

2005 Local School Finance Study



2005 Local School FINANCE STUDY

“Beyond schools, there are stark differences in wealth and opportunity, growth and the quality of life. But there is a way to break the cycle of poverty and economic stagnation. For thousands of North Carolinians – rich and poor, black and white – education has been a gateway to a better life,” *All That's Within Them (1990)*.

INTRODUCTION

The state Constitution mandates that the General Assembly provide a “general and uniform system of free public schools,” with local government assigned certain education funding responsibilities. For 18 years the Public School Forum has isolated state and federal spending to examine the capacity and effort of county governments to support schools. The intent of the Forum’s finance study is not to assign blame or denigrate counties’ efforts to support schools, but to examine the capacity and effort of North Carolina’s 100 counties to support their schools. Under the school finance system born in the Great Depression, the state is supposed to pay for current expenses (instructional programs and classrooms), and county governments are supposed to pay for capital expenses (buildings and maintenance). Last year North Carolina counties spent \$3 billion on public education, with 59 percent devoted to current expenses and 41 percent devoted to capital expenditures and repaying school bond debt.

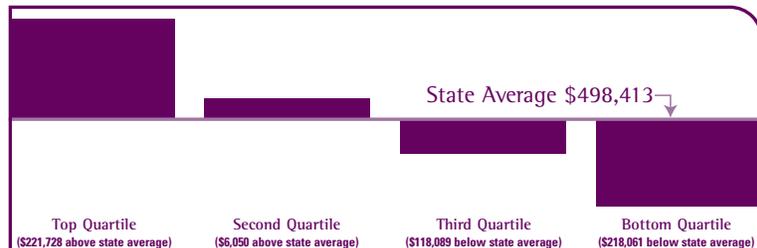
North Carolina is one of 45 states that have had a lawsuit challenging the state’s system of school finance. Since North Carolina’s lawsuit

was brought by five low wealth counties, who were later joined by five urban districts, the spending gap between the state’s top and bottom spending counties has grown 85 percent. The top spending counties spend an average of \$42,380 more per classroom than their bottom spending counterparts.

Eight years ago the state Supreme Court rejected a challenge from five low-wealth school districts who had asserted that the disparities resulting in inequitable levels of funding from counties were permissible. Since the high court’s ruling, the gap between the top and bottom spending counties has ballooned 62 percent to \$1,630 per child.

Disparities in funding between counties exist primarily because of the varying degrees of property wealth. The wealthiest counties in the state have over \$1.2 million in real estate capacity available per child, compared with the poorest counties in the state, which have \$256,000 in real estate capacity available per child available. The gap between the wealthiest and poorest counties has grown 110 percent since the Supreme Court’s 1997 ruling.

REAL ESTATE WEALTH AVAILABLE PER STUDENT



The state is divided into quartiles by adjusted property wealth available per child. The top quartile includes high growth Piedmont and mountain and beach resort areas, which has a real estate capacity of \$720,141 per child – \$221,728 above the state average. The bottom quartile has \$280,352 available – \$218,061 below the state average.

SYNOPSIS

North Carolina public schools spent \$9.2 billion in the 2003-04 school year, using a combination of state, federal, and local resources. State funding accounts for 65.1 percent of expenditures; federal funding accounts for 10.4 percent; and local funding accounts for 24.5 percent of spending.

According to a recent National Education Association survey, the US average breakdown of expenditures is 48 percent from the state, 8.6 percent from the federal government, and 43.5 percent from local sources.

FINDINGS

“It’s the Real Estate Capacity, Stupid”

“It’s the Economy, Stupid” is the famous quote used during the 1992 campaign to remind everyone that the economy was the major issue in the election. In similar fashion, the fact that wealthier counties have almost five times more real estate wealth available than poorer counties is the major explanation for why disparities between county funding efforts exist. The 10 poorest counties have an average of \$256,484 in real estate capacity available per child, as compared with the ten wealthiest counties in the state, which have \$1,210,182 per child in real estate capacity. This gap has grown significantly since 1997, and has increased 13.1 percent since last year, and is now the largest gap in history.

Current Spending Disparities Grow

Orange County spends seven times more per student, using local resources, than Robeson County. This is the most extreme examples of the chasm between the state’s highest spending counties and lowest spending counties. Since

the school finance lawsuit was filed in 1994, the gap between the top and bottom spending counties has grown 84.8 percent. The gap has increased to \$1,630 per student, or \$42,380 per classroom. Twenty counties spend above the state average of \$1,395 per student.

The gap has widened 62.2 percent since the court’s 1997 ruling declaring spending disparities between counties was constitutionally permissible. The top spending counties spending has risen 50.2 percent since 1997, while the bottom spending counties have increased their spending 22.3 percent during the same time period.

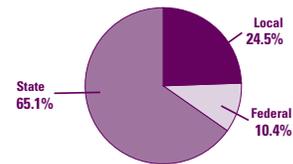
Low Wealth & Small County Funding

Since 1991 the General Assembly has appropriated \$972.2 million for low wealth and small counties to ameliorate differences with wealthier, larger counties. Last year 80 low wealth and small counties were provided \$131.5 million, including \$98.7 million in low wealth supplemental funds. The low wealth supplemental funds provided an additional

\$176.73 for the 70 counties whose ability to generate revenue is below the state average. If the small county funds are included, these counties have an additional \$185 per student.

The supplemental funds have a significant impact on the state’s poorest counties. Low wealth and small county funding provides an additional \$421.35 per student, and 6 of the 10 lowest spending counties receive more low wealth and

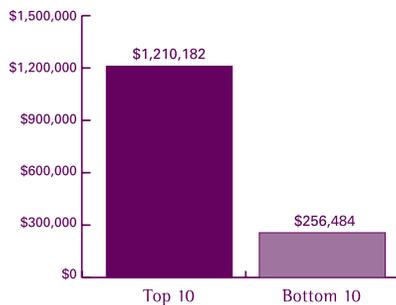
CURRENT EXPENDITURES



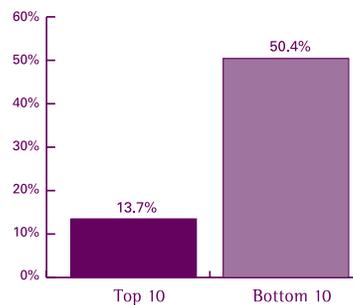
Source: DPI, Financial & Business Services

LOW VS HIGH WEALTH: THE WIDENING GAP

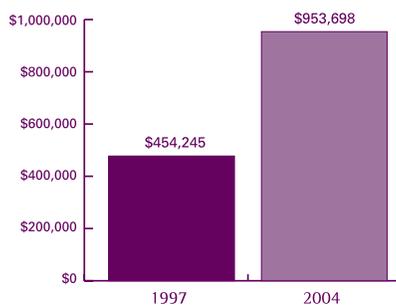
1) Taxable Real Estate Wealth Available Per Child in the Wealthiest and Poorest Counties



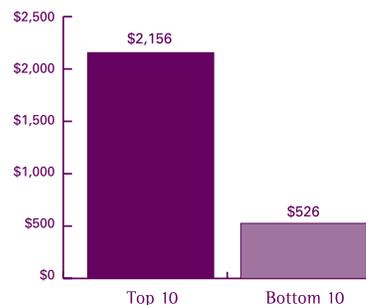
2) Percent of Tax Revenue Used for Mandated Social Services



3) Real Estate Gap Widening Between Wealthiest and Poorest Counties



4) Current Spending Per Student



- 1) Taxable Real Estate Wealth Available Per Child in the Wealthiest and Poorest Counties...The major source of revenue for county government is the taxable property value. The wealthiest counties have five times more taxable property wealth per child available to them. This problem is further exacerbated because the poorest counties tax themselves at well above the wealthiest counties, but the revenue generated by that taxation is substantially less than the wealthy counties.
- 2) Percent of Tax Revenue Used for Mandated Social Services... When mandated social services spending is removed from total adjusted revenue, the poorest counties spend a disproportionate share of their revenue on social services. The graph above depicts high wealth counties spending only 14 percent of their tax revenue on social services while the low wealth counties spend 50 percent.

- 3) Real Estate Gap Widening Between the Wealthiest and Poorest Counties... The real estate capacity of the state’s wealthiest counties has grown \$592,714 since 1997, compared to \$93,261 in the poorest counties. The gap has risen 99.7 percent since 1997.
- 4) Current Spending Per Student... Current expenditures represent annual county spending on programs and personnel. Since 1997, the top spending counties increased their spending 44.3 percent compared to a 22.3 percent for the bottom spending counties. The top spending counties spend \$1,630 more per student than the bottom spending counties.

small county supplemental funding, than they provide in local dollars per child.

