



WAKE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

OFFICE OF GRANTS & STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENT

ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT: 2020-21

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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 2020-21 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 2020-21, the Office of Grants continued to assist with managing grants and monitoring compliance reporting requirements. The year was marked by significant disruption due to a global pandemic. Students attended school remotely for the first half of the year, then moved into rolling in-person instruction to finish out the school year. The COVID-19 pandemic created incredible challenges, with staffing shortages, supply chain disruptions, and interrupted learning for students. WCPSS mobilized staff district-wide in new and different ways to meet the needs of students and their families. Many staff members were redeployed to help provide educational

materials for students 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.

The Grants team supported district-wide efforts to distribute computers and hot-spots to students, assisted with community vaccination events, volunteered at schools that were short staffed to help with COVID screenings, classroom coverage, and other needs.

That said, a bulleted list of activities and accomplishments for 2020-21 is provided below.

ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2020-21

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 234 individual grant opportunities and 721 subsequent applications (includes WCPSS competitive 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., The Poe Center for Health Education, UNC School of Government, YMCA of the Triangle, Communities in Schools, the NC Education Corps, NCSU Office of Outreach and Engagement, etc.) on 11 grant proposals and implementation of funded projects.
- Supported grants development, implementation, monitoring, and close-out of funded projects, including but not limited to: Burroughs Wellcome Student Science Enrichment Program, Magnet Schools Assistance Program, National Science Foundation, and Wallace Foundation with NC State University.

Professional Development

- Grants staff participated in a variety of professional development opportunities, including Managing Federal Grants and Cooperative Agreements for Recipients and Writing Successful Federal Grant Applications by Management Concepts, Collaborative Operating Systems (COS), Facilitative Leadership: Tapping the Power of Collaborative Action, The Art and Science of VIRTUAL Presentations, Visual Design for Presentations, Racial Equity Institute, Crucial Conversations, Excel Basics, and Wake Tech's Social Problems: Race and Ethnic Relationships.
- Participated in 2020-21 meetings with the Campaign for Grade-Level Reading and NC Early Childhood Foundation.
- Participated in WAKE Up and Read's equity group, United Way webinars, Magnet Schools of America Conference (virtual), and a National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators Conference session (virtual).
- Met quarterly with peers from Charlotte Mecklenburg and Guilford County Public schools.
- Completed DiSC assessment/training at a Grants department retreat focused on team building and a review of departmental mission, vision, goals, and practices.

Ad Hoc

- Supported WCPSS Vision 2020 Strategic Plan implementation, including prioritized strategic objectives activities for grants development.
- 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.
- 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 **2020-21**.

Table 1
Summary of WCPSS
Competitive Grant Application Effort and Success

Submitted		Awarded	
Applications Submitted	Amount Requested	Applications Awarded	Amount Awarded
710	\$ 3,717,902	587	\$ 2,439,297

Table 2
Summary of WCPSS Collaborative Grants with Community Partners

Partner Type	Applications Submitted	Applications Awarded
Community Agencies	4	3
Government Agencies	6	5
Institutions of Higher Education	1	1
Total	11	9

**These grants were awarded to WCPSS's collaborative partners. WCPSS will indirectly benefit 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

Area	Number Awarded	Amount Awarded
Central	99	\$ 91,994
Eastern	87	\$ 80,345
Northern	51	\$ 219,689
Northeastern	67	\$ 220,280
Northwestern	40	\$ 26,926
Southern	91	\$ 143,912
Southeastern	34	\$ 20,199
Southwestern	64	\$ 42,278
Western	42	\$ 52,884
Central Services	12	\$ 1,540,790
Total*	587	\$ 2,439,297

**Competitive grants only*

Table 4*
Summary of Awarded Grants by Chief Officer

Division/Department	Number Awarded	Amount Awarded
Academic Advancement		
Academics	4	\$780,242
Area Superintendents (School-based grants)	577	\$918,231
Student Support Services	1	\$4,910
Office of Early Learning	1	\$675,024
Chief Operating Officer		
Child Nutrition Services	3	\$58,265
Chief of Schools		
Magnet and Curriculum Enhancement	1	\$2,625
Total	587	\$2,439,297

