

# Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund 2023-24 Grant Application

**Application Deadline: January 5, 2024**

Rev. 11/13/2022

**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**

- Guidance Issued October 13, 2023
- Application Opens November 13, 2023
- Application Deadline January 5, 2024

**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 FY2023-24 is available here: [FY23-24 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 \$254 million for FY2023-24.

**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 FY2023-24 grant applicants are available here: [FY23-24 Local Matching Requirements](#)

# **NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND    FY2023-24 GRANT APPLICATION**

## **PROGRAM CRITERIA**

Date: 11/20/23

### **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.

Applications will be reviewed in the context of projected enrollment to evaluate 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.

# NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND      FY2023-24 GRANT APPLICATION

## PROGRAM CRITERIA

Date: 11/20/23

## EVALUATION

Applications are evaluated on critical needs, budget detail, and the following criteria per G.S. 115C-546.10.:

Prioritization	Definition/Calculation/Data Source
Tier Designation	Counties designated as development tier one areas. (NC Department of Commerce, 2023 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 State Treasurer, Analysis of Debt of North Carolina Counties 6-30-2022)
Ratio of Debt to Tax Revenue	<u>Debt</u> : Sum of County Debt from [General Obligation Bonds, Installment Purchase Debt, Special Obligation Bonds, QZABs and QSCBs, Certificates of Participation] (NC State Treasurer, Analysis of Debt of North Carolina Counties 6-30-2022)  <u>Revenue</u> : Sum of County Revenues from Property Taxes, Other Taxes, and Sales Tax, FY 2021-22 (NC DOR, Statistical Abstract of North Carolina Taxes 2022, Advance Edition)
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.

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND      FY2023-24 GRANT APPLICATION**

**CONTACT INFORMATION**

Date: 11/20/23

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

County: Jackson

Primary Contact: Darlene Fox

Title: CFO / Acting County Manager

Address: 401 Grindsaff Cove Rd, Sylva NC, 28779

Phone: 828-586-4055

email: darlenefox@jacksonnc.org

School Unit: Jackson County Public Schools

Primary Contact: Jake Buchanan

Title: Deputy Superintendent

Address: 398 Hospital Rd, Sylva NC, 28779

Phone: 828-506-5733

email: jbuchanan@jcpsmail.org

**APPLICATION SUBMITTAL**

Submit completed applications and supporting materials by Friday, January 5, 2024, via email to:

Nathan Maune | School Planning Section Chief | 984-236-2919 | [nathan.maune@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:nathan.maune@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      FY2023-24 GRANT APPLICATION**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Date: 11/20/23

Project Title:

Smoky Mtn High School Stadium ADA Upgrades and New Track

Location:

Smoky Mtn High School

Type of Facility:

Stadium and Track

Short Description of Proposed School Construction Project:

See attached document

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

See attached document

*(please attach additional information as necessary)*

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND      FY2023-24 GRANT APPLICATION**

**PROJECT INFORMATION**

Date: 11/20/23

Was this project identified in the 5-year plan in the 2020-21 Facility Needs Survey?       YES     NO

If not, provide explanation and attach equivalent information:  
See attached document

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Will this project replace any existing facilities?       YES     NO

If YES, which school(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many students will be served by this project? 887

Has Advanced Planning been done for this project?       YES     NO  
Conceptual Design Work - Clark Nexsen

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Have Construction Documents been completed for this project?       YES     NO

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Anticipated or Actual Bid Date: July 15, 2024

Planned Start Date of Construction\*: Sept 1, 2024

Planned Completion Date of Construction: March 30, 2027

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

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND      FY2023-24 GRANT APPLICATION**

**PROJECT BUDGET**

Date: 11/20/23

Total NBPSCF Grant funding requested for this project: \$8,650,791,19

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

Estimated Project Costs	Local (non-State)	NBPSCF Grant Funds	Total
Planning	\$ <u>1,046,826</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>1,046,826</u>
Construction	\$ <u>485,606</u>	\$ <u>8,650,791</u>	\$ <u>9,136,397</u>
Other Costs*	\$ <u>932,559</u>	\$ <u>0</u>	\$ <u>932,559</u>
<b>Total</b>	\$ <u>1,526,610</u>	\$ <u>8,650,791</u>	\$ <u>10,177,401</u>

\*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:**

Article 40,41, and 46 sales tax

Have any of the Local Matching Funds been expended at the time of application?