Property Tax Chasm Widens

Coastal and mountain counties continue to have the highest real estate capacity in the state. The ten wealthiest counties' average capacity is \$1,210,182 per student, which is almost five times larger than the \$256,484 average of the ten poorest counties. The gap between the wealthiest and poorest counties has increased 13.1 percent since last year and currently is \$953,698 per student. Since the five low wealth districts filed their school finance lawsuit in 1994; the gap has grown 167.1 percent! The wealthiest counties' capacity has grown \$714,266, compared with the poorest counties,' which has grown \$117,633 in the same time period.

The real estate capacity of counties affords counties the ability to spend more resources for schools. For example, the ten highest spending counties paid for 12.2 percent of all their teachers with local funds, compared to the

bottom spending counties that hired 1.5 percent of their teachers using local funds. A similar gap exists with local salary supplements: the wealthiest counties' average supplement is five times higher (\$3,426 to \$713).

The large gaps in capacity exist at the same time that low wealth counties' average effective tax rate is significantly higher than their wealthier

counterparts. The wealthiest counties' tax rate is 36 cents below that of the poorest counties in the state, and has fallen since the 1994 litigation began. In 1994 the poorest districts had a tax rate of 75 cents, which has increased slightly to 76.2 cents. In contrast, the wealthiest counties had an average rate of 52 cents, which has declined to 40.7 cents.

LOCAL FUNDS USED FOR SCHOOLS				
	Teachers	Teacher Assistants	Instructional Support	Avg. Local Teacher Salary Supplement
Poorest Co.	1.5%	7.0%	7.0%	\$ 713
Wealthiest Co.	12.2%	14.9%	29.2%	\$3,426

State allotment formulae pays for the bulk of classroom and instructional positions, but county government pays for approximately 9 percent of these positions. The variation between the poorest and wealthiest counties is tremendous. The wealthiest counties provide 12 percent of classroom teaching positions, compared with fewer than 2 percent in the poorest counties. In addition, the wealthiest counties have average local teacher salary supplements 5 times larger than the poorest counties.

WHO PAYS FOR WHAT?

North Carolina's first state constitution in 1776 included an education provision that stated, "A School or Schools shall be established by the Legislature for the convenient Instruction of Youth." The legislature provided no financial support for schools. One hundred years later, the Constitution adopted after the Civil War required

the state "to provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of public schools, wherein tuition shall be free of charge to all of the children of the State between the ages of six and twenty-one years." The new Constitution also provided for the direct election of a state Superintendent of Public Instruction and enacted a four-month school calendar.

ARTICLE IX, SEC. 2. UNIFORM SYSTEM OF SCHOOLS

(1) General and uniform system: The General Assembly shall provide by taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of free public schools, which shall be maintained at least nine months in every year, and wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students.

(2) Local responsibility. The General Assembly may assign to units of local government such responsibility for the financial support of the free public schools as it may deem appropriate. The governing boards of units of local government with financial responsibility for public education may use local revenues to add to or supplement any public school or post-secondary school program.

In 1901, the General Assembly broke with tradition and appropriated \$100,000 for public schools, marking the first time there was a direct appropriation of tax revenue for public schools. The state Constitution mandates that the state provide a "general and uniform system of free public schools" and that the state legislature may assign counties "such responsibility for the financial support of the free public schools as it may deem appropriate." In addition to the constitutional mandates, a major change in the school funding structure occurred during the Great Depression. Under the School Machinery Act (enacted in 1931 and amended in 1933), the state assumed responsibility for all current expenses necessary to maintain a minimum eight-month school term and an educational

program of basic content and quality (instructional and program expenses). In exchange for the state's expanded role, local governments assumed responsibility for school construction and maintenance (capital expenses). The School Machinery Act established counties as the basic unit for operating public schools, which has resulted in large county-wide school systems, except in the 11 counties that also have city school systems.

In 1975 the General Assembly enacted the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act, which delineated responsibility for school funding: "To insure a quality education for every child in North Carolina, and to assure that the necessary resources are provided, it is the policy of the State of North Carolina to provide from State revenue sources the instructional expenses for current operations of the public school system as defined in the standard course of study. It is the policy of the State of North Carolina that the facilities requirements for a public education system will be met by county governments."

The delineation between the state's funding current expenditures and counties' funding capital expenditures has become blurred if not meaningless. For example, county governments funded 5,973 teachers (6.8 percent) and 2,879 teacher assistants (10.4 percent), but the state enacted a \$1.8 billion school bond in 1996; and since 1987 the General Assembly has allotted \$916 million for the Public School Building Capital Fund and Critical School Facility Needs Fund. Since 1995, the state has provided 27.2 percent of the capital outlay expenditures, counties have provided 72.5 percent, and the federal government has provided 0.28 percent.

State Funds

Forty-one percent of the state's General Fund is devoted to public education, and it remains the largest expenditure in the state budget. In 2003-04, the General Assembly appropriated \$6.1

billion to support the state's 2,264 traditional and charter schools, which served over 1.3 million students.

North Carolina ranks 5th in the nation in the percentage of education funding that comes from the state. Last year, 91.4 percent of state funds were spent on salaries and benefits for the 128,396 state-funded positions, including 76,314 teachers, 3,828 principals and assistant principals, 8,878 instructional support personnel, and 21,053 teacher assistants.

Two-thirds of the state funding was used to pay for position allotments such as teachers and principals; dollar allotments provide a certain amount of money for items such as teacher assistants or central office administration; and categorical allotments provide resources for items such as transportation and children with disabilities funding.

The \$6.1 billion provided by the General Assembly paid for a series of central administration, instructional personnel, support, categorical programs, and other miscellaneous items including:

- Central Office Administration \$96.4 million
- Classroom Teachers \$2.4 billion
- Teacher Assistants \$343.8 million
- Classroom materials & supplies \$63.0 million
- Textbooks \$77.0 million
- ABC Bonuses \$96.0 million
- Academically Gifted \$48.3 million
- At Risk Student Services \$178.7 million
- Transportation \$250.5 million
- Vocational Education \$295.8 million
- DPI budget \$31.5 million

State spending has increased from \$1.89 billion in 1984-85 to \$6.1 billion today. Funding has increased over 223 percent during this time, but the percentage of the General Fund designated for public education continues to decline. Three decades ago schools received over 47 percent of the state's General Fund, as compared with 41 percent today, and even less next year.

Federal Funds

Federal funds account for 10.4 percent of school spending, up from 9.6 percent the previous year. Federal funds are distributed using a series of state applications, direct grants, and state plans. Three-quarters of the expenditures were for salaries and benefits, including 5,660 teachers (6.4 percent) and 3,622 teacher assistants (13.1 percent). The \$921.7 million in federal funding was used mainly for target populations, such as low income or special needs populations; 30.8 percent was used for the Title I program, which provides resources for low-income children; children with disabilities receives 26.1 percent, the school breakfast and lunch program receives 27.1 percent, and 16.0 percent of federal funds are used for programs such as improving teacher quality, charter schools, 21st Century Community Learning Centers, education technology, and English language acquisition.

Local Funds

While the bulk of school funding comes from the state, the state Constitution permits the state to assign responsibilities for "the financial support of the free public schools as it may deem appropriate."

The division established in the 1930s between state funding of current operations (classrooms and programs) and county funding of capital operations (school buildings and maintenance) has become almost irrelevant. In addition to the teachers and teacher assistants funded with

county resources, counties provided 2,052 instructional support positions (17.5 percent), 850 principal and assistant principals (18.1 percent), and 420 central office positions (27.6 percent), and the state has provided \$1.95 billion, or 27.2 percent, of capital outlay since 1995.

In 1997 the state Supreme Court rejected the five low-wealth plaintiffs' assertion that disparities in county funding were unconstitutional. The court rejected that claim and ruled:

"Consequently, the provisions of the current state system for funding schools which require or allow counties to help finance their school systems and result in unequal funding among the school districts of the state do not violate constitutional principles."

Since the court's ruling, the gap between the top and bottom spending counties has grown to \$1,630 per student, or \$42,380 per classroom. The gap between the top and bottom spending counties has grown 62 percent since the court's verdict. The top spending county in the state spends more per student than the six bottom spending counties combined.

Mandated Social Service Spending

Since 1979 Medicaid spending has increased 1,967 percent! Almost 28 percent of county spending is devoted to human services expenditures, especially Medicaid. North Carolina is the only state that requires counties to pay a programmatic share of Medicaid

spending. Medicaid and other human services spending are mandated expenditures that counties must spend resources on, as opposed to discretionary items such as parks and recreation, public safety, or education.

