



**OFFICE OF GRANTS & STRATEGIC ADVANCEMENT**  
**ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT: 2021-22**  
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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**

Adopted January 20, 2015, the district’s mission is, “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.” The Office of Grants aligns its day-to-day operations and activities to support of the Wake County Board of Education’s mission, vision, and core beliefs.

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. Grants 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.

The goals of the Office of Grants are to:

- Increase, improve, and strengthen communications within the WCPSS community;
- Support WCPSS aspirations, core beliefs, and strategic priorities through grants and resource development;

- Engage, sustain, and deepen courageous conversations that call out disparities and result in positive action to dismantle inequities; and
- Implement efficient practices that result in seamless workflow within the Grants team and the WCPSS community.

## **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 2021-22 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 2021-22, the Office of Grants continued to assist with managing grants and monitoring compliance reporting requirements. As with 2020-21, the year was significantly affected by disruptions due to the global pandemic. While students attended school in-person, COVID-19 affected the attendance of students and staff. Illness contributed to staffing shortages and pandemic related supply chain disruptions affected school operations.

WCPSS mobilized staff district-wide in new and different ways to address interrupted learning and to meet the needs of students and their families. Beginning in October, each member of the Grants team was assigned to a school for one day per week to help mitigate staffing shortages. Responding to needs at schools was prioritized to support teaching and student learning.

That said, a bulleted list of activities and accomplishments for 2021-22 is provided below.

## **ACTIVITIES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS: 2021-22**

### **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 227 individual grant opportunities and 543 subsequent applications (includes competitive and collaborative submissions).
- Updated the Office of Grants WakeConnect website and Learning Central course 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 8 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, NC Department of Health and Human Services, NC GreenPower, Hendrick Automotive Group, and Wallace Foundation with NC State University.

### **Professional Development**

- Grants staff participated in a variety of professional development opportunities, including a Federal Grants Update workshop, Writing Successful Federal Grant Applications workshop,

Magnet Schools Assistance Program webinars, Crucial Accountability, Facilitative Leadership, FISH Philosophy, and the Racial Equity Institute.

- Participated in 2021-22 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 with the US Department of Education's Office of the Inspector General regarding their role in identifying fraud, waste, abuse, and criminal activity involving Education Department funds, programs, and operations.
- Met quarterly with peers from Charlotte Mecklenburg and Guilford County Public schools.

### **Ad Hoc**

- Participated in the NC Department of Public Instruction's development of the Portrait of a Graduate.
- Supported literacy through participation in special events at schools.
- 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 16 WCPSS schools and 17 Wake County childcare centers.
- Conducted and implemented the 4C Fund, including the selection of a new cohort of awardees and support of current grantees with project implementation and budget management.
- Supported the district response to COVID-19 by filling in at schools experiencing staff shortages.

**GRANTS ADMINISTRATION EFFORTS AND SUCCESSES**

The following tables provide details on the grant applications submitted in **2021-22**.

**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>
535	\$ 38,805,937	446	\$ 22,725,498

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

<b>Partner Type</b>	<b>Applications Submitted</b>	<b>Applications Awarded</b>
Community Agencies	3	2
Government Agencies	4	2
Institutions of Higher Education	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>

*\*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**

<b>Area</b>	<b>Number Awarded</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>
Central	54	\$ 49,493
Eastern	57	\$ 38,697
Northern	55	\$ 41,452
Northeastern	47	\$ 26,114
Northwestern	35	\$ 34,068
Southern	67	\$ 52,526
Southeastern	36	\$ 107,377
Southwestern	51	\$ 110,478
Western	35	\$ 79,111
Central Services	9	\$ 22,186,183
<b>Total*</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>\$ 22,725,498</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>
<b>Academic Advancement</b>		
Academics	3	\$1,254,817
Area Superintendents (School-based grants)	437	\$536,915
Student Support Services	1	\$7,172,000
<b>Chief Operating Officer</b>		
Child Nutrition Services	2	\$32,000
Human Resources	1	\$56,350
<b>Chief of Schools</b>		
Magnet and Curriculum Enhancement	2	\$13,673,416
<b>Total</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>\$22,725,498</b>

