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Anson County School System Awarded \$9 Million Grant for New Middle School Construction

Nearly \$400 million awarded in needs-based school construction grants across the state

Anson County School System was one of more than two dozen school districts across North Carolina that will share nearly \$400 million in new state lottery-funded grant awards for school construction, renovation projects and other capital improvements.

Anson County's grant of \$9 million for the fiscal year 2021-22 is earmarked for construction of a new middle school. Last year the Anson County School System received a lottery-funded grant of \$15 million for the new middle school.

Among the projects to be funded by the grants, aimed at districts in economically distressed counties, are 14 new or replacement school buildings, including four high schools, a Career and Technical Education Center, and a pre-kindergarten through 12th grade school.

The grants, awarded under the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund, represent the largest annual allocation under the program, created by the General Assembly in 2017 from state lottery revenues. The grants are in addition to the state's lottery-supported Public School Building Capital Fund, from which all districts receive an allocation each year.

State Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt said the needs-based grants are a key support for districts where local tax resources fall short of needs for modernizing or replacing aging school facilities. "Just as all students in North Carolina need an excellent teacher in every classroom," she said, "students and teachers need high quality schools in good repair that help support learning. These needs-based grants are an important boost for many districts and communities – and most importantly, their students."

In all, districts in 28 counties are benefiting from this year's round of needs-based grants, with 42 individual projects that include new schools, improvements such as roof replacements, renovations, and new classroom additions. Thirteen of the 28 districts had previously been awarded needs-based grants, but construction of the funded projects had not been started.

Mark Michalko, executive director of the N.C. Education Lottery, said support for school construction has been part of the lottery since it started in 2006. "These grants announced today by state school Superintendent Catherine Truitt represent the latest and largest investment of those monies so far," Michalko said. "Our state Department of Public Instruction, working in partnership with counties all across our state, is putting this money to work for a great cause. We look forward to seeing all these new schools opening soon."

Robert Taylor, deputy state superintendent for School and Student Advancement, noted that the reach of this year's grants exceeds those of previous years. "Not only were we able to award over \$395 million, we were also able to touch a district in each of the state's eight educational regions," Taylor said. "We were able to support districts in desperate need of replacing entire buildings but did not have the funding to do so. We were also able to support several smaller projects, that while not costing millions such as a building replacement, proved to be equally important in the funding structure for districts. A \$2 million renovation is a significant undertaking for a small/low-wealth district."

Awards are capped at maximums of \$30 million for a new elementary school, \$40 million for a middle school and \$50 million for a new high school.

The needs-based grant applications were reviewed by the Department of Public Instruction based on priorities provided in the law, including ability to generate revenue, high debt-to-tax revenue ratio, and the extent to which a project will address critical deficiencies in adequately serving the current and future student population.

Over the last five years, the Needs Based Public School Capital Fund has awarded a total of \$739 million dollars to local school districts, providing funding for 60 new K-12 construction projects, including 33 new schools, eight new buildings, and the replacement of 44 existing schools.

Districts awarded grants for FY 2021-22: Alexander County Schools: \$1.35 million; **Anson County Schools: \$9 million. The prior year grant award was \$15,000,000;** Ashe County Schools: \$17 million; Bladen County Schools: \$17 million; Camden County Schools: \$27.7 million; Carteret County Public Schools: \$1.93 million; Newton-Conover City Schools (Catawba County): \$22 million; Edenton-Chowan Schools (Chowan County): \$25 million; Clay County Schools: \$32 million; Cleveland County Schools: \$7.8 million; Gates County Schools: \$1.78 million; Halifax County Schools: \$31.27 million; Hoke County Schools: \$30 million; Mooresville Graded School District (Iredell County): \$616,000; Mitchell County Schools: \$17 million; Montgomery County Schools: \$2.65 million; Northampton County Schools: \$40 million; Polk County Schools: \$1.3 million; Public Schools of Robeson County: \$25 million; Clinton City Schools (Sampson County): \$899,000; Scotland County Schools: \$1.1 million; Mount Airy City Schools (Surry County): \$1.75 million; Tyrrell County Schools: \$514,000; Warren County Schools: \$24 million; Washington County Schools: \$40 million; Wayne County Public Schools: \$9 million; Yadkin County Schools: \$1.44 million; and Yancey County Schools: \$6.69 million.

School Board Meeting is May 23

The Anson County Board of Education will hold their regular meeting on Monday, May 23. Closed Session will begin immediately after the opening of the meeting at 4:00 p.m. Open Session to the public will begin at about 5:30 p.m.

The meeting will be live streamed on the Anson County Schools' YouTube channel. To find the channel you can search YouTube for "Anson County Schools."

The meeting will be held in the Anson County Schools' Administrative Board Room, located at 320 Camden Road in Wadesboro.

If the public wishes to sign up for public comment, they can sign up in-person. A sign-up sheet will be available 30 minutes before the meeting begins for any individual or group to indicate their desire to address the board.



Four Students Awarded Farm Bureau Scholarships

On Monday, May 2 Anson County Farm Bureau awarded four scholarships in the amount of \$1,250 each. The student recipients were: Dylan Phifer, Mallory Sikes, Krystal Gatewood and Manav Patel. Farm Bureau stated, "We are proud of their accomplishments and wish them luck on their next step with continuing education."

Results from the Primary Election on May 17

Marilynn Bennett, Priscilla Little win Anson races

In the results below the winners are in bold. The votes the candidates received from Anson County are in parenthesis. These are unofficial numbers. The Canvass Day meeting will be held at the Anson County Board of Elections office on Friday, May 27 at 11 a.m.

