35,751,409.

Opportunity Scholarship Reinvestment Calculation

Reporting Year	Number of Students	Total Scholarship \$ Awarded	Average State per-Pupil Allocation	Difference between Scholarship and State PPE
2024-2025	5,955	\$34,374,870	\$44,467,533	\$10,092,663
2025-2026	12,252	\$71,647,128	\$97,305,874	\$25,658,746
Total				\$35,751,409

Prior Enrollee Recipients: Grade Level



Top Grade Levels

- Grade 6: 14.2%
- Grade 7: 11.0%
- Grade 4: 10.7%

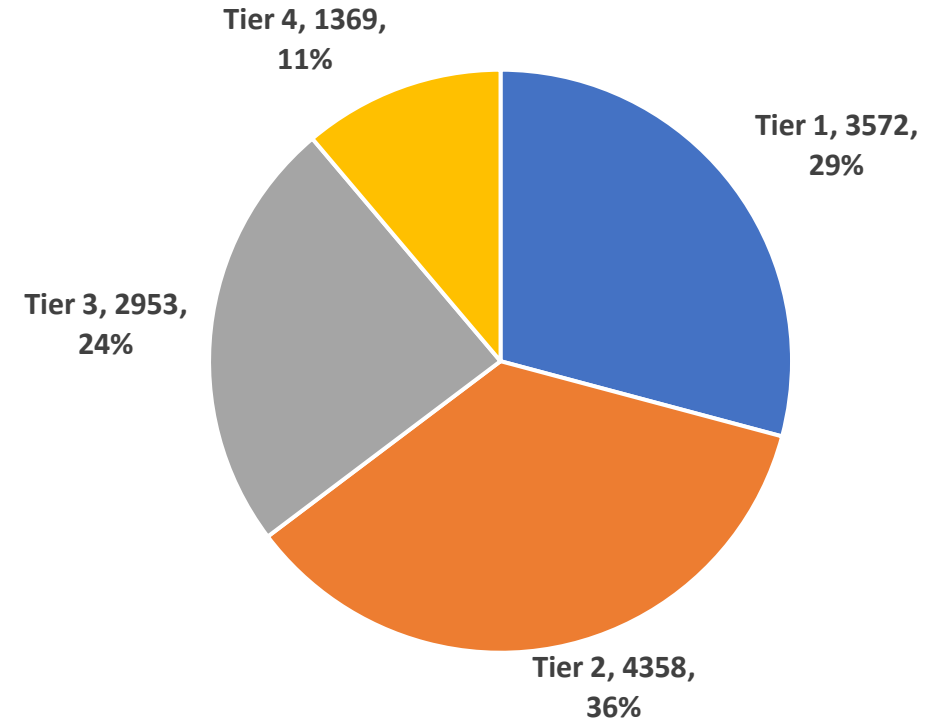
Lowest Grade Levels

- Kindergarten: 0.4%
- Grade 12: 1.7%
- Grade 11: 3.2%

# of Prior Enrollee Fall 2425-2526	6174	3955	2123
% Prior Enrollee Fall 2425-2526	50.4%	32.3%	17.3%

Prior Enrollee Recipients: Scholarship Tier

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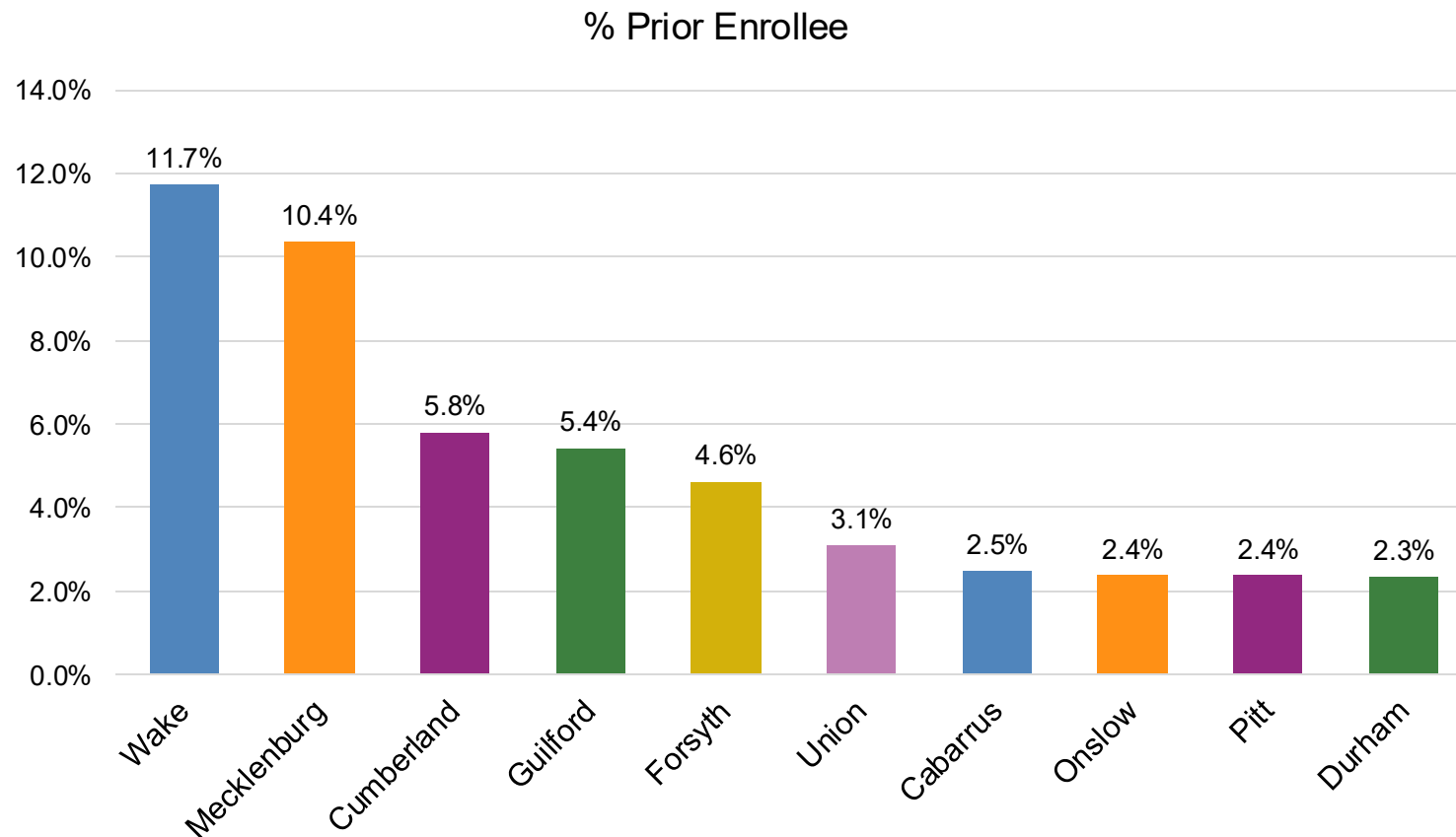


Prior Enrollee Recipients: Student Groups

Category	Prior Enrollee (Fall 2425 - Fall 2526)	% Prior Enrollee (Fall 2425 - Fall 2526)
Total	12,252	11.5%
Female	6,032	49.2%
Male	6,220	50.8%
Unknown	0	0.0%
American Indian or Alaskan Native	165	1.3%
Asian	451	3.7%
Black or African American	2,160	17.6%
Hispanic	1,610	13.1%
Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	21	0.2%
Two or more Races	860	7.0%
White	6,984	57.0%
Unknown	1	0.0%
Economically Disadvantaged	4,686	38.2%
not Economically Disadvantaged	7,566	61.8%
English Learners	607	5.0%
not English Learners	11,645	95.0%
Students with Disabilities	1,519	12.4%
Students without Disabilities	10,733	87.6%

* Student Group Designations determined from prior enrollment records

Prior Enrollee Recipients: County of Residence



- Prior Enrollee Recipients were residents of 99 counties
- 50.6% of all Prior Enrollees came from 10 counties