YES     NO

If YES, provide amount expended: \$31,200

If YES, provide description of work: Conceptual Work - Clark Nexsen

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

Total Planned Expenditures	2022-23 or earlier	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26 or later	Total
Local Matching Funds	0	31,200	763,305	763,305	1,526,610.21
Requested NBPSCF Grant Funds*	0	0	6,486,842	2,163,949	8,650,791.19
Total Estimated Expenditures by Fiscal Year	0	31,200	7,250,147	2,927,254	10,177,401

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



# **NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND      FY2023-24 GRANT APPLICATION**

## **ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION**

Date: 11/20/23

Any project funded with a grant from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund must follow the same review process as any other LEA 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 LEA 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 of an existing school, the LEA must follow these procedures: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/school-closing-procedure/download>
- For projects involving the demolition of an existing school building, the LEA must follow the closing procedure noted above and must submit a Feasibility and Cost Analysis: <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>

**NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND      FY2023-24 GRANT APPLICATION**

**ASSURANCE PAGE**

Date: 11/20/23

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 evaluating 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 promotion of equal opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, political affiliation, or national origin.
- 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).

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(Signature – Chair, County Commissioners)

(Date)

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(Signature – Chair, Board of Education)

(Date)

## **Short Description of Proposed School Construction Project**

The goal for this project would be to bring the facilities related to the school stadium up to complete ADA standards. This project would also construct a regulation size track on the campus of SMHS—something the campus has never had since its construction in 1960.

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

A new track and football stadium renovations are greatly needed for Smoky Mountain High School and the Jackson County Community. Currently, the stadium at SMHS does not have accessible seating on the home side, a permanent visitor bathroom, an ADA-compliant concession stand, or an ADA-compliant press box. The stadium was constructed in the 1960s when the original school was built; no thought was given to students, staff, or visitors that have mobility issues. The stadium on the home side is on two levels because it was built into the side of a hill; the upper and lower levels are only accessible to each other via stairs. SMHS has had students with mobility issues who have served as team managers and writers for the school's newspaper. Because of the lack of an ADA ramp from the upper portion of the stadium, which is attached to the school and ADA parking lots, to the lower portion of the stadium, these students must be driven by car to the lower level. In addition, we do not currently have adequate ADA parking for visitors because the ADA parking is attached to the upper level, which does not have access to the visitor's side.

Smoky Mountain High School is currently in the Mountain Seven Conference for Athletics. SMHS is the only school without a regulation track. A new track would benefit all the athletic programs at SMHS, especially cross country, indoor track, and outdoor track; participation in these programs is at an all-time high. A new track at SMHS would also allow indoor track and outdoor track to host meets in the winter and spring. SMHS has not hosted a meet since the 1990s. District middle school athletics (JCPS has all K-8 schools with no traditional middle school) could also hold practice and host meets. A new track would also serve as a classroom for students at SMHS. Physical education classes at SMHS would use the track daily. Other academic courses would have the ability to use the track as a classroom. Other schools in JCPS would benefit from a new track for physical education testing and future field days. Because the only other track in the county is on the campus of Western Carolina University (as it does not have easy access to the general public), the Jackson County Community would also benefit from a new track.

Every day, SMHS has people stop in from the community to walk around the school. A new track would provide community members the opportunity to improve their cardiovascular endurance year-round in an inviting, safe environment. SMHS has also served as the host for Special Olympics each year. A new track is needed to host the fantastic event. A new track at SMHS would provide many opportunities for JCPS and the Jackson County Community. The opportunities are endless.

## **Why not in 5 year Plan**

For the past ten years, the school system's primary concern has been failing roofs and HVAC systems on all of our seven campuses. This has been reflected in the capital request to the Jackson County Commissioners, and the Facility Needs Surveys for NCDPI. Fortunately, JCPS and the Jackson County Board of Commissioners could secure a QSAB loan for \$10 million to address the failing roof and HVAC needs. After three years of projects, we are happy to report that our roofs and HVAC are up to the needed standards. Since completing those projects, the district has now focused on other capital improvement needs. This is why this project has not appeared on the Facility Needs Survey for the past ten years.



This picture shows how there is no access from the upper level of the stadium to the lower level except for stairs. The ramp would be constructed to the left of the stairs in the far side of this picture.



From both the lower and upper sections of the stadium there is no access to the home stands other than stairs. In this section we would construct accessible seating that included “buddy” seating.



This picture again shows that there is no accessibility to the home stands other than stairs from either the lower level or upper level.



This picture taken from the lower level of the stadium shows the visitor bleacher that are ADA compliant. However, there is no bathroom on this side and visitors are forced to use portable toilets or walk to the bathrooms on the upper level home side.