Needs-Based
Public School Capital Fund

2024-25 Grant Application

Application Deadline: September 13, 2024

Rev. 7/30/2024

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Date: 9/6/2024

BACKGROUND

The Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund was established to assist counties with their critical public school building capital needs. Grants from the NBPSCF are funded with revenue from the NC Education Lottery. Grant funds are available to eligible counties for construction of new school buildings and additions, repairs, and renovations of existing school facilities.

APPLICATION TIMELINE

- Guidance Issued — July 30, 2024
- Application Opens — August 1, 2024
- Application Deadline — September 13, 2024

ELIGIBILITY

Counties with an adjusted market value of taxable real property of less than $40 billion are eligible to apply for a grant under the NBPSCF program. The list of eligible counties is published by DPI annually prior to the NBPSCF application period. The list of eligible counties for FY2024-25 is available here: FY24-25 Eligibility

Grant funds must be used only for construction of new school buildings and additions, repairs, and renovations. Grant funds cannot be used for real property acquisition or for capital improvements to administrative buildings.

PROGRAM FUNDING

Funding appropriated for NBPSCF Grant awards exceeds $258 million for FY2024-25.

MATCHING FUNDS

Counties receiving a grant are required to provide local matching funds from county funds, other non-state funds, or a combination of these sources, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.11.(a). Local matching fund requirements range from 0% to 35% of the grant amount, and are published by DPI annually prior to the NBPSCF application period. The local match requirement applicable to the project is the published local match requirement in effect at the time of the grant award. Local matching requirements for FY2024-25 grant applicants are available here: FY24-25 Local Matching Requirements

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Date: 9/6/2024

MAXIMUM AWARD Grant award maximums are as follows:

- Up to $42 million for an Elementary School
- Up to $52 million for a Middle School
- Up to $62 million for a High School

An applicant may not apply for projects that exceed an aggregate amount greater than the maximum grant award amounts listed above in any single year.

Applications will be reviewed in the context of projected enrollment to evaluate the reasonableness of project size and scope.

REPORTING

Grant recipients are required to submit a report by April 1 of each year, with each grant funds distribution request, and upon completion of the project, detailing: the use of grant funds, progress on the project, and impact of the project on the county's school capital plan.

Grant funds will be disbursed in a series of payments based on the progress of the project. To receive a distribution, the grant recipient must submit a request for distribution, along with documentation of the expenditures for which the distribution is requested, and evidence that the matching requirement has been met. DPI will provide grant recipients with Reporting and Distribution Request forms following announcement of awards.

AGREEMENT

A county receiving Needs-Based grant funds is required to enter into an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction detailing the use of grant funds, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.12.(a). DPI will provide grant recipients with Agreement Forms following announcement of awards. Signed Agreements are due within 60 days of award announcement.

PROGRAM CRITERIA

Date: 9/6/2024

EVALUATION

Applications are evaluated on critical needs, budget detail, and the following criteria per G.S. 115C-546.10.:

Prioritization	Definition/Calculation/Data Source
Tier Designation	Counties designated as development tier one areas. (NC Department of Commerce, 2024 NC Development Tier Designations)
Ability to Generate Tax Revenue	Total revenue generated by a one-cent per $100 valuation increase in the county property tax rate. (NC State Treasurer, Analysis of Debt of North Carolina Counties 6-30-2023)
Ratio of Debt to Tax Revenue	Debt: Sum of County Debt from [General Obligation Bonds, Installment Purchase Debt, Special Obligation Bonds, QZABs and QSCBs, Certificates of Participation] (NC State Treasurer, Analysis of Debt of North Carolina Counties 6-30-2023) Revenue: Sum of County Revenues from Property Taxes, Other Taxes, and Sales Tax, FY 2022-23 (NC DOR, Statistical Abstract of North Carolina Taxes 2023, Advance Edition)
Critical Deficiency	The extent to which a project will address critical deficiencies in adequately serving the current and future student population.
Facility Construction	Projects with new construction or complete renovation of existing facilities.
Facility Replacement	Projects that will consolidate two or more schools into one new facility.
Applicant Status	Counties that have not received a grant in the previous three years.