Like real estate capacity and total current spending, there are large gaps in social services between counties in North Carolina. If you imagine the adjusted tax revenue available for county spending is like a pie, the wealthiest counties have a large pie. The wealthiest counties must devote slightly more than one-eighth (13.7 percent) of their resources for mandated social services spending. Contrast the wealthiest counties experience with the state's poorest counties, which have a much smaller pie to begin with. These counties must devote over half (50.4 percent) of their resources for mandated social services spending.

According to the National Association of State Budget Officers (NASBO), elementary and secondary education spending accounts for 21.7 percent of state budgets, and Medicaid accounts for 21.4 percent. The NASBO estimates that Medicaid will soon replace education as the largest expenditure in state government budgets. As Medicaid and other mandated social service expenditures continue to consume larger and larger parts of state and county budgets, this problem will worsen; and in North Carolina the impact will be acutely felt in the state's poorest counties, which serve a large population receiving these services.

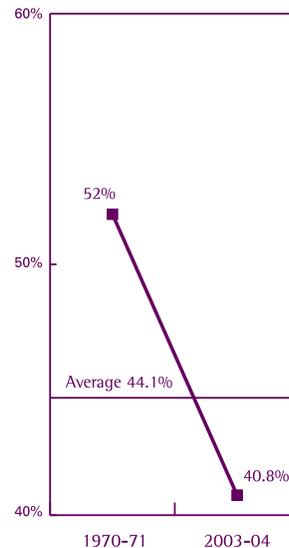
IF LOW WEALTH COUNTIES HAD TOP QUARTILE FUNDING

SPENDING PER STUDENT

County	Current	Additional	County	Current	Additional
Alexander	\$810	\$1,109	Martin	\$1,139	\$780
Anson	\$760	\$1,159	McDowell	\$879	\$1,040
Beaufort	\$1,092	\$827	Mitchell	\$657	\$1,262
Bertie	\$603	\$1,316	Montgomery	\$1,102	\$817
Bladen	\$741	\$1,178	Nash	\$1,096	\$823
Burke	\$854	\$1,065	Northampton	\$929	\$990
Cabarrus	\$1,155	\$764	Onslow	\$940	\$979
Caldwell	\$927	\$992	Pamlico	\$972	\$947
Camden	\$600	\$1,319	Pasquotank	\$1,270	\$649
Caswell	\$703	\$1,216	Pender	\$1,152	\$767
Cherokee	\$843	\$1,076	Perquimans	\$914	\$1,005
Chowan	\$1,363	\$556	Person	\$1,101	\$818
Cleveland	\$552	\$1,367	Pitt	\$1,260	\$659
Columbus	\$587	\$1,332	Randolph	\$688	\$1,231
Craven	\$929	\$990	Richmond	\$655	\$1,264
Cumberland	\$1,127	\$792	Robeson	\$503	\$1,416
Davidson	\$943	\$976	Rockingham	\$960	\$959
Duplin	\$645	\$1,274	Rowan	\$1,290	\$629
Edgecombe	\$1,135	\$784	Rutherford	\$933	\$986
Franklin	\$1,028	\$891	Sampson	\$728	\$1,191
Gates	\$1,041	\$878	Scotland	\$1,256	\$663
Graham	\$420	\$1,499	Stanly	\$937	\$982
Granville	\$972	\$947	Stokes	\$1,077	\$842
Greene	\$571	\$1,348	Surry	\$939	\$980
Hallfax	\$549	\$1,370	Swain	\$299	\$1,620
Harnett	\$703	\$1,216	Tyrrell	\$791	\$1,128
Haywood	\$1,436	\$483	Union	\$844	\$1,075
Hertford	\$825	\$1,094	Vance	\$950	\$969
Hoke	\$503	\$1,416	Warren	\$683	\$1,236
Johnston	\$1,317	\$602	Washington	\$689	\$1,230
Jones	\$616	\$1,303	Wayne	\$828	\$1,091
Lee	\$1,014	\$905	Wilkes	\$1,002	\$917
Lenoir	\$867	\$1,052	Wilson	\$1,057	\$862
Lincoln	\$997	\$922	Yadkin	\$873	\$1,046
Madison	\$734	\$1,185	Yancey	\$824	\$1,095

The current spending of the state's top quartile of counties is \$1,919 per student. The table above shows how much additional spending per student the state's 70 counties designated as low wealth would have to provide if spending at the same level as the top quartile counties.

K-12 SPENDING (% OF GENERAL OPERATING BUDGET)



K-12 education spending represents the largest part of the state's budget. Since 1970, K-12 education's share of the state budget has continued to decline. The line chart above shows it has declined from 52 percent in 1970 to 40.8 percent last year and in the current fiscal year it has dropped below 39 percent.

METHODOLOGY

Capital Spending

In previous finance studies, capital spending was calculating using data from the Department of State Treasurer's *Public School Capital Outlay* report. A six-year average of county appropriations for capital outlay, interest on debt for school construction, and the net change in capital reserves minus county withdrawals from the state's Public School Buildings Capital Fund and grants from the Public School Building Bond fund.

Last year the calculation of capital spending was modified to present a more accurate picture of county effort to provide resources for school capital needs. Using data provided in the *Public School Capital Outlay* report, the local school finance will report a six-year average of county debt services from local sources and capital outlay from local sources. The debt service includes expenditures for school bond repayment and lease purchase agreements. The capital outlay is actual spending on capital projects or equipment for buildings.

Sales/Assessment Ratio

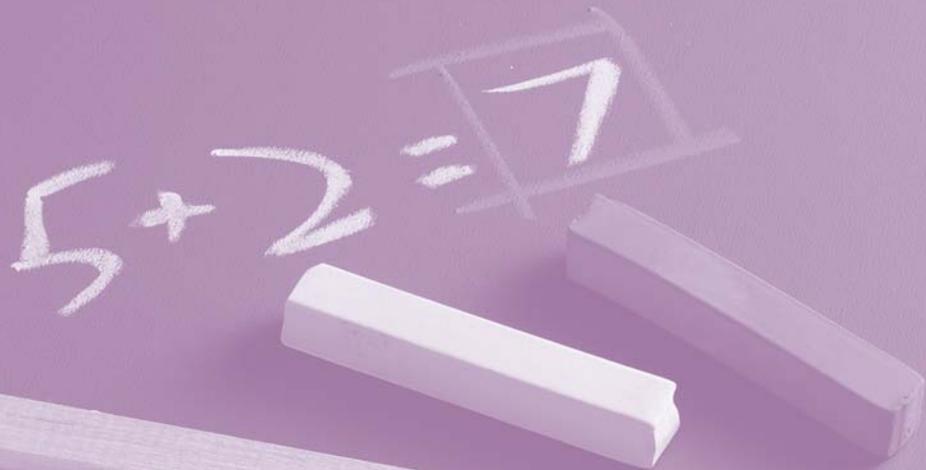
In North Carolina, most residential and commercial property is revalued once every eight years. Prior to 1984 it was difficult to compare tax wealth and effort because of this impediment to estimating the market value of property valuations. In 1984 the Department of Revenue completed its first statewide Sales/Assessment Ratio Study, comparing the market value of recently sold property with its assessed value. Using the ratio of assessed property value to market value, the Department calculated an adjusted property tax rate for each county. The longer it has been since a county has undergone reevaluation, the more likely it is that the market value of property in the county exceeds its assessed valuation.

Rapidly growing communities have numerous demands on public services, and the demands tend to outstrip land value increases. Therefore, to meet the increase in demands for additional services, local officials must either revalue

property more often or raise taxes. In an effort to make this study as accurate as possible, a three-year weighted average is used to calculate the adjusted property valuation. This approach is intended to result in more accurate valuations for small, rural counties, where relatively few land transactions might have taken place during any given year.

Other Revenue Sources

The primary source of local revenue is property taxes. In addition to property taxes, the Forum study includes a county's share of local option sales taxes, inventory tax reimbursements, and fines and forfeitures. Allotments from the ADM fund and grants for school construction have been removed to isolate capital spending. Finally, 11 counties have supplemental school taxes, up from seven last year. This additional revenue totals \$44.5 million, up 19.6 percent from last year.



Ranking of Adjusted Property Valuations Per Student

This is the total adjusted property valuation for each county divided by the number of students in membership in the county. The property valuation was adjusted using a three-year weighted average of the Sales/Assessment Ratios.

This represents the real estate wealth available to counties to support education.

