



# WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

## OFFICE OF GRANTS & STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENT ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT: 2019-20

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### MISSION

The Wake County Public School System (WCPSS) Office of Grants & Strategic Advancement was established in 1985. Since its inception, the overarching goal has been to secure grant funding which helps advance the district's mission and strategic goals or initiatives. In support, the office identifies grant funding opportunities and communicates this information to Central Services and school-based personnel. Further, the Office of Grants assists staff with preparing applications, monitors implementation of grant awards, and provides general oversight for district compliance activities.

### VISION

The vision for the day-to-day operations of the Office of Grants is to align all activities in support of the Wake County Board of Education's Mission adopted January 20, 2015, "Wake County Public School System will provide a relevant and engaging education and will graduate students who are collaborative, creative, effective communicators and critical thinkers." Per this mission, the Office of Grants proactively seeks to identify funding opportunities which can provide support to programs or activities which promote the five strategic objectives for the Vision 2020 Strategic Plan: Learning & Teaching, Achievement, Balanced Assessment, Human Capital, and Community Engagement. In support, office staff practice positive consumer relations and aim to provide a same-day response to inquiries. Office staff pursue continuous improvement and seek to implement efficient and effective means of providing service to the WCPSS community; including administrators, teachers, and external agencies or organizations.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES**

A primary responsibility of the Office of Grants & Strategic Advancement is to secure public and private funding through entitlement, competitive, and collaborative grants in ways that are consistent with school district priorities, applicable regulations, and relevant research findings. This responsibility includes the following functions:

- identify grant funding opportunities and communicate these to WCPSS personnel;
- advise the Wake County Board of Education of grant funding sources and seek approval for WCPSS staff to submit or collaborate on applications;
- assist district personnel with preparing and submitting grant applications;
- conduct training for WCPSS staff on identifying and applying for grants;
- interpret federal, state, and local rules and procedures governing grants;
- monitor grant programs for compliance with program and statutory regulations and ensure compliance with federal and state data reporting requirements;
- collaborate with appropriate WCPSS departments including Academics, Human Resources, Special Education, and Student Support Services to ensure that grant program data are collected, compiled, and reported in an accurate and timely manner to comply with federal and state reporting requirements; and
- provide general oversight to assist district departments to fulfill federal, state, and local compliance requirements.

## **PURPOSE OF ANNUAL REPORT**

Each year, the Office of Grants & Strategic Advancement prepares a summary of grant development activities from the prior year. The timing of this report is, in part, dictated by award notifications from funding agencies, some of which can take up to a year for a review of applications.

This report describes major accomplishments, along with district-wide grant activity for 2019-20 by Central Service personnel, school-based staff, and others in collaboration and support of WCPSS. This report is an account of the efforts across WCPSS to prepare and submit grant applications, as well as the subsequent success with securing grant awards. The report is not a financial accounting of grants managed by WCPSS. The dollar amounts noted for grant applications and awards are based upon figures reported to the Office of Grants & Strategic Advancement by departments, school staff, and external agencies submitting applications.

## **THE YEAR IN BRIEF**

In 2019-20, the Office of Grants continued to assist with managing grants and monitoring compliance reporting requirements. The year was marked by significant departmental staffing changes and a global pandemic. The Senior Director position was vacated in July 2019, and a new Senior Director was named in October. This created an opening in the Senior Administrator position, which was filled in June, 2020.

March 13, 2020 was the last day that schools were open due to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. WCPSS entered a challenging time in which staff district-wide devoted all their efforts to assessing the situation and formulating ways to meet the needs of students and their families. Many staff were redeployed to help provide educational materials for student to use at home, support emergency food distribution, and distribution of technology equipment. COVID created an “all hands on deck” emergency and responding to immediate needs took precedence over usual and customary operations.

That said, a bulleted list of activities and accomplishments for 2019-20 is provided below.

## **ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2019-20**

### **Administration**

- Supported school efforts to submit grants by increasing awareness of WCPSS requirements and providing adult learning opportunities on *Identifying and Applying for Grants*.
- Secured Board approval for 259 individual grant opportunities and 766 subsequent applications (includes WCPSS and collaborative submissions).
- Updated the Office of Grants intranet website after Board meetings to share opportunities district-wide.
- Assisted school-based and Central Service personnel with grant-related requirements (e.g., grant agreements, annual reports, invoicing, monitoring, compliance, and close-out).
- Completed annual update of Compliance Reporting Activity list.