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

CONTACT INFORMATION

Date: 9/6/2024

SUBMIT ONE APPLICATION PER SCHOOL CAMPUS – A PROJECT MAY INCLUDE MULTIPLE BUILDINGS

County: Polk County

Primary Contact: Marche Pittman

Title: County Manager

Address: 40 Courthouse St., PO Box 308, Columbus, NC 28722

Phone: 828-8943301

email: mpittman@polknc.org

School Unit: 750 - Polk County Schools

Primary Contact: Brandon Schweitzer

Title: Director of Operations

Address: 125 E. Mills St., Columbus, NC 28722

Phone: 828-894-1023

email: bschweitzer@polkschools.org

APPLICATION SUBMITTAL

Submit completed applications and supporting materials by Friday, September 13, 2024, via email to:

Nathan Maune | School Facilities Director | 984-236-2919 | SchoolPlanning-NBPSCF@dpi.nc.gov

SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST – SUBMIT ALL FILES IN PDF FORMAT

- Contact Information
- Application Form
- Project Narrative
- Budget Estimate
- Additional Documentation (as appropriate)
- Signed Assurance Page

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date: 9/6/2024

Project Title:
Polk County High School CTE Addition

Location:
Polk County High School - 1681 E. NC 108 Hwy, Columbus, NC 28722

Type of Facility:
Public High School

Short Description of Proposed School Construction Project:
Polk County Schools is planning the construction of a roughly 12,800-square-foot addition to Polk County High School. This addition would be exclusively used for career and technical education classes featuring five classroom spaces, a multipurpose room, and a large, dual bay shop. The addition was (and is) identified as a significant need in our facilities plan.

Please see attached narrative.

(please attach additional information as necessary)

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

PROJECT INFORMATION

Date: 9/6/2024

Was this project identified in the 5-year plan in the 2020-21 Facility Needs Survey? (●) YES ( ) NO

If not, provide explanation and attach equivalent information:
n/a

Will this project replace any existing facilities? (●) YES ( ) NO

If YES, which school(s): This project will replace mobile units at Polk County High School

How many students will be served by this project? 615

Has Advanced Planning been done for this project? (●) YES ( ) NO

Coordination with partner agencies as well as initial building design proposals through an architect.

Have Construction Documents been completed for this project? ( ) YES (●) NO

Anticipated or Actual Bid Date: Anticipated Architect Bid - 2/1/25 Anticipated Contractor Bid - 6/1/25

Planned Start Date of Construction*: 8/1/25

Planned Completion Date of Construction: 12/1/26

*Construction must begin within 24 months of grant award under G.S. 115C-546.12.(b) .

PROJECT BUDGET

Date: 9/6/2024

Total NBPSCF Grant funding requested for this project: 7,000,000.00

Minimum NBPSCF Grant funding for project to proceed (optional): 6,000,000.00

Estimated Project Costs	Local (non-State)	NBPSCF Grant Funds	Total
Planning	$ 12,500.00	$ 250,000.00	$ 262,500.00
Construction	$ 335,000.00	$ 6,650,000.00	$ 6,985,000.00
Other Costs*	$ 50,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 150,000.00
Total	$ 397,500.00	$ 7,000,000.00	$ 7,397,500.00

*Project costs normally categorized as 'owner's direct costs' on a construction project – may include items such as site surveys, materials testing, site utilities, geotechnical reports, etc. Land acquisition costs are not eligible.