TABLE

1

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	LAST YEAR REVALUED	2003/04 FINAL ADM	2003/04 ADJUSTED TAX BASE	ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX BASE PER ADM	AVERAGE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	LAST YEAR REVALUED	2002/03 FINAL ADM	2002/03 ADJUSTED TAX BASE	ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX BASE PER ADM	AVERAGE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE
Dare	1	1	1998	4,718	\$9,014,500,932	\$1,910,661	\$0.264	Rutherford	51	52	2002	10,186	\$4,136,700,199	\$406,116	\$0.556
Jackson	2	5	2004	3,727	\$4,865,649,407	\$1,305,514	\$0.360	Lee	52	50	2003	8,999	\$3,635,172,739	\$403,953	\$0.650
Watauga	3	2	2002	4,633	\$5,988,336,949	\$1,292,540	\$0.306	Randolph	53	51	2001	22,218	\$8,964,406,436	\$403,475	\$0.449
Macon	4	4	2003	4,073	\$5,261,087,269	\$1,291,698	\$0.360	Franklin	54	63	2004	7,945	\$3,190,695,514	\$401,598	\$0.790
Brunswick	5	3	2003	10,910	\$13,169,445,376	\$1,207,099	\$0.495	Craven	55	58	2002	14,261	\$5,630,522,631	\$394,820	\$0.539
Hyde	6	12	2003	657	\$720,151,582	\$1,096,121	\$0.634	McDowell	56	62	2003	6,426	\$2,535,887,056	\$394,629	\$0.547
Avery	7	6	2002	2,425	\$2,646,139,899	\$1,091,192	\$0.439	Rockingham	57	53	2003	14,504	\$5,723,559,844	\$394,619	\$0.621
Carteret	8	7	2001	8,364	\$8,062,562,004	\$963,960	\$0.377	Yadkin	58	48	1999	5,963	\$2,334,316,303	\$391,467	\$0.571
Currituck	9	10	1997	3,673	\$3,538,835,790	\$963,473	\$0.386	Davidson	59	54	2001	24,940	\$9,643,619,338	\$386,673	\$0.517
Transylvania	10	8	2002	3,955	\$3,775,211,935	\$954,542	\$0.447	Wilson	60	55	2000	12,788	\$4,924,369,667	\$385,077	\$0.683
Clay	11	9	2002	1,251	\$1,183,085,331	\$945,712	\$0.371	Surry	61	56	2004	11,725	\$4,504,781,727	\$384,203	\$0.630
Alleghany	12	11	1999	1,472	\$1,284,319,138	\$872,499	\$0.439	Pitt	62	61	2004	20,905	\$7,908,063,919	\$378,286	\$0.692
New Hanover	13	13	1999	22,492	\$18,365,108,805	\$816,517	\$0.626	Stanly	63	65	2001	9,897	\$3,731,111,819	\$376,994	\$0.590
Ashe	14	14	1998	3,133	\$2,498,923,300	\$797,614	\$0.386	Gaston	64	59	2003	31,130	\$11,735,213,665	\$376,974	\$0.866
Polk	15	15	2001	2,388	\$1,814,836,599	\$759,982	\$0.476	Stokes	65	69	2001	7,307	\$2,745,119,711	\$375,684	\$0.570
Henderson	16	16	2003	12,197	\$8,724,419,902	\$715,292	\$0.450	Alexander	66	64	2002	2,556	\$2,071,049,208	\$372,759	\$0.438
Durham	17	19	2001	31,733	\$20,692,621,335	\$652,085	\$0.745	Chowan	67	68	1998	2,461	\$903,662,164	\$367,193	\$0.607
Chatham	18	20	2001	7,653	\$4,988,730,105	\$651,866	\$0.594	Northampton	68	73	2001	3,386	\$1,236,110,429	\$365,065	\$0.734
Moore	19	26	2003	11,861	\$7,717,217,216	\$650,638	\$0.475	Caldwell	69	66	2001	12,746	\$4,648,070,128	\$364,669	\$0.511
Wake	20	18	2000	112,308	\$72,475,063,456	\$645,324	\$0.553	Burke	70	67	2001	14,480	\$5,261,865,897	\$363,389	\$0.527
Buncombe	21	21	2002	29,001	\$18,627,318,415	\$642,299	\$0.538	Edgecombe	71	71	2001	7,492	\$2,679,751,132	\$357,682	\$0.789
Mecklenburg	22	17	2003	114,815	\$73,686,776,584	\$641,787	\$0.731	Bladen	72	72	1999	5,676	\$2,009,836,108	\$354,094	\$0.658
Yancey	23	25	2000	2,525	\$1,595,056,745	\$631,706	\$0.410	Johnston	73	75	2003	24,801	\$8,766,899,656	\$353,490	\$0.506
Orange	24	22	2001	17,320	\$10,638,313,441	\$614,221	\$0.760	Martin	74	70	2001	4,444	\$1,568,386,697	\$352,922	\$0.709
Haywood	25	23	2002	7,776	\$4,769,082,354	\$613,308	\$0.551	Caswell	75	76	2004	3,360	\$1,172,383,145	\$348,924	\$0.596
Graham	26	28	2002	1,192	\$723,732,771	\$607,158	\$0.494	Granville	76	74	2002	8,595	\$2,888,422,737	\$336,058	\$0.616
Madison	27	24	2004	2,536	\$1,492,780,422	\$588,636	\$0.498	Cleveland	77	79	2004	17,386	\$5,661,013,331	\$325,608	\$0.571
Guilford	28	27	2004	66,439	\$37,546,073,527	\$565,121	\$0.614	Duplin	78	78	2001	8,680	\$2,811,516,712	\$323,907	\$0.697
Cherokee	29	35	2004	3,684	\$2,046,317,564	\$555,461	\$0.504	Camden	79	77	2001	1,567	\$500,395,463	\$319,333	\$0.620
Iredell	30	31	2003	23,730	\$13,045,353,169	\$549,741	\$0.429	Hertford	80	83	2003	3,541	\$1,119,799,572	\$316,238	\$0.910
Person	31	32	2001	6,049	\$3,221,813,053	\$532,619	\$0.622	Lenoir	81	80	2001	10,224	\$3,173,085,595	\$310,357	\$0.755
Catawba	32	30	2003	23,836	\$12,669,192,543	\$531,515	\$0.477	Halifax	82	82	1999	9,369	\$2,888,228,505	\$308,275	\$0.749
Forsyth	33	29	2001	48,515	\$25,487,836,653	\$525,360	\$0.672	Pasquotank	83	87	1998	5,829	\$1,774,565,724	\$304,437	\$0.652
Mitchell	34	34	2001	2,302	\$1,196,685,127	\$519,846	\$0.430	Columbus	84	81	1997	9,579	\$2,904,493,835	\$303,215	\$0.601
Davie	35	36	2001	6,017	\$3,056,964,642	\$508,055	\$0.535	Anson	85	84	2002	4,356	\$1,303,250,005	\$299,185	\$0.766
Pender	36	33	2003	6,932	\$3,520,556,996	\$507,870	\$0.533	Wayne	86	89	2003	19,146	\$5,719,799,801	\$298,746	\$0.652
Pamlico	37	37	2004	2,058	\$1,005,449,542	\$488,557	\$0.658	Nash	87	85	2001	18,750	\$5,579,818,987	\$297,590	\$0.601
Perquimans	38	40	2000	1,682	\$819,819,851	\$487,408	\$0.575	Washington	88	90	1997	2,131	\$631,047,345	\$296,127	\$0.783
Beaufort	39	41	2002	7,345	\$3,541,951,352	\$482,226	\$0.565	Bertie	89	88	2004	3,375	\$971,038,464	\$287,715	\$0.780
Montgomery	40	38	2004	4,423	\$2,123,649,768	\$480,138	\$0.564	Vance	90	91	2000	8,314	\$2,372,797,803	\$285,398	\$0.717
Cabarrus	41	39	2004	26,097	\$12,420,795,446	\$475,947	\$0.530	Sampson	91	86	2003	10,811	\$3,085,177,751	\$285,374	\$0.661
Tyrrell	42	49	1997	635	\$299,004,878	\$470,874	\$0.653	Onslow	92	93	2000	21,573	\$6,135,941,495	\$284,427	\$0.618
Rowan	43	47	2003	20,617	\$9,310,692,518	\$451,603	\$0.619	Richmond	93	92	2004	8,172	\$2,253,393,638	\$275,746	\$0.780
Wilkes	44	45	2003	10,082	\$4,514,298,292	\$447,758	\$0.574	Harnett	94	97	2003	16,589	\$4,513,223,259	\$272,061	\$0.712
Warren	45	44	2004	3,193	\$1,426,168,462	\$446,655	\$0.685	Cumberland	95	95	2003	52,158	\$14,156,897,574	\$271,423	\$0.634
Lincoln	46	43	2004	11,689	\$5,183,142,874	\$443,421	\$0.613	Greene	96	96	1997	3,154	\$855,182,544	\$271,142	\$0.870
Alamance	47	42	2001	21,950	\$9,543,774,152	\$434,796	\$0.494	Scotland	97	94	2003	6,990	\$1,858,999,962	\$265,951	\$1.100
Swain	48	57	1997	1,858	\$798,813,652	\$429,932	\$0.334	Gates	98	98	2001	1,947	\$497,711,489	\$255,630	\$0.757
Union	49	46	2004	27,139	\$11,593,349,643	\$427,184	\$0.512	Hoke	99	99	1998	6,366	\$1,429,864,386	\$224,610	\$0.663
Jones	50	60	1998	1,359	\$570,032,680	\$419,450	\$0.663	Robeson	100	100	1996	23,805	\$4,087,544,825	\$171,710	\$0.823

STATE TOTAL/AVERAGE 1,332,422 \$664,095,809,380 \$498,413 \$0.597

DISPARITIES IN REAL ESTATE WEALTH



Thirty-six counties' property wealth was above the state average of \$498,413 per student, while the remaining 64 counties were below the state average. Mountain and coastal counties along with high-growth parts of the Piedmont account for the counties above the state average.

