

REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION

HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING September 19th, 2024

DATE: SUBJECT: HCPS Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund Grant Application

PRESENTER: Bryan Rhodes, Capital Projects Construction Manager

ATTACHMENTS: Yes
I. Grant Application Packet

SUMMARY OF REQUEST:

Henderson County Public Schools is requesting Henderson County to partner in applying for a Needs- Based Public School Capital Fund Grant. Henderson County Public Schools plans to upgrade East Henderson High School's current 4-pipe HVAC system to a variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system. In January 2025, the project will initiate an RFQ to select an engineer who will design an appropriate system. In July 2025, an RFP will be issued for the procurement and installation of the new system. The proposed system will be zone-designed with dedicated equipment for each space, empowering staff to regulate classroom temperatures for optimal comfort. The Media Center and other large areas will be upgraded to natural gas heating and compressor cooling. The system will feature an enhanced control system offering humidity control and detailed unit information for prompt maintenance. The upgrade includes the removal of existing equipment. If grant is secured the MRTS fund can be used as the 15% match.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is requested ratify the execution of the approval of the HCPS Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund 2024-2025 Grant Application.

Suggested Motion:

I move that the Board ratify the execution of the approval the HCPS Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund 2024-2025 Grant Application.

Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund

2024-25 Grant Application

Application Deadline: September 13, 2024

Rev. 7/30/2024

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Date: September 1, 2024

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 FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Date: September 1, 2024

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, 2024 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 6-30-2023) |
| 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 6-30-2023) <u>Revenue</u> : Sum of County Revenues from Property Taxes, Other Taxes, and Sales Tax, FY 2022-23 (NC DOR, Statistical Abstract of North Carolina Taxes 2023, 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 FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Date: September 1, 2024

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

County: Henderson

Primary Contact: Bryan Rhodes

Title: Capital Projects Construction Manager

Address: 100 N. King Street, Hendersonville, NC 28792

Phone: 828-606-9094

email: brhodes@hendersoncountync.gov

School Unit: Henderson County Public Schools

Primary Contact: Carl Taylor

Title: Chief Administrative Officer

Address: 414 4th Avenue West

Phone: 828-697-4733

email: cwtaylor@hcpsnc.org

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Submit completed applications and supporting materials by Friday, September 13, 2024, 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 FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date: September 1, 2024

Project Title:

East Henderson HVAC Replacement

Location:

East Henderson High School

Type of Facility:

High School

Short Description of Proposed School Construction Project:

Henderson County Public Schools plans to upgrade East Henderson High School's current 4-pipe HVAC system to a variable refrigerant flow (VRF) system. In January 2025, the project will initiate an RFQ to select an engineer who will design an appropriate system. In July 2025, an RFP will be issued for the procurement and installation of the new system. The proposed system will be zone-designed with dedicated equipment for each space, empowering staff to regulate classroom temperatures for optimal comfort. The Media Center and other large areas will be upgraded to natural gas heating and compressor cooling. The system will feature an enhanced control system offering humidity control and detailed unit information for prompt maintenance. The upgrade includes the removal of existing equipment.

The 2020-2021 Facility Needs Survey by Henderson County Public Schools highlighted the need for additions and renovations at East Henderson High School. The identified renovations included an HVAC replacement at this school. The current HVAC system, last renovated in 1992, is outdated and no longer able to meet the demands of our growing student body and evolving educational requirements. Here are some key points illustrating the urgency of this project:

1. The outdated system struggles to maintain consistent temperatures and humidity levels throughout the building, leading to discomfort for both students and staff. Extremes in temperature can affect concentration and focus, impacting students' ability to engage in classroom activities and perform at their best. Research has consistently shown a correlation between comfortable learning environments and improved academic performance.
2. The integrity of the current piping, which runs between the buildings and is encased in the awning, is uncertain. This piping is critical to the operation of the current HVAC system to ensure the proper heating and cooling to places of instruction. The existing fan coils in the classrooms as well as many of the air handling units are approaching or have passed the end of life expectancy as outlined by ASHRE. The new VRF system would provide more controlled heating and cooling capabilities to spaces of instruction.
3. Poor air quality can exacerbate respiratory issues and allergies among students and staff, leading to increased absenteeism and decreased productivity. A comfortable and healthy learning environment contributes to a positive school culture and fosters a sense of well-being among students and educators.
4. An outdated HVAC system is likely to require frequent repairs and maintenance, leading to increased operational costs. Investing in a new system will result in long-term cost savings and greater operational efficiency. This project is not merely about upgrading infrastructure; it is an investment in the health, comfort, and academic success of our students. By addressing this critical need, we can create an environment that supports the overall development of our students.

(please attach additional information as necessary)

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date: September 1, 2024

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:

Will this project replace any existing facilities? YES NO

If YES, which school(s): _____

How many students will be served by this project? 950

Has Advanced Planning been done for this project? YES NO

The process to select an engineer will take place in January 2025.

Have Construction Documents been completed for this project? YES NO

Anticipated or Actual Bid Date: January 2025 (Engineering); July 2025 (Construction)

Planned Start Date of Construction*: September 2025

Planned Completion Date of Construction: June 2026

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

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT BUDGET

Date: September 1, 2024

Total NBPSCF Grant funding requested for this project: \$3,300,000

Minimum NBPSCF Grant funding for project to proceed (optional): \$1,500,000

| Estimated Project Costs | Local (non-State) | NBPSCF Grant Funds | Total |
|-------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Planning | \$ <u>100,000</u> | \$ <u>300,000</u> | \$ <u>400,000</u> |
| Construction | \$ <u>1,000,000</u> | \$ <u>3,000,000</u> | \$ <u>4,000,000</u> |
| Other Costs* | \$ _____ | \$ _____ | \$ _____ |
| Total | \$ <u>1,100,000</u> | \$ <u>3,300,000</u> | \$ <u>4,400,000</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:

Henderson County designates \$0.02 of the tax rate for school maintenance and repairs.

This allocation will be used to cover the required 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 | 2023-24 or earlier | 2024-25 | 2025-26 | 2026-27 or later | Total |
|---|--------------------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----------|
| Local Matching Funds | 0 | 100,000 | 1,000,000 | 0 | 1,100,000 |
| Requested NBPSCF Grant Funds* | 0 | 300,000 | 3,000,000 | 0 | 3,300,000 |
| Total Estimated Expenditures by Fiscal Year | 0 | 400,000 | 4,000,000 | 0 | 4,400,000 |

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

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Date: September 1, 2024

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 FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

ASSURANCE PAGE

Date: September 1, 2024

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).

(Signature – Chair, County Commissioners)

(Date)



(Signature – Chair, Board of Education)

8-30-24

(Date)