Source(s) of required Local Matching Funds:

local government

Have any of the Local Matching Funds been expended at the time of application? ○ YES ◉ NO

If YES, provide amount expended:

If YES, provide description of work:

Estimated Project Expenditures by Fiscal Year (show estimated period over which funds will be spent by Fiscal Year)

Total Planned Expenditures	2023-24 or earlier	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27 or later	Total
Local Matching Funds	0 $	0 $	12,500 $	385,00 $	397,500 $
Requested NBPSCF Grant Funds*	0 $	0 $	250,00 $	6,750,000 $	7,000,000 $
Total Estimated Expenditures by Fiscal Year	0 $	0 $	262,500 $	7,135,000 $	7,397,500 $

*Total requested grant funding cannot exceed maximum allowed under G.S. 115C-546.11.(c) .

ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTATION

Date: 9/6/2024

Any project funded with a grant from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund must follow the same review process as any other LEA capital project.

- A registered Architect and/or registered Engineer shall prepare the drawings and specifications in accordance with G.S. 133-1 through 133-4.1, as applicable.
- School Planning design review is required. Design documents must be submitted at appropriate intervals during design – SD, DD, and CD. Neither the LEA nor the County shall invest any funds in construction of the project until the review process is completed.
- Transmittal of drawings and specifications to School Planning must include the form at: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/project-submittal-form/download
- Design of the project should be in compliance with DPI School Planning Guidelines: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/school-planning
- DPI Facility Design Guidelines can be found at: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/facility-design-guidelines/download
- DPI School Science Facility Requirements can be found at: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/science-facilities-planner/download https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/science-safety-checklist/download
- For projects involving the closing of an existing school, the LEA must follow these procedures: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/school-closing-procedure/download
- For projects involving the demolition of an existing school building, the LEA must follow the closing procedure noted above and must submit a Feasibility and Cost Analysis: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/costfeas-1/download
- DPI Lottery Capital Funding FAQ can be found at: https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/schoolplanning/lottery-capital-funding-faq-document/download?attachment

NEEDS-BASED PUBLIC SCHOOL CAPITAL FUND FY2024-25 GRANT APPLICATION

ASSURANCE PAGE

Date: 9/6/2024

By signing below, we assure the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction that we are officials of our respective organizations and we are authorized to submit this application on behalf of these organizations.

We certify the following:

- The information provided in this proposal is correct and complete.
- The project described in the application is within the parameters of the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund as required in Article 38B of G.S. 115C-546, and that all of the required local funding is available and designated as a match for this project.
- All Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant proceeds and the required Local Matching funds will be used for the construction project described in the application.
- We will work cooperatively with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction in monitoring and evaluating the progress of the project to meet statutory reporting requirements. We will report on project status and State and local funds expended by April 1 of each year, at the time of each distribution request, and within 90 days of project completion.
- Within 60 days of receiving a Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant award, we will enter into an agreement with the Department of Public Instruction detailing the use of grant funds, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.12.(a).
- All applicable federal and state laws will be adhered to, including promotion of equal opportunity without regard to race, color, religion, gender, age, disability, political affiliation, or national origin.
- Generally accepted fiscal control and accounting procedures will be followed to ensure proper disbursement and accounting of funds from the Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant proceeds and required Local Matching funds.
- All Needs-Based Public School Capital Fund grant proceeds are subject to forfeiture provisions, requiring full repayment, in accordance with G.S. 115C-546.12.(c).

Myron Yoder — 9/11/24

(Signature – Myron Yoder, Chair, County Commissioners) (Date)

9/9/2024

(Signature – Chair, Board of Education) (Date)

Short Description:

Polk County Schools is planning the construction of a roughly 12,800-square-foot addition to Polk County High School. This addition would be exclusively used for career and technical education classes featuring five classroom spaces, a multipurpose room, and a large, dual bay shop. The addition was (and is) identified as a significant need in our facilities plan.

Critical needs this project addresses and the impact on student outcomes:

Polk County Schools is a public school system in Western North Carolina serving approximately 2,200 students. Polk County Schools is proud to maintain small, community-centered schools dedicated to positive student outcomes. Our four elementary schools feed a unified middle school. Students then have a choice of a comprehensive curriculum at Polk County High School or an early college pathway through a smaller setting.