### **Pre- and Post-Award**

- Collaborated with external constituents (e.g., Wake Tech, the Interfaith Food Shuttle, Marbles Kids Museum, Duke Literacy Corp, the Town of Knightdale, UNC Chapel Hill, NC Theatre4Change Conservatory, etc.) on 12 grant proposals (e.g., National Science Foundation, Institute of Museum and Library Services, Institute of Education Sciences, AmeriCorp, and others) and implementation of funded projects.
- Supported grants development, implementation, monitoring, and close-out of grant-funded projects, including: Burroughs Wellcome Student Science Enrichment Program, Magnet Schools Assistance Program, National Science Foundation, and Wallace Foundation with NC State University.

### **Professional Development**

- Participated in webinars with the What Works Clearinghouse on Evidence-based Practices and the US Department of Education on 2019-20 Federal grants and shared the information with district leadership.
- Participated in 2019-20 conference calls with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and NC Early Childhood Foundation.
- Participated in regular departmental led professional learning, with a focus on a superior customer service experience that over-delivers by exceeding expectations, monitors for continuous improvement, and demonstrates overall excellence.
- Met quarterly with peers from Charlotte Mecklenburg and Guilford County Public schools.

- Participated in trainings such as Visual Design for Presentations, Racial Equity Institute (Phase I), Collaborative Operating Systems (COS), and the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading's Collective Impact Model.

### **Ad Hoc**

- Supported WCPSS Vision 2020 Strategic Plan implementation, including prioritized strategic objectives activities for grants development.
- Implemented the 4C Fund, including the selection of a new cohort of awardees and the support of current grantees with project implementation and budget management.
- Served on the leadership team of WAKE Up and Read and participated in supporting and organizing the annual WAKE Up and Read book drive, raising over 100,000 books distributed to 13 WCPSS schools and 17 Wake County childcare centers.
- Provided professional development during the Summer 2019 Support Staff Institute, participated in the annual Central Services Leadership Conference.
- Supported the district response to COVID-19 by staffing distribution of technology equipment, assisting with vaccination events, and filling in at schools experiencing staff shortages.

## GRANTS ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES

The following tables provide details on the grant applications submitted in **2019-20**.

**Table 1**  
**Summary of WCPSS**  
**Competitive Grant Application Effort and Success**

<b>Submitted</b>		<b>Awarded</b>	
<b>Applications Submitted</b>	<b>Amount Requested</b>	<b>Applications Awarded</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
754	\$ 16,358,453	564	\$ 15,013,939

**Table 2**  
**Summary of WCPSS Collaborative Grants with Community Partners**

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Applications Submitted</b>	<b>Applications Awarded</b>
Community Agencies	7	3
Government Agencies	2	1
Institutions of Higher Education	3	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>5</b>

*\*These grants were awarded to WCPSS's collaborative partners. WCPSS indirectly benefits from funding awarded via services provided by our collaborative partners, including professional development offerings, student services or academic programming.*

**Table 3\***  
**Summary of Awarded Competitive Grants by Area**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number Awarded</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Central	59	\$ 83,288
Eastern	98	\$ 118,052
Northern	59	\$ 40,157
Northeastern	99	\$ 72,772
Northwestern	33	\$ 32,030
Southern	49	\$ 29,693
Southeastern	33	\$ 20,374
Southwestern	84	\$ 53,044
Western	42	\$ 31,770
Central Services	8	\$ 14,532,659
<b>Total*</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>\$ 15,013,839</b>

*\*Competitive grants only*

**Table 4\***  
**Summary of Awarded Central Service Grants by Chief Officer**

<b>Division/Department</b>	<b>Number Awarded</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Academic Advancement		
Academics	2	\$155,000
Area Superintendents (School-based grants)	556	\$481,180
Student Support Services	1	\$178,247
Chief Operating Officer		
Child Nutrition Services	3	\$84,800
Chief of Staff		
Equity Affairs	1	\$10,000
Chief of Schools		
Magnet and Curriculum Enhancement	1	\$14,104,612
<b>Total</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>\$15,013,839</b>