Actual Effort

TABLE

2

This is a summary of data for the 100 counties in the state. It includes 2003-04 current expenses (including supplemental school taxes), a six-year average of debt service and of capital outlay. This measure reflects the actual dollar effort of communities to fund schools without taking into account property wealth.

High wealth communities with corresponding high levels of spending tend to rank highest in the measure.

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	2003/04 CURRENT EXPENSE	2003/04 SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL TAXES	SIX-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY AVERAGE	SIX-YEAR CAPITAL DEBT SERVICE AVERAGE	AVERAGE TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING	2003/04 FINAL ADM	CAPITAL OUTLAY SPENDING PER ADM	DEBT SERVICE PER ADM	CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM	TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM
Orange	1	1	\$44,684,324	\$12,713,689	\$19,405,413	\$11,365,645	\$57,398,013	17,320	\$1,120	\$656	\$2,580	\$3,314
Dare	2	2	\$12,639,870	\$0	\$5,751,722	\$5,414,029	\$12,639,870	4,718	\$1,219	\$1,148	\$2,679	\$2,679
Durham	3	4	\$73,649,932	\$0	\$2,957,159	\$18,238,553	\$73,649,932	31,733	\$93	\$575	\$2,321	\$2,321
Mecklenburg	4	3	\$264,989,000	\$0	\$119,100,581	\$73,413,631	\$264,989,000	114,815	\$1,037	\$639	\$2,308	\$2,308
New Hanover	5	5	\$49,003,075	\$0	\$24,523,505	\$8,602,468	\$49,003,075	22,492	\$1,090	\$382	\$2,179	\$2,179
Chatham	6	7	\$15,768,429	\$0	\$883,124	\$2,094,701	\$15,768,429	7,653	\$115	\$274	\$2,060	\$2,060
Carteret	7	6	\$16,555,909	\$0	\$6,190,673	\$5,153,699	\$16,555,909	8,364	\$740	\$616	\$1,979	\$1,979
Wake	8	9	\$218,701,514	\$0	\$115,695,234	\$83,460,109	\$218,701,514	112,308	\$1,030	\$743	\$1,947	\$1,947
Brunswick	9	8	\$21,085,213	\$0	\$13,294,747	\$5,839,696	\$21,085,213	10,910	\$1,219	\$535	\$1,933	\$1,933
Guilford	10	11	\$125,665,521	\$0	\$51,804,035	\$11,094,294	\$125,665,521	66,439	\$780	\$167	\$1,891	\$1,891
Currituck	11	10	\$6,550,964	\$0	\$1,959,577	\$1,471,477	\$6,550,964	3,673	\$534	\$401	\$1,784	\$1,784
Forsyth	12	12	\$84,290,032	\$0	\$15,951,872	\$20,258,685	\$84,290,032	48,515	\$329	\$418	\$1,737	\$1,737
Watauga	13	13	\$7,892,000	\$0	\$1,045,479	\$1,895,290	\$7,892,000	4,633	\$409	\$1,703	\$1,703	
Buncombe	14	14	\$38,806,083	\$6,136,544	\$14,084,127	\$8,252,208	\$44,942,627	29,001	\$486	\$285	\$1,338	\$1,550
Hyde	15	17	\$1,003,971	\$0	\$256,294	\$41,413	\$1,003,971	657	\$390	\$63	\$1,528	\$1,528
Polk	16	15	\$3,558,212	\$54,583	\$229,093	\$451,410	\$3,612,795	2,388	\$96	\$189	\$1,490	\$1,513
Transylvania	17	18	\$5,972,676	\$0	\$4,851,951	\$1,561,084	\$5,972,676	3,955	\$1,227	\$395	\$1,510	\$1,510
Moore	18	16	\$17,876,880	\$0	\$5,225,338	\$3,439,298	\$17,876,880	11,861	\$441	\$290	\$1,507	\$1,507
Jackson	19	20	\$5,414,459	\$0	\$4,098,797	\$1,556,544	\$5,414,459	3,727	\$1,100	\$418	\$1,453	\$1,453
Haywood	20	19	\$11,164,350	\$0	\$3,279,405	\$2,025,094	\$11,164,350	7,776	\$422	\$260	\$1,436	\$1,436
Chowan	21	21	\$3,353,846	\$0	\$2,292,162	\$844,012	\$3,353,846	2,461	\$931	\$343	\$1,363	\$1,363
Johnston	22	22	\$32,661,687	\$0	\$29,639,848	\$16,048,326	\$32,661,687	24,801	\$1,195	\$647	\$1,317	\$1,317
Rowan	23	26	\$26,586,132	\$0	\$2,310,481	\$5,032,650	\$26,586,132	20,617	\$112	\$244	\$1,290	\$1,290
Pasquotank	24	24	\$7,402,822	\$0	\$2,346,064	\$1,381,911	\$7,402,822	5,829	\$402	\$237	\$1,270	\$1,270
Henderson	25	25	\$15,464,204	\$0	\$8,029,148	\$3,437,987	\$15,464,204	12,197	\$658	\$282	\$1,268	\$1,268
Macon	26	33	\$5,140,372	\$0	\$4,280,992	\$2,330,631	\$5,140,372	4,073	\$1,051	\$572	\$1,262	\$1,262
Pitt	27	27	\$26,337,249	\$0	\$8,843,265	\$4,177,441	\$26,337,249	20,905	\$423	\$200	\$1,260	\$1,260
Scotland	28	23	\$8,781,018	\$0	\$3,205,680	\$780,753	\$8,781,018	6,990	\$459	\$112	\$1,256	\$1,256
Avery	29	29	\$2,982,000	\$0	\$2,266,196	\$1,204,461	\$2,982,000	2,425	\$935	\$497	\$1,230	\$1,230
Iredell	30	28	\$27,734,849	\$875,171	\$16,020,774	\$8,358,450	\$28,610,020	23,730	\$675	\$352	\$1,169	\$1,206
Cabarrus	31	31	\$30,135,697	\$0	\$21,965,544	\$16,097,260	\$30,135,697	26,097	\$842	\$617	\$1,155	\$1,155
Pender	32	32	\$7,984,558	\$0	\$4,829,066	\$1,670,399	\$7,984,558	6,932	\$697	\$241	\$1,152	\$1,152
Martin	33	39	\$5,061,343	\$0	\$861,948	\$163,245	\$5,061,343	4,444	\$194	\$37	\$1,139	\$1,139
Edgecombe	34	73	\$8,500,127	\$0	\$968,615	\$552,202	\$8,500,127	7,492	\$74	\$135	\$1,135	\$1,135
Davie	35	30	\$6,793,422	\$0	\$1,732,017	\$1,035,052	\$6,793,422	6,017	\$288	\$172	\$1,129	\$1,129
Cumberland	36	34	\$58,775,000	\$0	\$22,075,752	\$5,300,804	\$58,775,000	52,158	\$423	\$102	\$1,127	\$1,127
Union	37	38	\$22,908,030	\$7,578,125	\$18,589,253	\$15,152,525	\$30,486,155	27,139	\$685	\$558	\$844	\$1,123
Catawba	38	45	\$26,544,798	\$0	\$11,785,532	\$9,174,145	\$26,544,798	23,836	\$494	\$385	\$1,114	\$1,114
Alamance	39	40	\$24,234,939	\$0	\$5,735,582	\$4,280,695	\$24,234,939	21,950	\$261	\$195	\$1,104	\$1,104
Montgomery	40	36	\$4,873,918	\$0	\$1,067,280	\$923,810	\$4,873,918	4,423	\$241	\$209	\$1,102	\$1,102