Polk County Schools is renowned for academic excellence and stands out as a leader among North Carolina's traditional public school systems. Polk County High School, the district's only traditional high school, plays a key role in this distinction. As a cornerstone for students across our rural and diverse county, the high school adapts to meet local challenges, particularly through its robust Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. This program offers courses in construction technology, health sciences, computer science, business education, and agriculture—aligning with the workforce needs of both the community and the region.

Though community colleges are traditionally tasked with workforce development, Polk County's geographic location presents unique challenges. Positioned between two regional community colleges—Blue Ridge Community College in Henderson County and Isothermal Community College (ICC) in Rutherford County—Polk County does not have a stand-alone community college. However, ICC maintains a small extension campus within the county, and Polk County Schools has cultivated a long-standing partnership with ICC to offer dual enrollment opportunities, allowing students to earn college credit while fulfilling high school requirements.

While dual enrollment has grown in recent years, geographic limitations restrict our ability to offer CTE-aligned courses that require specialized facilities located outside the county. Despite these obstacles, Polk County Schools has partnered with local government agencies to provide students with workplace-relevant experiences and in-depth career immersion. This collaboration has transformed our CTE program into a vital workforce development hub for our small, rural community.

The growth of the CTE program has led to significant infrastructure expansion since the early 2000s, including mobile trailers, greenhouse extensions, and the acquisition of an 8-acre farm for hands-on learning. However, these facilities are aging and no longer meet the program's growing demands. Mobile units designed for a 10-year lifespan are approaching 25 years and are in disrepair. Additionally, shop spaces originally intended for traditional carpentry and agriculture are outdated and unsuitable for today's technologically advanced career fields. Despite our efforts, these limitations hinder our ability to fully prepare students for modern job markets.

To address these challenges and meet the evolving needs of our students, we propose a 12,800-square-foot addition to Polk County High School. This facility, designed with five classrooms, a multipurpose area, and a dual-bay shop, will replace outdated trailers and accommodate the program's expanding needs. It represents a crucial step toward aligning our offerings with workforce development trends.

While this new facility is primarily intended for high school students, it presents a unique opportunity for broader community engagement. It would enhance dual enrollment initiatives with ICC, allow for specialized courses, and support training programs for local government agencies. One specific area of interest is the potential for a "First Responder" academy, offering focused programming in fire prevention, law enforcement, emergency medical services, and emergency response—all fields showing strong local and regional demand.