*\*Competitive grants only.*

**Table 5**  
**Summary of WCPSS Awarded Grants by Theme**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Number Awarded</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Arts/Music	50	\$ 28,232
Literacy/English Language Arts	135	\$ 104,316
Special Education	35	\$ 22,794
STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math)	92	\$ 218,569
Supplies	85	\$ 34,253
Technology Equipment	16	\$ 18,394
Other	151	\$ 14,587,281
<b>Total*</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>\$ 15,013,839</b>

*\*Competitive grants only*

**Table 6**  
**Summary of WCPSS Grants by Month\***

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Funding Agencies on Precip</b>	<b>Number of Grants Submitted*</b>
July	46	571
August	57	84
September	51	57
October	27	17
November	14	9
December	5	3
January	10	4
February	16	7
March	18	11
April	6	2
May	0	0
June	9	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>766</b>

*\*Includes 754 Competitive and 12 Collaborative grants*

**Table 7**  
**Summary of WCPSS Competitive Grants by Funding Level**

Funding Level	Requested		Awarded		Not Awarded	
	Count	Amount	Count	Amount	Count	Amount
\$0 to \$499	375	\$ 106,974	336	\$ 94,530	42	\$ 13,291
\$500 to \$999	182	\$ 116,072	129	\$ 82,347	55	\$ 36,016
\$1,000 to \$4,999	153	\$ 330,962	81	\$ 158,115	68	\$ 167,004
\$5,000 to \$9,999	22	\$ 130,777	7	\$ 45,600	14	\$ 76,777
\$10,000 to \$24,999	10	\$ 144,181	3	\$ 51,181	7	\$ 93,000
\$25,000 to \$49,999	4	\$ 135,407	4	\$ 125,407	1	\$ 40,000
\$50,000 to \$99,999	4	\$ 241,300	1	\$ 53,800	2	\$ 137,300
\$100,000 to \$249,999	2	\$ 298,247	2	\$ 298,247	0	\$ -
\$250,000 to \$499,999	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1	\$ 749,921	0	\$ -	1	\$ 749,921
\$1,000,000 +	1	\$ 14,104,612	1	\$ 14,104,612	0	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>754</b>	<b>\$ 16,358,453</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>\$ 15,013,839</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>\$ 1,313,309</b>

*Note: This table only includes competitive grants. Funders sometimes award more or less than was requested, so the requested count and amount may vary from the awarded count and amount.*



**Table 8\***  
**Summary of WCPSS Entitlement Grants**

Source	Revenue Amount
ESEA Title I Basic Program	\$ 37,748,194
IDEA Title VI-B Handicapped	\$ 28,216,942
CARES Act -K-12 Emergency Relief Fund	\$ 24,492,392
IDEA Early Intervening Services	\$ 5,377,118
Title II - Improving Teacher Quality	\$ 5,317,658
ESEA Title IV - Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Part A)	\$ 4,352,419
Title III - Language Acquisition	\$ 2,470,091
Career Technical Education Program Improvement	\$ 1,854,484
IDEA VI-B Special Needs Targeted Assistance	\$ 551,878
IDEA VI - B Preschool Handicapped	\$ 465,332
ESEA Title I School Improvement Grant	\$ 500,608
Title III - Language Acquisition - Significant Increase	\$ 204,723
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance	\$ 87,269
IDEA - Targeted Assistance for Preschool	\$ 114,055
Indian Education Act	\$ 63,333
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 111,816,496</b>

*\* Amounts listed for Entitlement Grants are found in the 2020-21 Adopted Budget.*

**Table 9**  
**Summary of Notable WCPSS Competitive Grants**

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Amount</b>
US Department of Education, Magnet Schools Assistance Program	\$14,104,612
NCDPI School Safety	\$178,247
NCDPI Education and Workforce Innovation Fund	\$120,000
USDA Fresh Fruits and Vegetables	\$101,588
NCDPI National School Lunch Program Equipment Assistance	\$53,800
Triangle Community Foundation (WAKE Up and Read)	\$35,000
No Kid Hungry-Share Our Strength	\$30,000
Lead for Justice (formerly Teaching Tolerance)	\$10,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,633,247</b>