Person	41	35	\$6,661,200	\$0	\$3,675,930	\$1,633,381	\$6,661,200	6,049	\$608	\$270	\$1,101	\$1,101
Nash	42	43	\$20,547,989	\$0	\$4,418,153	\$510,967	\$20,547,989	18,750	\$236	\$20	\$1,096	\$1,096
Beaufort	43	37	\$8,018,383	\$0	\$972,936	\$664,213	\$8,018,383	7,345	\$132	\$90	\$1,092	\$1,092
Surry	44	42	\$11,005,615	\$1,634,892	\$3,095,277	\$3,003,410	\$12,640,507	11,725	\$264	\$256	\$939	\$1,078
Stokes	45	51	\$7,866,821	\$0	\$4,067,731	\$1,322,472	\$7,866,821	7,307	\$557	\$181	\$1,077	\$1,077
Alleghany	46	44	\$1,580,177	\$0	\$563,198	\$465,400	\$1,580,177	1,472	\$383	\$316	\$1,073	\$1,073
Wilson	47	41	\$13,523,073	\$0	\$8,181,609	\$2,306,605	\$13,523,073	12,788	\$640	\$180	\$1,057	\$1,057
Gates	48	49	\$2,026,000	\$0	\$654,244	\$482,094	\$2,026,000	1,947	\$336	\$248	\$1,041	\$1,041
Gaston	49	50	\$32,061,650	\$0	\$7,156,995	\$7,086,891	\$32,061,650	31,130	\$230	\$228	\$1,030	\$1,030
Franklin	50	48	\$8,164,500	\$0	\$3,144,292	\$2,334,789	\$8,164,500	7,945	\$396	\$294	\$1,028	\$1,028
Lee	51	52	\$9,127,384	\$0	\$1,625,870	\$4,155,940	\$9,127,384	8,999	\$181	\$462	\$1,014	\$1,014
Wilkes	52	54	\$10,106,275	\$0	\$6,572,910	\$474,277	\$10,106,275	10,082	\$652	\$47	\$1,002	\$1,002
Davidson	53	47	\$23,523,216	\$1,400,337	\$4,144,365	\$2,615,711	\$24,923,553	24,940	\$166	\$105	\$943	\$999
Lincoln	54	56	\$11,657,011	\$0	\$7,695,578	\$4,076,463	\$11,657,011	11,689	\$658	\$349	\$997	\$997
Cleveland	55	46	\$9,604,895	\$7,532,614	\$2,229,067	\$2,523,998	\$17,137,509	17,386	\$128	\$145	\$552	\$986
Pamlico	56	62	\$2,000,947	\$0	\$152,946	\$459,289	\$2,000,947	2,058	\$74	\$223	\$972	\$972
Granville	57	55	\$8,354,551	\$0	\$4,025,633	\$959,717	\$8,354,551	8,595	\$468	\$112	\$972	\$972
Rockingham	58	60	\$13,926,690	\$0	\$8,288,487	\$1,154,898	\$13,926,690	14,504	\$571	\$80	\$960	\$960
Vance	59	63	\$7,895,000	\$0	\$820,519	\$1,929,373	\$7,895,000	8,314	\$99	\$232	\$950	\$950
Onslow	60	61	\$20,270,460	\$0	\$4,188,290	\$5,132,359	\$20,270,460	21,573	\$194	\$238	\$940	\$940
Stanly	61	57	\$9,272,508	\$0	\$7,145,548	\$1,228,496	\$9,272,508	9,897	\$722	\$124	\$937	\$937
Rutherford	62	59	\$9,504,147	\$0	\$3,955,473	\$5,228,577	\$9,504,147	10,186	\$388	\$513	\$933	\$933
Craven	63	64	\$13,253,940	\$0	\$5,181,791	\$3,793,962	\$13,253,940	14,261	\$363	\$266	\$929	\$929
Northampton	64	65	\$3,144,112	\$0	\$454,831	\$591,415	\$3,144,112	3,386	\$134	\$175	\$929	\$929
Caldwell	65	58	\$11,816,978	\$0	\$3,185,068	\$1,589,313	\$11,816,978	12,746	\$250	\$125	\$927	\$927
Perquimans	66	66	\$1,537,769	\$0	\$734,461	\$281,058	\$1,537,769	1,682	\$437	\$167	\$914	\$914
Ashe	67	70	\$2,822,240	\$0	\$1,512,124	\$1,174,179	\$2,822,240	3,133	\$483	\$375	\$901	\$901
McDowell	68	69	\$5,649,500	\$0	\$3,591,606	\$732,411	\$5,649,500	6,426	\$559	\$114	\$879	\$879
Yadkin	69	53	\$5,203,320	\$0	\$878,434	\$1,029,624	\$5,203,320	5,963	\$147	\$173	\$873	\$873
Lenoir	70	67	\$8,862,415	\$0	\$917,962	\$1,226,117	\$8,862,415	10,224	\$90	\$120	\$867	\$867
Randolph	71	78	\$15,283,554	\$3,961,510	\$10,844,461	\$5,579,340	\$19,245,064	22,218	\$488	\$251	\$868	\$866
Burke	72	68	\$12,363,795	\$0	\$709,904	\$4,731,236	\$12,363,795	14,480	\$327	\$49	\$854	\$854
Cherokee	73	71	\$3,106,993	\$0	\$1,312,115	\$1,560,405	\$3,106,993	3,684	\$356	\$424	\$843	\$843
Wayne	74	72	\$15,845,474	\$0	\$2,295,665	\$1,708,675	\$15,845,474	19,146	\$120	\$89	\$828	\$828
Hertford	75	79	\$2,921,983	\$0	\$716,316	\$146,342	\$2,921,983	3,541	\$202	\$41	\$825	\$825
Yancey	76	74	\$2,080,605	\$0	\$669,306	\$133,484	\$2,080,605	2,525	\$265	\$53	\$824	\$824
Alexander	77	77	\$4,500,000	\$0	\$2,320,591	\$766,346	\$4,500,000	5,556	\$418	\$138	\$810	\$810
Halifax	78	75	\$5,145,119	\$2,380,861	\$1,246,429	\$871,502	\$7,525,980	9,369	\$133	\$93	\$549	\$803
Tyrrell	79	81	\$502,020	\$0	\$56,532	\$148,613	\$502,020	635	\$89	\$234	\$791	\$791
Anson	80	76	\$3,310,557	\$0	\$321,126	\$963,134	\$3,310,557	4,356	\$74	\$221	\$760	\$760
Bladen	81	80	\$4,206,716	\$0	\$6,298,839	\$321,742	\$4,206,716	5,676	\$1,110	\$57	\$741	\$741
Madison	82	82	\$1,860,469	\$0	\$395,635	\$791,557	\$1,860,469	2,536	\$156	\$312	\$734	\$734
Sampson	83	83	\$7,868,654	\$0	\$5,468,354	\$1,870,796	\$7,868,654	10,811	\$506	\$173	\$728	\$728
Harnett	84	90	\$11,658,720	\$243,326	\$1,628,657	\$4,562,200	\$11,902,046	16,589	\$98	\$275	\$703	\$717
Caswell	85	84	\$2,363,300	\$0	\$73,238	\$346,470	\$2,363,300	3,360	\$23	\$103	\$703	\$703
Washington	86	87	\$1,468,000	\$0	\$177,348	\$451,585	\$1,468,000	2,131	\$82	\$212	\$689	\$689
Warren	87	85	\$2,180,900	\$0	\$175,304	\$822,771	\$2,180,900	3,193	\$55	\$258	\$683	\$683
Mitchell	88	86	\$1,512,957	\$0	\$347,157	\$272,710	\$1,512,957	2,302	\$151	\$99	\$657	\$657
Richmond	89	89	\$5,350,000	\$0	\$1,217,362	\$316,460	\$5,350,000	8,172	\$149	\$39	\$655	\$655
Duplin	90	88	\$5,597,646	\$0</								

Actual Effort with Supplemental Funding

This table uses many of the same figures as table 2, but adds supplemental funding for low wealth and small schools to the total current spending. Counties are ranked by their total current spending combined with low wealth and small county supplemental funding.