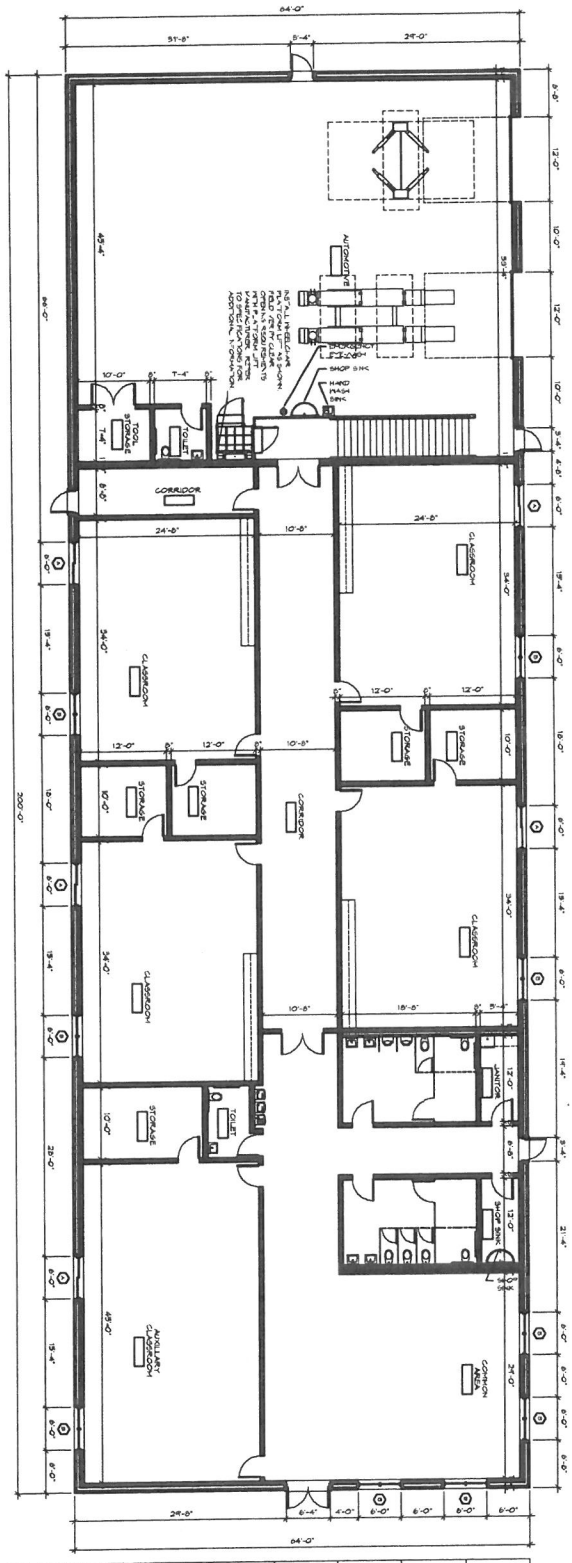
Enclosed are letters of support from key stakeholders, including the high school's Principal and CTE Director, the ICC President, and the Polk County Manager. Their endorsements highlight the widespread backing for this project. We believe this facility will open doors for our rural students, providing them with the skills and opportunities needed to succeed while supporting our community's workforce development goals.

In summary, the proposed 12,800-square-foot addition to Polk County High School is more than a building project—it is an investment in the future of our students and our community. This expansion reflects our commitment to delivering high-quality, relevant education that aligns with the changing demands of today's workforce. Through our partnership with Isothermal Community College and local government agencies, we aim to create a foundation for lifelong learning and success.

With the support of the NBPSCF, we can ensure that Polk County High School remains a leader in educational excellence, empowering our students to thrive in their careers and contribute meaningfully to the growth and prosperity of our rural community. Polk

County Schools has already engaged an architect and completed preliminary drawings and site surveys. The district is prepared to begin construction as soon as funding becomes available.

We are deeply committed to this project and the opportunities it will provide for our students. We respectfully request your consideration and support, confident that together we can make a lasting, positive impact on the lives of our young people and the well-being of our community.



1 FLOOR PLAN
A200 SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

THIS DRAWING IS THE PROPERTY OF THE ARCHITECTS AND CAN NOT BE USED FOR CONSTRUCTION PURPOSES OR REPRODUCED WITHOUT WRITTEN CONSENT OF THE ARCHITECT.

