

Public School Bond Act of 2025

Recommendation

Invests in a safe and welcoming educational environment for K-12 students by issuing a \$4 billion bond to help address North Carolina’s needs for new and renovated public school facilities. Ensures funding is available to each Local Education Agency (LEA) for the construction, repair, renovation, and furnishing of new school facilities across the state.

Statement of Need

Invests funds in the form of a general obligation bond to ensure that North Carolina’s students are learning in high quality educational facilities. North Carolina needs to invest funding to both repair existing school facilities, and to build new facilities to keep pace with its growing population.

- The most recent Five-Year K-12 Facility Needs Report found a need of over \$13 billion over a five-year period in Public School construction, repair and renovation, land acquisition, and furniture and equipment need across the State. This represents a 62% increase from the previous survey completed in 2016.¹

Table 1: Summary of Five-Year Needs by Category

	2020-21 Survey
New Schools	\$5,183,924,592
Additions	\$1,647,899,423
Renovations	\$5,529,902,692
Furnishing/Equipment	\$641,047,734
Land Purchase	\$64,888,630
Grand Total	\$13,067,663,071

- School construction continues to be expensive for local governments, with each new elementary, middle, or high school, costing millions of dollars depending on the size and location of the project.
- LEA administrators cited a variety of reasons for their requested school construction and renovation projects including: to meet projected enrollment growth; to ease current crowding; to improve air conditioning and energy conservation; and to meet deferred maintenance needs.

Recommendation Detail

Debt Affordability

- The state has achieved the highest credit rating available by the independent credit ratings agencies and the 2025 Debt Affordability Study, released by North Carolina’s Debt Affordability Advisory Committee and the Department of State Treasurer, also finds that North Carolina’s General Fund has a debt capacity of approximately \$1.7 billion in each of the next 10 years.²

¹<https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/facility-needs-survey-2020-21/download?attachment>

² [2025 Debt Affordability Study](#)

- As a general obligation bond, the question to issue school construction bonds would be submitted to the qualified voters of North Carolina at a Statewide election and would require a majority vote for approval.

Statewide Benefits

- Divides \$1.15 billion of the \$4 billion bond evenly among all 115 LEAs to provide a base amount of \$10 million in funding for each LEA. The remaining \$2.85 billion would be allocated to each LEA based on their most recent Average Daily Membership (ADM).
- Ensures every LEA across the state would receive some amount of funding, while larger amounts of funding would be targeted to the LEAs with the largest school-age population and the most need for new facilities.
- Requires counties receiving funding to provide some amount of matching funds, unless they are a county, or an LEA in a county, designated as a Tier 1 county in the North Carolina Department of Commerce county distress rankings.

Expected Impact

This proposal will improve the learning environment for North Carolina's public school students, helping local governments finance projects to build new schools, renovate and modernize existing schools and make them safer. The average amount of funding among the 115 LEAs under this proposal would be almost \$35 million. Even the smallest LEAs in the state could receive almost \$11 million in crucial funding to help address their critical school infrastructure needs.