*\*This count includes 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	40	\$ 39,279
Literacy/English Language Arts	133	\$ 81,773
Special Education	26	\$ 12,163
STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math)	78	\$ 1,186,779
Supplies	59	\$ 27,545
Technology Equipment	6	\$ 10,262
Other	104	\$ 21,367,698
<b>Total*</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>\$ 22,725,498</b>

*\*This count includes competitive grants only*

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

<b>Month</b>	<b>Number of Funding Agencies on Precis</b>	<b>Number of Grants Submitted*</b>
July	41	409
August	45	51
September	26	36
October	14	7
November	12	9
December	9	4
January	23	8
February	11	2
March	12	5
April	16	8
May	13	1
June	5	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>227</b>	<b>543</b>

*\*Includes 535 Competitive and 8 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	251	\$ 75,156	230	\$ 67,109	26	\$ 9,133
\$500 to \$999	147	\$ 94,078	116	\$ 72,200	29	\$ 19,592
\$1,000 to \$4,999	100	\$ 193,808	78	\$ 148,549	21	\$ 44,219
\$5,000 to \$9,999	11	\$ 62,614	9	\$ 56,057	4	\$ 24,500
\$10,000 to \$24,999	9	\$ 129,000	2	\$ 39,000	4	\$ 50,000
\$25,000 to \$49,999	8	\$ 266,600	5	\$ 189,000	2	\$ 50,000
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1	\$ 50,000	1	\$ 56,350	1	\$ 50,000
\$100,000 to \$249,999	2	\$ 275,233	1	\$ 120,383	0	\$ -
\$250,000 to \$499,999	2	\$ 759,817	1	\$ 459,817	1	\$ 300,000
\$500,000 to \$999,999	1	\$ 792,000	1	\$ 792,000	0	\$ -
\$1,000,000 +	3	\$ 36,107,632	2	\$ 20,725,033	1	\$ 15,402,599
<b>Total</b>	<b>535</b>	<b>\$ 38,805,937</b>	<b>446</b>	<b>\$ 22,725,498</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>\$ 15,950,043</b>

*\*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	Amount
ESEA Title I Basic Program	\$ 34,792,168
IDEA Title VI-B Handicapped	\$ 43,978,762
IDEA Early Intervening Services	\$ 10,201,113
Title II - Supporting Effective Instruction	\$ 7,111,662
ESEA Title IV - Student Support and Academic Enrichment (Part A)	\$ 3,805,350
Title III - Language Acquisition	\$ 2,644,810
Career Technical Education Program Improvement	\$ 1,803,646
IDEA VI-B Special Needs Targeted Assistance	\$ 57,388
IDEA VI - B Preschool Handicapped	\$ 730,639
ESEA Title I School Improvement Grant	\$ 689,053
Title III - Language Acquisition - Significant Increase	\$ 53,857
McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance	\$ 2,121
IDEA - Targeted Assistance for Preschool	\$ 127,325
Indian Education Act	\$ 60,571
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 106,058,465</b>

\* Amounts listed for Entitlement Grants are found in the 2022-23 Adopted Budget.

\*\*This table does not include COVID-related emergency funding. Restricted grants related to the pandemic can be found in the [2022-23 Adopted Budget](#), pages 55-5

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

<b>Funder</b>	<b>Amount</b>
US Department of Education, Magnet Schools Assistance Program (MSAP)	\$13,533,033
NC Department of Health & Human Services, K-12 COVID Testing Program	\$7,172,000
NCDPI, K-12 Athletic Facilities Grant	\$459,817
NC Green Power, Solar Schools Grant	\$164,000
NCDPI, Division of Academic Standards, Plasma Games Pilot Program	\$792,000
NCDPI, Educational & Competitive After-School Robotics Grant Program	\$120,383
NCDPI, National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) Certification Fee Reimbursement Program	\$56,350
Hendrick Automotive Group, Get Set, Go! Grant Program	\$25,000
No Kid Hungry Campaign, Share our Strength Grant	\$24,000
NC High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) Education-Based Athletics Grant Program	\$15,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$22,361,583</b>