CONTINUATION TO VERTICAL DIMENSIONS

A200

REVISION SCHEDULE

NO.	DATE	DESCRIPTION

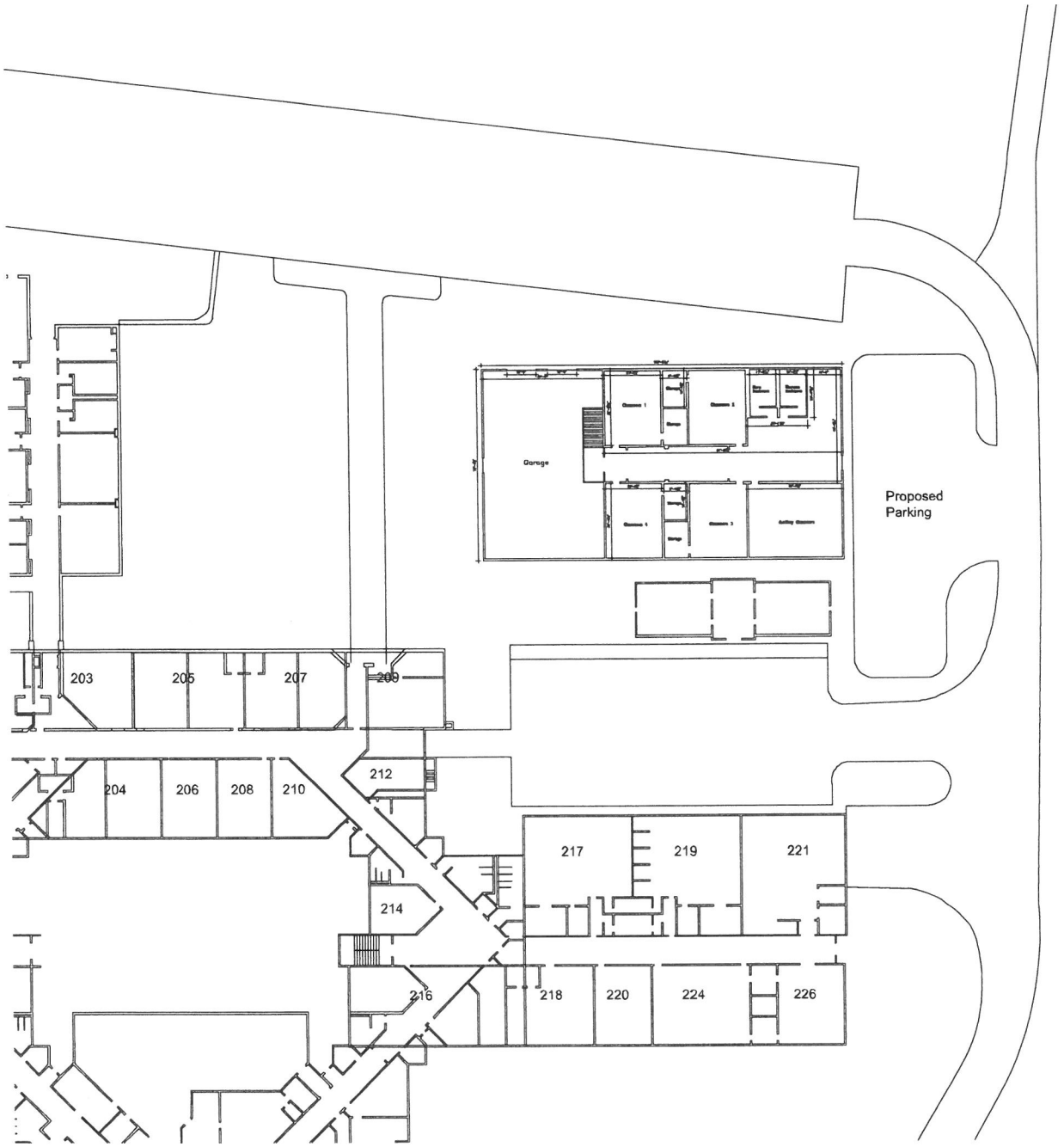
POLK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL
NEW VOCATIONAL BUILDING
COLUMBUS, NORTH CAROLINA

PROPOSED FLOOR PLAN
OPTION #2

ISSUE DATE: --/--/2023
DRAWN BY: JR
CHECKED BY: FMAYREB
PROJECT: 25XX

PINNACLE ARCHITECTURE
PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 197, 630 TEAM ROAD, SUITE 200
MATTHEWS, NORTH CAROLINA 28106
PH: (704) 847-9851 FAX: (704) 847-9853


Garage
Proposed
Parking
203
205
207
209
204
206
208
210
212
214
216
217
219
221
218
220
224
226

ISOTHERMAL
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
www.isothermal.edu