TABLE

3

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	2003/04 CURRENT EXPENSE	2003/04 SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL TAXES	2003/04 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING	2003/04 LOW WEALTH FUNDING	2003/04 SMALL COUNTY FUNDING	2003/04 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING WITH LOW WEALTH & SMALL COUNTY FUNDING	2003/04 FINAL ADM	TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM	2003/04 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING/ADM W/LOW WEALTH & SMALL COUNTY/ADM	CHANGE IN SPENDING PER ADM
Hyde	1	1	\$1,003,971	\$0	\$1,003,971	\$0	\$1,281,622	\$2,285,593	657	\$1,528	\$3,479	\$1,951
Orange	2	2	\$44,684,324	\$12,713,689	\$57,398,013	\$0	\$0	\$57,398,013	17,320	\$3,314	\$3,314	\$0
Tyrrell	3	3	\$502,020	\$0	\$502,020	\$160,821	\$1,281,738	\$1,944,579	635	\$791	\$3,062	\$2,272
Dare	4	6	\$12,639,870	\$0	\$12,639,870	\$0	\$0	\$12,639,870	4,718	\$2,679	\$2,679	\$0
Durham	5	5	\$73,649,932	\$0	\$73,649,932	\$0	\$0	\$73,649,932	31,733	\$2,321	\$2,321	\$0
Mecklenburg	6	4	\$264,989,000	\$0	\$264,989,000	\$0	\$0	\$264,989,000	114,815	\$2,308	\$2,308	\$0
New Hanover	7	9	\$49,003,075	\$0	\$49,003,075	\$0	\$0	\$49,003,075	22,492	\$2,179	\$2,179	\$0
Currituck	8	8	\$6,550,964	\$0	\$6,550,964	\$0	\$1,209,537	\$7,760,501	3,673	\$1,784	\$2,113	\$329
Chatham	9	10	\$15,768,429	\$0	\$15,768,429	\$0	\$0	\$15,768,429	7,653	\$2,060	\$2,060	\$0
Polk	10	13	\$3,558,212	\$54,583	\$3,612,795	\$0	\$1,171,397	\$4,784,192	2,388	\$1,513	\$2,003	\$491
Chowan	11	14	\$3,353,846	\$0	\$3,353,846	\$396,355	\$1,142,833	\$4,893,034	2,461	\$1,363	\$1,988	\$625
Gates	12	16	\$2,026,000	\$0	\$2,026,000	\$823,321	\$1,207,440	\$3,856,761	1,947	\$1,041	\$1,981	\$940
Carteret	13	7	\$16,555,909	\$0	\$16,555,909	\$0	\$0	\$16,555,909	8,364	\$1,979	\$1,979	\$0
Wake	14	11	\$218,701,514	\$0	\$218,701,514	\$0	\$0	\$218,701,514	112,308	\$1,947	\$1,947	\$0
Brunswick	15	17	\$21,085,213	\$0	\$21,085,213	\$0	\$0	\$21,085,213	10,910	\$1,933	\$1,933	\$0
Jones	16	20	\$836,756	\$0	\$836,756	\$336,152	\$1,450,541	\$2,623,449	1,359	\$616	\$1,930	\$1,315
Guilford	17	15	\$125,665,521	\$0	\$125,665,521	\$0	\$0	\$125,665,521	66,439	\$1,891	\$1,891	\$0
Alleghany	18	12	\$1,580,177	\$0	\$1,580,177	\$0	\$1,191,990	\$2,772,167	1,472	\$1,073	\$1,883	\$810
Perquimans	19	18	\$1,537,769	\$0	\$1,537,769	\$255,927	\$1,165,561	\$2,959,257	1,682	\$914	\$1,759	\$845
Forsyth	20	19	\$84,290,032	\$0	\$84,290,032	\$0	\$0	\$84,290,032	48,515	\$1,737	\$1,737	\$0
Avery	21	23	\$2,982,000	\$0	\$2,982,000	\$0	\$1,174,731	\$4,156,731	2,425	\$1,230	\$1,714	\$484
Watauga	22	28	\$7,892,000	\$0	\$7,892,000	\$0	\$0	\$7,892,000	4,633	\$1,703	\$1,703	\$0
Pamlico	23	21	\$2,000,947	\$0	\$2,000,947	\$227,454	\$1,173,859	\$3,402,260	2,058	\$972	\$1,653	\$681
Camden	24	22	\$940,576	\$0	\$940,576	\$317,218	\$1,277,074	\$2,534,868	1,567	\$600	\$1,618	\$1,017
Graham	25	25	\$500,592	\$0	\$500,592	\$158,791	\$1,232,343	\$1,891,726	1,192	\$420	\$1,587	\$1,167
Washington	26	30	\$1,468,000	\$0	\$1,468,000	\$604,443	\$1,245,465	\$3,317,908	2,131	\$689	\$1,557	\$868
Buncombe	27	27	\$38,806,083	\$6,136,544	\$44,942,627	\$0	\$0	\$44,942,627	29,001	\$1,550	\$1,550	\$0
Northampton	28	34	\$3,144,112	\$0	\$3,144,112	\$845,717	\$1,175,340	\$5,165,169	3,386	\$929	\$1,525	\$597
Transylvania	29	32	\$5,972,676	\$0	\$5,972,676	\$0	\$0	\$5,972,676	3,955	\$1,510	\$1,510	\$0
Clay	30	24	\$694,251	\$0	\$694,251	\$0	\$1,194,456	\$1,888,707	1,251	\$555	\$1,510	\$955
Moore	31	29	\$17,876,880	\$0	\$17,876,880	\$0	\$0	\$17,876,880	11,861	\$1,507	\$1,507	\$0
Scotland	32	26	\$8,781,018	\$0	\$8,781,018	\$1,620,687	\$0	\$10,401,705	6,990	\$1,256	\$1,488	\$232
Johnston	33	33	\$32,661,687	\$0	\$32,661,687	\$3,526,536	\$0	\$36,188,223	24,801	\$1,317	\$1,459	\$142
Pasquotank	34	31	\$7,402,822	\$0	\$7,402,822	\$1,074,205	\$0	\$8,477,027	5,829	\$1,270	\$1,454	\$184
Jackson	35	42	\$5,414,459	\$0	\$5,414,459	\$0	\$0	\$5,414,459	3,727	\$1,453	\$1,453	\$0
Haywood	36	36	\$11,164,350	\$0	\$11,164,350	\$91,003	\$0	\$11,255,353	7,776	\$1,436	\$1,447	\$12
Hertford	37	37	\$2,921,983	\$0	\$2,921,983	\$922,304	\$1,220,050	\$5,064,337	3,541	\$825	\$1,430	\$605
Rowan	38	35	\$26,586,132	\$0	\$26,586,132	\$1,648,548	\$0	\$28,234,680	20,617	\$1,290	\$1,369	\$80
Martin	39	39	\$5,061,343	\$0	\$5,061,343	\$968,028	\$0	\$6,029,371	4,444	\$1,139	\$1,357	\$218
Pitt	40	46	\$26,337,249	\$0	\$26,337,249	\$2,011,043	\$0	\$28,348,292	20,905	\$1,260	\$1,356	\$96
Edgecombe	41	80	\$8,500,127	\$0	\$8,500,127	\$1,589,698	\$0	\$10,089,825	7,492	\$1,135	\$1,347	\$212
Warren	42	47	\$2,180,900	\$0	\$2,180,900	\$775,952	\$1,302,062	\$4,258,914	3,193	\$683	\$1,334	\$651
Yancey	43	38	\$2,080,605	\$0	\$2,080,605	\$145,994	\$1,113,079	\$3,339,678	2,525	\$824	\$1,323	\$499
Ashe	44	41	\$2,822,240	\$0	\$2,822,240	\$0	\$1,309,830	\$4,132,070	3,133	\$901	\$1,319	\$418
Caswell	45	51	\$2,363,300	\$0	\$2,363,300	\$838,866	\$1,171,369	\$4,373,535	3,360	\$703	\$1,302	\$598
Pender	46	40	\$7,984,558	\$0	\$7,984,558	\$1,019,522	\$0	\$9,004,080	6,932	\$1,152	\$1,299	\$147
Henderson	47	48	\$15,464,204	\$0	\$15,464,204	\$0	\$0	\$15,464,204	12,197	\$1,268	\$1,268	\$0
Cherokee	48	43	\$3,106,993	\$0	\$3,106,993	\$364,436	\$1,182,154	\$4,653,583	3,684	\$843	\$1,263	\$420
Macon	49	64	\$5,140,372	\$0	\$5,140,372	\$0	\$0	\$5,140,372	4,073	\$1,262	\$1,262	\$0
Stokes	50	49	\$7,866,821	\$0	\$7,866,821	\$1,339,555	\$0	\$9,206,376	7,307	\$1,077	\$1,260	\$183
Madison	51	52	\$1,860,469	\$0	\$1,860,469	\$151,286	\$1,165,971	\$3,177,726	2,536	\$734	\$1,253	\$519
Montgomery	52	50	\$4,873,918	\$0	\$4,873,918	\$635,014	\$0	\$5,508,932	4,423	\$1,102	\$1,246	\$144
Greene	53	54	\$1,801,069	\$0	\$1,801,069	\$931,341	\$1,170,314	\$3,902,724	3,154	\$571	\$1,237	\$666
Bertie	54	55	\$2,034,340	\$0	\$2,034,340	\$941,724	\$1,183,099	\$4,159,163	3,375	\$603	\$1,232	\$630
Cumberland	55	61	\$58,775,000	\$0	\$58,775,000	\$5,128,437	\$0	\$63,903,437	52,158	\$1,127	\$1,127	\$98
Nash	56	57	\$20,547,989	\$0	\$20,547,989	\$2,359,576	\$0	\$22,907,565	18,750	\$1,096	\$1,222	\$126
Beaufort	57	65	\$8,018,383	\$0	\$8,018,383	\$910,544	\$0	\$8,928,927	7,345	\$1,092	\$1,216	\$124
Iredell	58	60	\$27,734,849	\$875,171	\$28,610,020	\$0	\$0	\$28,610,020	23,730	\$1,206	\$1,206	\$0
Mitchell	59	53	\$1,512,957	\$0	\$1,512,957	\$144,443	\$1,100,168	\$2,757,568	2,302	\$657	\$1,198	\$541
Surry	60	44	\$11,005,615	\$1,634,892	\$12,640,507	\$1,387,220	\$0	\$14,027,727	11,725	\$1,078	\$1,196	\$118
Person	61	45	\$6,661,200	\$0	\$6,661,200	\$516,826	\$0	\$7,178,026	6,049	\$1,101	\$1,187	\$85
Franklin	62	67	\$8,164,500	\$0	\$8,164,500	\$1,199,891	\$0	\$9,364,391	7,945	\$1,028	\$1,179	\$151
Granville	63	58	\$8,354,551	\$0	\$8,354,551	\$1,744,673	\$0	\$10,099,224	8,595	\$972	\$1,175	\$203
Union	64	74	\$22,908,030	\$7,578,125	\$30,486,155	\$1,301,929	\$0	\$31,788,084	27,139	\$1,123	\$1,171	\$48
Cabarrus	65	59	\$30,135,697	\$0	\$30,135,697	\$91,174	\$0	\$30,226,871	26,097	\$1,155	\$1,158	\$3
Vance	66	68	\$7,895,000	\$0	\$7,895,000	\$1,695,154	\$0	\$9,590,154	8,314	\$950	\$1,153	\$204
Wilson	67	63	\$13,523,073	\$0	\$13,523,073	\$1,093,249	\$0	\$14,616,322	12,788	\$1,057	\$1,143	\$85
Cleveland	68	56	\$9,604,895	\$7,532,614	\$17,137,509	\$2,645,065	\$0	\$19,782,574	17,386	\$986	\$1,138	\$152
Davie	69	66	\$6,793,422	\$0	\$6,793,422	\$0	\$0	\$6,793,422	6,017	\$1,129	\$1,129	\$0
Onslow	70	76	\$20,270,460	\$0	\$20,270,460	\$4,038,968	\$0	\$24,309,428	21,573	\$940	\$1,127	\$187
Catawba	71	69	\$26,544,798	\$0	\$26,544,798	\$0	\$0	\$26,544,798	23,836	\$1,114	\$1,114	\$0
Alamance	72	72	\$24,234,939	\$0	\$24,234,939	\$0	\$0	\$24,234,939	21,950	\$1,104	\$1,104	\$0
Rockingham	73	84	\$13,926,690	\$0	\$13,926,690	\$2,035,968	\$0	\$15,962,658	14,504	\$960	\$1,101	\$140
Rutherford	74	78	\$9,504,147	\$0	\$9,504,147	\$1,531,886	\$0	\$11,036,033	10,186	\$933	\$1,083	\$150
Swain	75	62	\$554,736	\$0	\$554,736	\$135,738	\$1,312,442	\$2,002,916	1,858	\$299	\$1,078	\$779
Wilkes	76	79	\$10,106,275	\$0	\$10,106,275	\$761,596	\$0	\$10,867,871	10,082	\$1,002	\$1,078	\$76
Stanly	77	75	\$9,272,508	\$0	\$9,272,508	\$1,390,990	\$0	\$10,663,498	9,897	\$937	\$1,077	\$141
Lincoln	78	91	\$11,657,011	\$0	\$11,657,011	\$804,957	\$0	\$12,461,968	11,689	\$997	\$1,066	\$69
Halifax	79	83	\$5,145,119	\$2,380,861	\$7,525,980	\$2,446,566	\$0	\$9,972,546	9,369	\$803	\$1,064	\$261
Lee	80	70	\$9,127,384	\$0	\$9,127,384	\$428,098	\$0	\$9,555,482	8,999	\$1,014	\$1,062	\$48
Davidson	81	77	\$23,523,216	\$1,400,337	\$24,923,553	\$928,160	\$0	\$25,851,713	24,940	\$999	\$1,037	\$37
Caldwell	82	73	\$11,816,978	\$0	\$11,816,978	\$1,375,405	\$0	\$13,192,383	12,746	\$927	\$1,035	\$108
Lenoir	83	81	\$8,862,415	\$0	\$8,862,415	\$1,698,416	\$0	\$10,560,831	10,224	\$867	\$1,033	\$166
McDowell	84	85	\$5,649,500	\$0	\$5,649,500	\$971,122	\$0	\$6,620,622	6,426	\$879	\$1,030	\$151
Gaston	85	88	\$32,061,650	\$0	\$32,061,650	\$0	\$0	\$32,061,650	31,130	\$1,030	\$1,030	\$0
Craven	86	89	\$13,253,940	\$0	\$13,253,940	\$1,094,845	\$0	\$14,348,785	14,261	\$929	\$1,006	\$77
Anson	87	87	\$3,310,557	\$0	\$3,310,557	\$1,027,072	\$0	\$4,337,629	4,356	\$760	\$996	\$236
Yadkin	88	71	\$5,203,320	\$0	\$5,203,320	\$725,143	\$0	\$5,928,463	5,363	\$873	\$993	\$122
Wayne	89	90	\$15,845,474	\$0	\$15,845,474	\$3,158,743	\$0	\$19,004,217	19,146	\$828	\$993	\$165
Burke	90	86	\$12,363,795	\$0	\$12,363,795	\$1,772,254	\$0	\$14,136,049	14,480	\$854	\$976	\$122
Harnett	91	93	\$11,658,720	\$243,326	\$11,902,046	\$4,265,655						

