



January 7, 2025

The Honorable L. Louise Lucas
Chair, Senate Finance and Appropriations
Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 1404
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Senator Ghazala F. Hashmi
Chair, Senate Education and Health
Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 616
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Delegate Luke E. Torian
Chair, House Appropriations Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 1223
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Delegate Sam Rasoul
Chair, House Education Committee
General Assembly Building, Room 910
201 North 9th Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219

Dear Madams and Sirs:

The School Construction Assistance Program (SCAP) was established by the General Assembly and Governor Youngkin at 2022 Special Session I of the General Assembly and initially funded for the 2022-2024 biennium. The SCAP is to be used by the Board of Education (Board) to award competitive grants to local school boards and regional Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs that demonstrate poor building conditions, commitment, and need so that they may fund the construction, expansion, or modernization of their public school buildings.

Funding for the program was continued for the 2024-2026 biennium at 2024 Special Session I through the 2024 Appropriation Act (i.e., Chapter 2, Item 125, Paragraph C.42). \$80.0 million in funding is appropriated for the program in FY 2025 and FY 2026 from the School Construction Fund which is resourced by gaming revenues.

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.



The Board began considering [revised guidelines](#) for the SCAP at its December business meeting to govern the program during the 2024-2026 biennium. The revised guidelines include updates and additions to the twelve competitive scoring criteria used to award grant funding to school projects submitted by school divisions. Several proposed modifications to the criteria are intended to make grant funding available to more school divisions statewide given the amount of program funding available relative to the level of school facilities needs that exist statewide. The Board will be considering final review and approval at their February 27, 2025, meeting.

In addition, [HB 462](#) and [SB 474](#) passed at the 2024 Session making regional CTE programs eligible to receive grants under the program effective July 1, 2024. This program modification was also incorporated in the proposed revisions for the Board's consideration in the proposed modifications to the program guidelines for future grant application periods.

During the 2022-2024 biennium, the Board initially awarded \$365.3 million in grant funding in May 2023 to 40 approved school projects in 28 school divisions. The remaining \$84.7 million in 2022-2024 funding was awarded by the Board in April 2024 to 20 approved projects in 18 school divisions. These latter projects and their award amounts are listed in the attachment to this letter. To date, \$112.0 million has been expended from the School Construction Fund for school division drawdowns of their grant funds for costs on their awarded school projects, with another \$63.2 million in division drawdowns pending approval.

The SCAP grant funding for FY 2025 of \$80 million will be available for award through an application process conducted by the Department in early 2025. 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 2025.

The Board has no further recommendations to make currently related to the program. 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

April 2024 School Construction Assistance Program Awards

School Division (Div. #)	School Name (School #)	Scoring Criteria Total (Rank- Ordered)	2022-2024 Composite Index	Local Fiscal Stress Level Designation	Grant Award Pct.	Total Project Cost	School Project Grant Award (% X Total Project Cost)	Total Division Award Amount
Danville City (108)	Forest Hills Elementary (0020)	95	0.2524	High	30	\$34,970,000	\$10,491,000	\$14,898,449
Franklin City (135)	S.P. Morton Elementary (0010)	95	0.2858	High	30	\$630,315	\$189,095	\$189,095
Danville City (108)	6th Grade Academy at Arnett Hills (0234)	90	0.2524	High	30	\$14,691,495	\$4,407,449	\$14,898,449
Richmond City (123)	John Marshall High (0730)	84	0.5139	Above Average	20	\$3,000,000	\$600,000	\$974,979
Patrick County (070)	Blue Ridge Elementary (0440)	82	0.2511	Above Average	30	\$2,000,000	\$600,000	\$600,000
Newport News (117)	Mary Passage Middle (1400)	80	0.2808	High	30	\$7,000,000	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000
Prince Edward County (073)	Prince Edward Elementary (0010)	79	0.3644	Above Average	20	\$43,278,552	\$8,655,710	\$8,655,710
Richmond City (123)	¹ Richmond Alternative (3110)	79	0.5139	Above Average	20	\$6,920,000	\$374,979	\$974,979
Carroll County (018)	Carroll County Middle (0450)	77	0.2696	Above Average	30	\$2,107,000	\$632,100	\$632,100
Smyth County (086)	Chilhowie High (0460)	77	0.2184	Above Average	30	\$16,000,000	\$4,800,000	\$4,800,000
Fredericksburg City (110)	Fredericksburg New Elementary (0020)	75	0.5808	Below Average	10	\$4,000,000	\$400,000	\$400,000
Mecklenburg County (058)	Clarksville Elementary (1000)	74	0.4050	Above Average	20	\$32,500,000	\$6,500,000	\$6,500,000
Lynchburg City (115)	William M. Bass Elementary (0250)	72	0.3760	High	30	\$15,000,000	\$4,500,000	\$4,500,000
Pittsylvania County (071)	Southside Elementary (1460)	72	0.2511	Above Average	30	\$6,995,000	\$2,098,500	\$2,098,500
Amherst County (005)	Amherst County High (750)	69	0.3048	Above Average	20	\$33,500,000	\$6,700,000	\$6,700,000
Giles County (035)	Macy McClaugherty Elementary/Middle (0390)	69	0.2791	Above Average	30	\$12,475,000	\$3,742,500	\$3,742,500
Northampton County (065)	Northampton Middle (0360)	69	0.4793	Above Average	20	\$6,073,000	\$1,214,600	\$1,214,600
Lancaster County (051)	New Middle-High School (0011)	68	0.8000	Low	10	\$75,000,000	\$7,500,000	\$7,500,000
Tazewell County (092)	Richlands Middle (0823)	67	0.2564	Above Average	30	\$45,000,000	\$13,500,000	\$13,500,000
Franklin County (033)	Benjamin Franklin Middle (0031)	65	0.3982	Below Average	20	\$28,245,783	\$5,649,157	\$5,649,157
Totals =						\$389,386,145	\$84,655,090	

¹ Represents partial funding for Richmond Alternative-Richmond City based on funds remaining.