

Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund

2026-27 Grant Application

Application Deadline: October 2, 2026

Rev. 8/17/2026

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2026-27 GRANT APPLICATION

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Date: _____

BACKGROUND

The Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund was established to assist counties with their critical public school building capital needs. Grants from the NBPSCF are funded with revenue from the NC Education Lottery. Grant funds are available to eligible counties for construction of new school buildings and additions, repairs, and renovations of existing school facilities.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Eligibility & Match Requirements | July 31, 2026 |
| • Application Opens | August 17, 2026 |
| • Application Deadline | October 2, 2026 |

ELIGIBILITY

Counties with an adjusted market value of taxable real property of less than \$40 billion are eligible to apply for a grant under the NBPSCF program. The list of eligible counties is published by DPI annually prior to the NBPSCF application period. The list of eligible counties for FY2026-27 is available here: [FY26-27 Eligibility](#)

Grant funds must be used only for construction of new school buildings and additions, repairs, and renovations. Grant funds cannot be used for real property acquisition or for capital improvements to administrative buildings.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Funding appropriated for NBPSCF Grant awards exceeds \$258 million for FY2026-27.

MATCHING FUNDS

Counties receiving a grant are required to provide local matching funds from county funds, other non-state funds, or a combination of these sources, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.11.(a). Local matching fund requirements range from 0% to 35% of the grant amount, and are published by DPI annually prior to the NBPSCF application period. The local match requirement applicable to the project is the published local match requirement in effect at the time of the grant award. Local matching requirements for FY2026-27 grant applicants are available here: [FY26-27 Local Matching Requirements](#)

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MAXIMUM AWARD Grant award maximums are as follows:

- Up to \$42 million for an Elementary School
- Up to \$52 million for a Middle School
- Up to \$62 million for a High School

An applicant may not apply for projects that exceed an aggregate amount greater than the maximum grant award amounts listed above in any single year.

Per G.S. 115C-546.11(d), applications will be reviewed in the context of projected enrollment to assess the reasonableness of project size and scope.

REPORTING

Grant recipients are required to submit a report by April 1 of each year, with each grant funds distribution request, and upon completion of the project, detailing: the use of grant funds, progress on the project, and impact of the project on the county's school capital plan.

Grant funds will be disbursed in a series of payments based on the progress of the project. To receive a distribution, the grant recipient must submit a request for distribution, along with documentation of the expenditures for which the distribution is requested, and evidence that the matching requirement has been met. DPI will provide grant recipients with Reporting and Distribution Request forms following announcement of awards.

AGREEMENT

A county receiving Needs-Based grant funds is required to enter into an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction detailing the use of grant funds, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.12.(a). DPI will provide grant recipients with Agreement Forms following announcement of awards. Signed Agreements are due within 60 days of award announcement.

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GRANT PRIORITIZATION

Applications are ranked within each of the following criteria per G.S. 115C-546.10 and SL 2026-41:

Priority	Definition/Calculation/Data Source
Tier Designation	Counties designated as development tier one areas. (NC Department of Commerce, 2026 NC Development Tier Designations)
Ability to Generate Tax Revenue	Total revenue generated by a one-cent per \$100 valuation increase in the county property tax rate. (NC Department of Revenue, Form LG01, 2025-26 County Property Tax Rates)
Ratio of Debt to Tax Revenue	<u>Debt</u> : Sum of County Debt (NC State Treasurer, Form LGC 129, 2025-26 Annual Debt Payment Notices) <u>Revenue</u> : Sum of County Revenues from Property Taxes (NC Department of Revenue, Form LG01, 2025-26 County Taxable Real Property)
Critical Deficiency	The extent to which a project will address critical deficiencies in adequately serving the current and future student population.
Facility Construction	Projects with new construction or complete renovation of existing facilities.
Facility Replacement	Projects that will consolidate two or more schools into one new facility.
Applicant Status	Counties that have not received a grant in the previous three years.
CTE Center	Projects that include a Career and Technical Education Center that will serve an entire public school unit.