Table 2: Public School Capital Allocation for \$4 Billion Bond

Allocation Methodology			
\$4,000,000,000			
Base Amount	\$1,150,000,000	(\$10,000,000 per LEA)	
ADM	\$2,850,000,000		
LEA	Allocation Total	LEA	Allocation Total
1 Alamance-Burlington Schools	\$ 56,478,876	Mooresville Graded School District	\$ 22,039,459
2 Alexander County Schools	\$ 18,729,335	Jackson County Schools	\$ 16,948,559
3 Alleghany County Schools	\$ 12,657,657	Johnston County Schools	\$ 87,009,730
4 Anson County Schools	\$ 16,011,418	Jones County Schools	\$ 11,998,957
5 Ashe County Schools	\$ 15,346,484	Lee County Schools	\$ 29,035,809
6 Avery County Schools	\$ 13,519,994	Lenoir County Public Schools	\$ 26,905,943
7 Beaufort County Schools	\$ 21,355,823	Lincoln County Schools	\$ 33,810,866
8 Bertie County Schools	\$ 13,347,526	Macon County Schools	\$ 19,138,685
9 Bladen County Schools	\$ 17,860,765	Madison County Schools	\$ 14,303,369
10 Brunswick County Schools	\$ 38,068,520	Martin County Schools	\$ 15,309,081
11 Buncombe County Schools	\$ 55,822,254	McDowell County Schools	\$ 21,135,564
12 Asheville City Schools	\$ 17,945,960	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	\$ 304,844,138
13 Burke County Schools	\$ 33,285,152	Mitchell County Schools	\$ 13,565,708
14 Cabarrus County Schools	\$ 83,078,308	Montgomery County Schools	\$ 17,154,273
15 Kannapolis City Schools	\$ 21,141,798	Moore County Schools	\$ 36,904,886
16 Caldwell County Schools	\$ 31,466,974	Nash-Rocky Mount Schools	\$ 36,996,314
17 Camden County Schools	\$ 13,977,136	New Hanover County Schools	\$ 61,114,712
18 Carteret County Public Schools	\$ 26,103,867	Northampton County Schools	\$ 12,449,866
19 Caswell County Schools	\$ 14,224,408	Onslow County Schools	\$ 66,396,780
20 Catawba County Schools	\$ 42,752,148	Orange County Schools	\$ 24,368,805
21 Hickory City Schools	\$ 17,551,155	Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools	\$ 33,093,984
22 Newton-Conover City Schools	\$ 15,373,497	Pamlico County Schools	\$ 12,275,321
23 Chatham County Schools	\$ 28,310,616	Elizabeth City-Pasquotank Public Schools	\$ 19,616,606
24 Cherokee County Schools	\$ 16,098,690	Pender County Schools	\$ 32,310,609
25 Edenton-Chowan Schools	\$ 13,476,357	Perquimans County Schools	\$ 13,628,045
26 Clay County Schools	\$ 12,614,021	Person County Schools	\$ 18,999,464
27 Cleveland County Schools	\$ 39,140,726	Pitt County Schools	\$ 59,699,650
28 Columbus County Schools	\$ 20,846,733	Polk County Schools	\$ 14,135,057
29 Whiteville City Schools	\$ 14,132,979	Randolph County Schools	\$ 40,815,528
30 Craven County Schools	\$ 34,598,397	Asheboro City Schools	\$ 19,186,477
31 Cumberland County Schools	\$ 110,610,726	Richmond County Schools	\$ 23,171,924
32 Currituck County Schools	\$ 19,417,126	Public Schools of Robeson County	\$ 52,366,676
33 Dare County Schools	\$ 19,953,229	Rockingham County Schools	\$ 32,618,141
34 Davidson County Schools	\$ 46,845,647	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	\$ 46,552,661
35 Lexington City Schools	\$ 15,890,898	Rutherford County Schools	\$ 24,931,921
36 Thomasville City Schools	\$ 14,336,615	Sampson County Schools	\$ 26,261,789
37 Davie County Schools	\$ 22,492,445	Clinton City Schools	\$ 15,998,950
38 Duplin County Schools	\$ 29,902,301	Scotland County Schools	\$ 20,848,811
39 Durham Public Schools	\$ 74,579,623	Stanly County Schools	\$ 28,117,370
40 Edgecombe County Public Schools	\$ 22,858,158	Stokes County Schools	\$ 21,339,200
41 Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools	\$ 115,138,510	Surry County Schools	\$ 24,803,090
42 Franklin County Schools	\$ 26,373,996	Elkin City Schools	\$ 12,574,541
43 Gaston County Schools	\$ 73,617,546	Mount Airy City Schools	\$ 13,584,409
44 Gates County Schools	\$ 12,852,982	Swain County Schools	\$ 13,748,565
45 Graham County Schools	\$ 12,217,139	Transylvania County Schools	\$ 16,568,300
46 Granville County Schools	\$ 23,063,872	Tyrrell County Schools	\$ 10,905,972
47 Greene County Schools	\$ 15,624,925	Union County Public Schools	\$ 95,047,118
48 Guilford County Schools	\$ 147,437,672	Vance County Schools	\$ 20,300,241
49 Halifax County Schools	\$ 14,230,642	Wake County Schools	\$ 345,211,857
50 Roanoke Rapids City Schools	\$ 15,404,665	Warren County Schools	\$ 13,123,111
51 Weldon City Schools	\$ 11,317,400	Washington County Schools	\$ 12,025,970
52 Harnett County Schools	\$ 51,257,068	Watauga County Schools	\$ 19,485,697
53 Haywood County Schools	\$ 23,236,340	Wayne County Public Schools	\$ 45,584,351
54 Henderson County Schools	\$ 36,142,290	Wilkes County Schools	\$ 27,117,891
55 Hertford County Schools	\$ 14,623,368	Wilson County Schools	\$ 31,311,130
56 Hoke County Schools	\$ 27,668,539	Yadkin County Schools	\$ 20,339,721
57 Hyde County Schools	\$ 10,922,596	Yancey County Schools	\$ 14,288,823
58 Iredell-Statesville Schools	\$ 53,245,635	Total	\$ 4,000,000,000