Richmond County Schools Budget Basics

Understanding School Funding in North Carolina

KEY TERMS

Average Daily Membership (ADM) This is the enrollment count used to calculate most state funding. The State takes these counts during specific windows in the school year, not a daily attendance average. The higher count sets funding levels.

Allotment A funding category created by the NC General Assembly for a specific, defined purpose. Most allotments are tied to enrollment through ADM. Allotments are either position allotments or dollar allotments. All must be used only as the law specifies.

01 State of North Carolina

Appropriated by the NC General Assembly, distributed by DPI

Classroom Teacher Allotment

Funds licensed classroom teaching positions. The number of positions is calculated by state formulas tied to enrollment and grade level. Must be filled by licensed NC teachers.

CLASSROOM INSTRUCTION ONLY

Instructional Support Allotment

Funds counselors, social workers, school nurses, media coordinators, and psychologists. All positions require appropriate NC licensure.

STUDENT SUPPORT POSITIONS ONLY

Teacher Assistant Allotment

Funds TA positions at specific grade levels. Amounts are determined by formulas tied to student enrollment and grade configuration.

TEACHER ASSISTANT POSITIONS ONLY

Transportation Funding

Formula-based. The amount a district receives is based on students transported, buses operated, and miles driven each day.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION ONLY

Central Office Administration

Funds allotted to support central office administration. Cannot be used for classroom instruction or school operations.

DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION ONLY

Low-Wealth Allotment

Additional state support for counties with a lower property tax base. Considers property values and local tax effort to reduce funding disparities statewide.

Education Lottery Capital Funding

Designated for school facility needs: roofs, HVAC, plumbing, and electrical. Cannot pay salaries, utilities, or any day-to-day operating costs.

CAPITAL FACILITY PROJECTS ONLY

Needs-Based Capital Grant

RCS has been awarded funding through the state's Needs-Based Capital Grant for the construction of a new L.J. Bell Elementary. All funds awarded must be used for that project or returned.

APPROVED CONSTRUCTION ONLY

02 Local County Government

Richmond County budget and local tax revenue

LOCAL FUNDING — County Government

General Operations

County-approved annual funding for utilities, maintenance, equipment, technology, and local salary supplements not fully covered by the state.

Sales Tax and Capital Outlay

A portion of local sales tax for school capital needs. Used for facility repairs and improvements: roofs, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and athletic facilities.

CAPITAL REPAIR AND RENOVATION ONLY

School Funds / General Funds

Raised at the school level through fees, athletics, fundraisers, and donations. Must stay at the school where raised. Cannot be redirected to other schools.

SPECIFIC SCHOOL USE ONLY

03 Federal Government

Program-specific grants and formula funding

Federal law requires these funds **supplement, not replace** state and local funding. They must add services beyond what schools already provide and cannot be used for basic school operations.

Title I

Supports schools serving higher percentages of students from low-income families. Eligibility and amounts set by federal formula using poverty data. Exclusively supplemental.

SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES ONLY

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

Carl D. Perkins Act. Supports programs in trades, health sciences, and career technology. Funds equipment, materials, and program improvements.

CTE PROGRAMS ONLY

Title II

Funding for professional development, mentoring and training to support beginning teachers and school leaders.

SCHOOL SUPPORT ONLY

IDEA — Special Education

Supports services and instruction for students with disabilities to meet individualized education needs.

SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES ONLY

Title III

Supports instructional services for students who are learning English as a second language.

ELL SERVICES ONLY

Child Nutrition

Child Nutrition funds school breakfast and lunch.

PROGRAM-SPECIFIC USE ONLY

The funding sources listed here are common examples and do not represent a complete list of all funding streams available to NC school districts. For full detail, visit the NC DPI Allotment Policy Manual.