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Date: _____

SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION PER SCHOOL CAMPUS – A PROJECT MAY INCLUDE MULTIPLE BUILDINGS

County: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

School Unit: _____

Primary Contact: _____

Title: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

email: _____

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Submit completed applications and any supporting materials by Friday, October 2, 2026, via email to:

Nathan Maune | School Facilities Director | 984-236-2919 | SchoolPlanning-NBPSCF@dpi.nc.gov

SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST – SUBMIT ALL FILES IN PDF FORMAT

- Contact Information
- Application Form
- Project Narrative
- Budget Estimate
- Additional Documentation (as appropriate)
- Signed Assurance Page

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2026-27 GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date: _____

Project Title:

Location:

Type of Facility:

Short Description of Proposed School Construction Project:

Describe the critical need this project addresses and the impact on student outcomes:

(please attach additional information as necessary)

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PROJECT INFORMATION

Date: _____

Was this project identified in the 2025-26 Statewide Facility Needs Survey?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If not, provide explanation and attach equivalent information:

Will this project replace any existing facilities?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, which school(s): _____

How many students will be served by this project? _____

Has Advanced Planning been done for this project?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Have Construction Documents been completed for this project?

☐ YES ☐ NO

Anticipated or Actual Bid Date: (xx/xxxx) _____

Planned Start Date of Construction*: (xx/xxxx) _____

Planned Completion Date of Construction: (xx/xxxx) _____

*Construction must begin within 24 months of grant award under G.S. 115C-546.12.(b).

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2026-27 GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT BUDGET

Date: _____

Total NBPSCF Grant funding requested for this project: _____

Minimum NBPSCF Grant funding for project to proceed (optional): _____

Estimated Project Costs	Local (non-State)	NBPSCF Grant Funds	Total
Planning	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Construction	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Other Costs*	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Project costs normally categorized as 'owner's direct costs' on a construction project – may include items such as site surveys, materials testing, site utilities, geotechnical reports, etc. Land acquisition costs are not eligible.

Source(s) of required Local Matching Funds:

Have any of the Local Matching Funds been expended at the time of application? ☐ YES ☐ NO

If YES, provide amount expended: _____

If YES, provide description of work: _____

Estimated Project Expenditures by Fiscal Year (show estimated period over which funds will be spent by Fiscal Year)

Total Planned Expenditures	2025-26 or earlier	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29 or later	Total
Local Matching Funds	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Requested NBPSCF Grant Funds*	\$ 0.00	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
Total Estimated Expenditures by Fiscal Year	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____

*Total requested grant funding cannot exceed maximum allowed under G.S. 115C-546.11.(c).

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ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Date: _____

Any project funded with a grant from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund must follow the same review process as any other capital project.

- A registered Architect and/or registered Engineer shall prepare the drawings and specifications in accordance with G.S. 133-1 through 133-4.1, as applicable.
- School Planning design review is required. Design documents must be submitted at appropriate intervals during design – SD, DD, and CD. Neither the PSU nor the County shall invest any funds in construction of the project until the review process is completed.
- Transmittal of drawings and specifications to School Planning must include the form at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/project-submittal-form/download>
- Design of the project should be in compliance with DPI School Planning Guidelines: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning>
- DPI Facility Design Guidelines can be found at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/facility-design-guidelines/download>
- DPI School Science Facility Requirements can be found at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/science-facilities-planner/download>
<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/science-safety-checklist/download>
- For projects involving the closing or demolition of an existing school building, the PSU must submit a Feasibility and Cost Analysis in accordance with G.S. 115C-521: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/costfeas-1/download>
- DPI Lottery Capital Funding FAQ can be found at: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/lottery-capital-funding-faq-document/download?attachment>

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ASSURANCES

Date: _____

By signing below, we assure the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction that we are officials of our respective organizations, and we are authorized to submit this application on behalf of these organizations.

We certify the following:

- The information provided in this proposal is correct and complete.
- The project described in the application is within the parameters of the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund as required in Article 38B of G.S. 115C-546, and that all of the required local funding is available and designated as a match for this project.
- All Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant proceeds and the required Local Matching funds will be used for the construction project described in the application.
- We will work cooperatively with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in monitoring and assessing the progress of the project to meet statutory reporting requirements. We will report on project status and State and local funds expended by April 1 of each year, at the time of each distribution request, and within 90 days of project completion.
- Within 60 days of receiving a Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant award, we will enter into an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction detailing the use of grant funds, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.12.(a).
- All applicable federal and state laws will be adhered to, including equal opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, political affiliation, or national origin.
- Procurement and contracting for design and construction services will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 133 and G.S. 143.
- Generally accepted fiscal control and accounting procedures will be followed to ensure proper disbursement and accounting of funds from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant proceeds and required Local Matching funds.
- All Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant proceeds are subject to forfeiture provisions, requiring full repayment, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.12.(c).

(Signature – Chair, County Commissioners)

(Date)

(Signature – Chair, Board of Education)

(Date)