• Anson County Board of Commissioners District 02 (Dem)

Priscilla Ann Little (232); Robert Smith (141); U. James Bennett (82)

• Anson County Board of Education At-Large (Dem)

Judy Hamilton Little (358); Gay Lookabill (285); **Marilynn Bennett** (774)

• NC House of Representatives District 055 (Rep)

Brandon Smith 850 (114); **Mark Brody** 4,688 (705)

• US Senate (Dem)

Constance (Lov) Johnson 12,370 (21); Rett Newton 9,944 (26); Chrelle Booker 9,833 (21); **Cheri Beasley** 497,378 (1,060); Greg Antoine 5,137 (10); Alyssia Rose-Katherine Hammond 20,710 (39); Tobias LaGrone 5,009 (11); Marcus W. Williams 17,314 (46); James L. Carr, Jr. 21,668 (81); B. K. Maginnis 6,926 (18); Robert Colon 6,850 (23)

• US Senate (Rep)

Marjorie K. Eastman 22,301 (11); David Flaherty 7,184 (5); Benjamin E. Griffiths 2,832 (9); Kenneth Harper, Jr. 7,076 (7); Pat McCrory 186,729 (167); Charles Kenneth Moss 2,900 (1); Lichia Shibhatu 2,174 (0); Debora Tshivo 2,708 (0); Mark Walker 70,127 (42); Jen Banwart 3,051 (0); Ms. Lee A. Brian 2,206 (4); Leonard L. Bryant 2,876 (1); **Ted Budd** 445,280 (584); Drew Bulecza 2,007 (3)

• NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 11 (Rep)

Michael Stading 466,340 (531); Charlton Allen 192,657 (214)

• NC Supreme Court Associate Justice Seat 05 (Rep)

Victoria E. Prince 57,185 (32); April C. Wood 250,660 (205); **Trey Allen** 382,802 (537)

• NC Court of Appeals Judge Seat 09 (Rep)

Beth Freshwater Smith 272,971(394); **Donna Stroud** 397,469 (361)

AHS Softball Team Wins 3rd Round of State Playoffs!

On Tuesday, May 17 the Anson High School Varsity Softball Team won their match up with Bandy's High School in Catawba County, 5-4 in 11 innings. This game was the 3rd round of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA) State Playoffs.

The game was reported to be thrilling to watch, showcasing outstanding playing by the Bearcats.

The team moves on to the 4th round of the State Playoffs this Friday, May 20, playing the West Stanly High School Colts at 7:30 p.m. at West Stanly.

Tickets are available at this site: gofan.co/app/events/617472?schoolId=NC2607.

According to information provided by Anson High School, West Stanly can sometimes suffer from poor wifi reception at the gate, so it is suggested that you purchase tickets before going to the game.

A large crowd is expected for Friday's game, so plan on arriving early as seating is limited.

Haily Jarman is the coach for the Varsity and JV softball teams.

Last Weekend for Ansonia's Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole

The Ansonia Theatre's production of *Alice in Wonderland: Down the Rabbit Hole*, finishes its two week run this coming weekend, but tickets are still available. This is a modern-day adaptation of Lewis Carroll's trip to Wonderland, in which the restless birthday girl chases after a very busy bunny and ends up in a bizarre world.

Mark Landon Smith's witty new adaptation brings Alice into the 21st century with sharp-edged humor as she traverses the land of the Cheshire Cat, the Mad Hatter, the Queen of Hearts and many more as she tries to find her way back home.

Leading a cast of 27 actors from five counties, eight year old Rebekah Forsyth of Marshville makes her stage debut as the curious Alice. She is supported by Gracilee Bricker as Edith, Logan Tallman as the White Rabbit, Marcus Covington as the Cheshire Cat, Karen Johnston as the Queen of Hearts, Robert Graves as The King, Amanda Traywick as the Duchess and John Caudle as the Mad Hatter. The rest of the cast includes Audrey Barringer, Cleve Baxley, Maria Bennett, Teri Brown, Glenn Caulder, Lela Chaney, Andrew Forsyth,



Jeremiah Forsyth, Regina Forsyth, Cali Green, Greyson Helms, Animah Jackson, Donnie Lewis, Taniqua Lindsey, Rocky Moore, Abigail Moree, Ayla Perkins, Donald Perkins and Eversmith Tallman.

The show is directed by Tommy Wooten, assistant direction by Maggie Gibson, set design by Mike Phillips and Teri Brown, lights by Paige Mercer and costumes by Donnie Lewis, Chipper Long, Teri Brown and Brittany Price.

There is something for everyone in this production! It is sure to be fun for the whole family.

Showtimes are Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday at 3 p.m.

Tickets are available at ansoniatheatre.com or call 704-694-4950.

Anson County Schools Covid Dashboard May 13, 2022

Location/Site	Quarantined Students	Quarantined Employees	Positive Cases Students	Positive Cases Employees
Anson High School	0	0	0	0
Anson Middle School	0	0	0	0
Ansonville Elementary	0	0	0	0
Lilesville Elementary	0	0	0	0
Morven Elementary	0	0	0	0
Peachland-Polkton Elementary	1	1	1	1
Wadesboro Elementary	0	0	0	0
Wadesboro Primary	0	0	0	0
District Office	N/A	0	N/A	1
Transportation	N/A	0	N/A	0
Maintenance	N/A	0	N/A	0
Child Nutrition/Cafeteria Employees	N/A	0	N/A	0
Total	2	1	1	2
Total Students + Employees	3		3	

*Student Enrollment as of 05/13/22 2,927

*Enrollment changes daily

% of Students Positive 0.03%

of Employees 513

% of Employees Positive 0.39%

A link to the dashboard is on the Anson County Schools Facebook page.