



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2120
RICHMOND, VA 23218-2120

December 1, 2023

The Honorable Barry Knight
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
1852 Mill Landing Road
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23457

The Honorable John Avoli
Chair, House Education Committee
P. O. Box 1492
Staunton, Virginia 24402

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas
Chair, Senate Education and Health
Committee
P.O. Box 700
Portsmouth, Virginia 23705

The Honorable Janet Howell
Co-Chair, Senate Finance and
Appropriations Committee
P.O. Box 2608
Reston, Virginia 20195

The Honorable George Barker
Co-Chair, Senate Finance and
Appropriations Committee
P. O. Box 10527
Alexandria, Virginia 22310

Dear Madams and Sirs:

The 2022 Special Session I General Assembly and Governor Youngkin created the School Construction Assistance Program, providing \$450 million for transfer into the School Construction Fund for the Board of Education ("Board") to award competitive grants to local school boards that demonstrate poor building conditions, commitment, and need to fund new school construction, additions, and major building renovations. Funds are available to award the competitive grants in both fiscal year 2023 and 2024.

Appropriation Act language also requires the Board to submit to your committees by December 1 each year an executive summary of this program, including details on projects funded each year and any necessary legislative or budget recommendations to improve the program. This letter is intended to meet this reporting requirement.

At its meeting on November 17, 2022, the Board adopted the Guidelines for the School Construction Assistance Program. The adopted guidelines include various application

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requirements that must be met by school divisions applying for funds, including scoring a minimum of 65 points on eleven competitive scoring criteria demonstrating poor building conditions, commitment, and need for a school project to be considered for funding. The Department provided an overview of the adopted guidelines to the Commission on School Construction and Modernization at its December 1, 2022, meeting.

The Department conducted an initial application process from February 24 through March 31, 2023, for school divisions to submit applications for grant funding, and 119 grant applications were submitted by divisions. From the first-round applications, the Board awarded \$365.3 million in grant funding to 40 approved school projects in 28 school divisions. The awarded projects and grant amounts are listed in the attachment to this letter.

\$84.7 million in grant funding remains available for award through a second-round application process, which the Department conducted from September 28th through November 28th. As directed by the Board, the competitive application criteria and 65-point minimum qualifying score remained the same for this second application round. Department staff will begin reviewing the submitted applications against the Board's criteria and guidelines and will take recommendations for funding eligible projects to the Board in early 2024.

In closing, during the process of developing the guidelines in 2022 and thereafter, school divisions, localities, and statewide organizations have provided public comment and proposed various changes to improve the program that the General Assembly may want to consider during the 2024 legislative session. Included in their recommendations are:

- Using multiple years of composite index and fiscal stress data in determining the 10, 20, or 30 percent grant award amounts in recognition of changing local economic conditions or anomalous/fluctuating data values from a single year. Or, using the most favorable of the latest or multi-year data. Currently, only the latest composite index values and fiscal stress designations are used in determining the grant amounts to divisions.
- Formalizing in appropriation act language that school projects in which construction began on or after July 1 of each biennium the program receives funding in the state budget are eligible for application submission, consistent with the interpretation made in the adopted guidelines.
- Formalizing in appropriation act language that the principal portion of future debt service payments not yet begun on school projects where construction is pending or just begun is an allowable cost with grant funding, consistent with the interpretation made in the adopted guidelines.

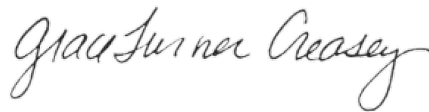
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- Basing scoring criteria relating to building conditions on standardized data reported by school divisions. The Board may consider basing such scoring criteria on the building age and conditions data school divisions are required to report annually to the Department pursuant to § 22.1-138.3, *Code of Virginia*, when that data becomes available for review and consideration in the coming months.
- Specifying that the most up-to-date source data available at the time of each application process be used for the Board's scoring criteria.

On behalf of the Board, thank you for your continued support of this critical school facilities funding program and for your support of Virginia public education generally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Grace Turner Creasey".

Grace Turner Creasey, M.
Ed. President

Enclosure

c: The Honorable Lisa Coons, Superintendent of Public Instruction
The Honorable Aimee Guidera, Secretary of Education

School Construction Assistance Program - School Project Grant Awards Approved by Board of Education on May 11, 2023