Office of the President

Dr. Margaret H. Annunziata

January 4, 2024

Dear Grant Committee,

It is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for the Polk County Schools "Needs-based Public Schools Capital Funding" (NBSCF) grant application. Polk County Schools is a vital partner in our work to serve the educational and workforce development needs of residents of Polk and Rutherford counties. As the President of Isothermal Community College (ICC) in Forest City, North Carolina, I recognize the transformation that career-ready skills provide for our local residents and the impact that these grant funds will make in our community. Funding to support the construction of a Career and Technical Education wing at the Polk County High School (PCHS) campus would expand opportunity for students to earn valuable workforce credentials prior to high school completion. I have spoken with Polk County Schools Superintendent Aaron Greene about the project and how it will benefit students in Polk County. On behalf of ICC, I would like to add our voice and support to the grant application.

Our partnership with Polk County Schools has allowed us to find creative solutions for student access to dual enrollment courses, technical programming, and other workforce development initiatives. Given our main campus is not in Polk County, we often utilize the PCHS site to deliver college coursework and programming to PCHS students. Having the ability to offer our programming locally in Polk County significantly increases the likelihood that Polk students will take advantage of the opportunities to further progress toward high-skill careers that provide family-sustaining wages. I am certain that the CTE facility being proposed will do more than just meet their student growth and facility needs. It will ensure Polk County Schools and ICC can continue to work together to provide courses and programming where Polk students are every day.

We are excited to enthusiastically support Polk County Schools' application for needs-based capital funding for a CTE addition. This new wing will not only help get their students and teachers out of aging mobile classrooms, it will create a modern, adaptable, program-friendly space for Polk Schools to improve the services provided to students and the entire community. I am passionate about the importance of CTE and helping students access workforce development programming, especially in light of the work being done through initiatives like myFutureNC. I hope the selection committee will look favorably on Polk's application and provide this vital funding.

Please reach out to me if I can speak further on behalf of Polk's proposal, and thank you for the opportunity to support our wonderful partners in Polk!

Sincerely,

Margaret H. Annunziata

Dr. Margaret H. Annunziata

Polk County
GOVERNMENT

December 18, 2023

Dear Grant Committee,

My name is Marche Pittman, and I am the County Manager for Polk County, North Carolina. I am writing on behalf of Polk County Schools, an important partner in our work to serve the educational and workforce development needs of Polk County. We have a long history of strong and productive partnership with Polk County Schools, and I appreciate the opportunity to advocate for their students and programs.

It is my understanding that Polk County Schools is submitting a "Needs-based Public Schools Capital Funding" (NBSCF) grant application to fund the construction of a Career and Technical Education (CTE) wing on the Polk County High School campus. I have spoken with Polk Schools Superintendent Aaron Greene numerous times about the project and how it will benefit students in Polk County. I would like to add my voice and support to the grant application.

For decades, Polk County Schools has worked to find creative solutions for student access to dual enrollment courses, technical programming, and other workforce development initiatives. While there is robust CTE programming at Polk County High School, the facilities serving these programs are no longer able to meet the numbers and needs of students. Having facilities conducive to CTE programming at Polk High significantly increases the likelihood that Polk students will have the opportunities to make progress toward their future plans. I am certain that the CTE addition they are proposing will do more than just address their student growth in CTE and facility issues. It will ensure Polk Schools can continue to work together with partners like our various departments in Polk County Government to provide courses and programming that lead to living wage jobs and fill important local employment needs.

Again, I am excited to enthusiastically support Polk County Schools' application for needs-based capital funding for a CTE addition at Polk County High School. This new wing will not only help address growing student numbers in CTE courses and get their teachers and students out of aging mobile classrooms, it will create a modern, adaptable, program-friendly space for Polk Schools to improve the services provided to students and the entire community. I am passionate about the importance of CTE and helping students access workforce development programming, especially in light of the work being done through initiatives like myFutureNC. I hope the selection committee will look favorably on Polk's application and provide this vital funding. Please reach out to me if I can speak further on behalf of Polk's proposal, and thank you for the opportunity to support Polk County Schools and our students.

Sincerely,

Marche Pittman