**Competitive grants only.*

Table 5
Summary of WCPSS Awarded Grants by Theme

Theme	Number Awarded	Amount Awarded
Arts/Music	52	\$ 243,367
Literacy/English Language Arts	162	\$ 291,320
Special Education	44	\$ 23,812
STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math)	94	\$ 885,648
Supplies	59	\$ 27,441
Technology Equipment	31	\$ 35,037
Other	145	\$ 932,671
Total*	587	\$ 2,439,297

**Competitive grants only*

Table 6
Summary of WCPSS Grants by Month*

Month	Number of Funding Agencies on Precip	Number of Grants Submitted*
July	41	556
August	59	56
September	31	22
October	13	25
November	11	12
December	11	6
January	20	6
February	15	12
March	12	3
April	8	5
May	10	17
June	3	1
Total	234	721

**Includes 710 Competitive and 11 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	404	\$ 112,975	380	\$ 105,761	23	\$ 6,855
\$500 to \$999	133	\$ 83,458	107	\$ 67,605	26	\$ 15,336
\$1,000 to \$4,999	122	\$ 240,519	79	\$ 150,054	45	\$ 94,321
\$5,000 to \$9,999	19	\$ 108,270	3	\$ 17,486	16	\$ 89,284
\$10,000 to \$24,999	18	\$ 263,113	9	\$ 141,550	9	\$ 119,208
\$25,000 to \$49,999	5	\$ 174,674	4	\$ 136,674	1	\$ 38,000
\$50,000 to \$99,999	2	\$ 130,000	0	\$ -	2	\$ 130,000
\$100,000 to \$249,999	4	\$ 729,868	3	\$ 575,000	1	\$ 179,868
\$250,000 to \$499,999	1	\$ 300,000	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
\$500,000 to \$999,999	2	\$ 1,575,024	2	\$ 1,245,166	0	\$ -
\$1,000,000 +	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	0	\$ -
Total	710	\$ 3,717,902	587	\$ 2,439,297	123	\$ 672,871

**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.*

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

Source	Revenue Amount
ESEA Title I Basic Program	\$ 37,269,001
IDEA Title VI-B Handicapped	\$ 41,166,050
IDEA Early Intervening Services	\$ 7,877,630
Title II - Supporting Effective Instruction	\$ 6,225,695
ESEA Title IV - Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Part A)	\$ 4,607,912
Title III - Language Acquisition	\$ 2,482,587
Career Technical Education Program Improvement	\$ 1,885,493
IDEA VI-B Special Needs Targeted Assistance	\$ 195,041
IDEA VI - B Preschool Handicapped	\$ 489,711
ESEA Title I School Improvement Grant	\$ 572,239
Title III - Language Acquisition - Significant Increase	\$ 221,836
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance	\$ 83,989
IDEA - Targeted Assistance for Preschool	\$ 114,724
Indian Education Act	\$ 69,674
TOTAL	\$ 103,261,582

* Amounts listed for Entitlement Grants are found in the 2021-22 Adopted Budget.

**This table does not include COVID-related emergency funding. Restricted grants related to the pandemic can be found in the [2021-22 Adopted Budget](#), pages 51-52.

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

Funder	Amount
Wake County Smart Start	\$675,024
NC Department of Commerce	\$570,142
United Way of the Greater Triangle (WAKE Up and Read)	\$200,000
Burroughs Wellcome Fund Career Award for Teachers of Science and Math	\$175,000
NC Green Power	\$76,000
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Fresh Fruits & Vegetable Program	\$102,239
NC Outdoor Heritage Go Outside (GO) Grant	\$56,051
Dairy Alliance School Alternative Feeding Equipment (S.A.F.E)	\$16,700
Total	\$1,871,156