School Division / Div. #	School Name / Sch. #	Scoring Criteria Total (Rank Ordered)	2022-2024 Composite Index	Locality Fiscal Stress Designation	¹ Grant Award Pct. (based on Comp. Index or Fiscal Stress Desig.)	Total Project Cost	Recommended School Project Grant Award Amount (% X Total Project Cost)
Danville City (108)	G.L.H. Johnson Elementary (0190)	95	0.2524	High	30	\$43,482,968	\$13,044,890
Danville City (108)	R.I.S.E Academy at the John M. Langston Campus (0139)	95	0.2524	High	30	\$44,959,664	\$13,487,899
Bristol City (102)	Bristol Virginia Intermediate School (0202)	92	0.3058	High	30	\$25,027,273	\$7,508,182
Danville City (108)	George Washington High (0210)	90	0.2524	High	30	\$76,790,713	\$23,037,214
Buchanan County (014)	New Buchanan High (0034)	87	0.2850	Above Average	30	\$92,127,212	\$27,638,164
Newport News City (117)	Huntington Middle (0091)	85	0.2808	High	30	\$70,000,000	\$21,000,000
Brunswick County (013)	Brunswick County Elementary / Middle (0730)	84	0.4314	Above Average	20	\$57,679,756	\$11,535,951
Brunswick County (013)	Brunswick High (0650)	84	0.4314	Above Average	20	\$11,340,440	\$2,268,088
Dickenson County (026)	Ridgeview Elementary (0281)	82	0.2301	Above Average	30	\$5,685,000	\$1,705,500
Lynchburg City (115)	Paul Laurence Dunbar Middle for Innovation (0170)	82	0.3760	High	30	\$900,300	\$270,090
Norfolk City (118)	Matthew Fontaine Maury High (0010)	82	0.3064	High	30	\$100,000,000	\$30,000,000
Roanoke City (124)	Lincoln Terrace Elementary (0340)	82	0.3387	High	30	\$2,600,000	\$780,000
Roanoke City (124)	Preston Park Elementary (0240)	82	0.3387	High	30	\$33,794,384	\$10,138,315
Petersburg City (120)	Walnut Hill Elementary (0130)	80	0.2410	High	30	\$90,000,000	\$27,000,000
Halifax County (041)	Halifax County High (0010)	79	0.3038	Above Average	20	\$100,000,000	\$20,000,000
Richmond City (123)	Henderson Middle (0470)	79	0.5139	Above Average	20	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000
Appomattox County (006)	Appomattox County High (0260)	77	0.2960	Above Average	30	\$15,000,000	\$4,500,000
Charlottesville City (104)	Buford Middle (0100)	77	0.6952	Above Average	20	\$87,813,410	\$17,562,682
Harrisonburg City (113)	Harrisonburg High (0012)	77	0.3459	High	30	\$920,500	\$276,150
Norfolk City (118)	Booker T Washington High (0880)	77	0.3064	High	30	\$11,789,000	\$3,536,700
Roanoke City (124)	Ruffner Operations and Professional Development Center (0120)	77	0.3387	High	30	\$24,500,000	\$7,350,000
Rockbridge County (081)	Floyd S. Kay Technical Center (0681)	76	0.4530	Above Average	20	\$12,047,851	\$2,409,570
Fredericksburg City (110)	Walker-Grant Middle (0273)	75	0.5808	Below Average	10	\$74,199,926	\$7,419,993
Richmond City (123)	J.L. Francis Elementary (1710)	74	0.5139	Above Average	20	\$5,000,000	\$1,000,000
Richmond City (123)	Richmond Technical Center (0821)	74	0.5139	Above Average	20	\$100,000,000	\$20,000,000
Campbell County (016)	Brookville High (0720)	72	0.2913	Above Average	30	\$50,000,000	\$15,000,000

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Carroll County (018)	Carroll County High (1230)	72	0.2696	Above Average	30	\$11,591,000	\$3,477,300
Pittsylvania County (071)	Pittsylvania Vocational-Technical Center (0010)	72	0.2511	Above Average	30	\$9,427,000	\$2,828,100
Pittsylvania County (071)	Stony Mill Elementary (1710)	72	0.2511	Above Average	30	\$6,035,616	\$1,810,685
Waynesboro City (130)	Wenonah Elementary (0580)	72	0.3685	High	30	\$5,540,841	\$1,662,252
Suffolk City (127)	John F. Kennedy Middle (0370)	71	0.3514	Above Average	20	\$75,652,000	\$15,130,400
Giles County (035)	Giles High (0461)	69	0.2791	Above Average	30	\$17,955,614	\$5,386,684
Giles County (035)	Macy McClaugherty Elementary/Middle (0390)	69	0.2791	Above Average	30	\$9,877,712	\$2,963,314
Giles County (035)	Narrows High (0470)	69	0.2791	Above Average	30	\$12,683,612	\$3,805,084
Northampton County (065)	Northampton High (0350)	69	0.4793	Above Average	20	\$84,000,000	\$16,800,000
Wythe County (097)	Scott Memorial Middle (1075)	69	0.3277	Above Average	20	\$27,050,000	\$5,410,000
Richmond City (123)	William Fox Elementary (0200)	69	0.5139	Above Average	20	\$28,000,000	\$5,600,000
Southampton County (087)	Capron Elementary (0710)	67	0.2965	Above Average	30	\$18,500,000	\$5,550,000
King and Queen County (049)	King & Queen Elementary (0200)	65	0.4075	Below Average	10	\$30,000,000	\$3,000,000
Nelson County (062)	Nelson County High (0710)	65	0.5888	Below Average	10	\$24,517,032	\$2,451,703
Totals =						\$1,501,488,824	\$365,344,910

¹ School Division Criteria	Pct. Grant Award Amount
School divisions with a local composite index value below 0.3000, or contained in a locality designated with high fiscal stress	30 percent of project costs
School divisions with a local composite index value at or above 0.3000 and below 0.4000, or contained in a locality designated with above average fiscal stress	20 percent of project costs
All other school divisions	10 percent of project costs

Total Grant Funds Available =	\$450,000,000
Total Grant Funds Awarded =	\$365,344,910
Remaining Grant Funds Available =	\$84,655,090