Ability to Pay

TABLE

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This is a measure of a county's per student fiscal capacity to support public schools. It is a combined measure of revenue that would have been generated at the state average tax rate based on 2003-04 property valuations per student (adjusted to reflect current market prices and to account for differences in income levels) and the value of non-property tax revenues. Each county's mandated social service payments were also subtracted from total adjusted revenues. Large, urban counties combining high adjusted property valuations with broad-based economic activity and high per capita incomes tend to rank highest in this measure.

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	ADJUSTED TAX BASE	STATE AVG. EFFECTIVE PROPERTY TAX RATE	ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	NON-PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	MANDATED SOCIAL SERVICES PAYMENTS	TOTAL REVENUES LESS WELFARE	2003/04 ADM	2003 ESTIMATED PER CAPITA INCOME	% STATE AVG. PER CAPITA INCOME	INCOME ADJUSTED TOTAL REVENUES	REVENUE PER ADM	% STATE AVG. REVENUE PER ADM
Dare	1	1	\$9,014,500,932	\$0.597	\$53,816,571	\$15,586,013	\$3,908,359	\$65,494,225	4,718	\$29,466	105.0%	\$68,748,988	\$14,572	404.2%
Watauga	2	2	\$5,988,336,949	\$0.597	\$35,750,372	\$10,026,570	\$2,624,799	\$43,152,142	4,633	\$24,472	87.2%	\$37,619,580	\$8,120	225.2%
Macon	3	3	\$5,261,087,269	\$0.597	\$31,408,691	\$7,239,876	\$2,175,031	\$36,473,536	4,073	\$23,755	84.6%	\$30,865,621	\$7,578	210.2%
Jackson	4	7	\$4,865,649,407	\$0.597	\$29,047,927	\$8,077,880	\$2,582,315	\$34,543,492	3,727	\$22,506	80.2%	\$27,695,338	\$7,431	206.1%
Brunswick	5	4	\$13,169,445,376	\$0.597	\$78,621,589	\$16,609,913	\$7,176,816	\$88,054,686	10,910	\$24,095	85.8%	\$75,582,546	\$6,928	192.1%
Carteret	6	6	\$8,062,562,004	\$0.597	\$48,133,495	\$13,284,048	\$5,060,017	\$56,357,526	8,364	\$28,239	100.6%	\$56,694,816	\$6,778	188.0%
Currituck	7	8	\$3,538,835,790	\$0.597	\$21,126,850	\$6,421,568	\$1,618,551	\$25,929,866	3,673	\$26,574	94.7%	\$24,547,051	\$6,683	185.4%
Avery	8	14	\$2,646,139,899	\$0.597	\$15,797,455	\$4,123,513	\$1,673,310	\$18,247,658	2,425	\$23,431	83.5%	\$15,231,409	\$6,281	174.2%
Mecklenburg	9	5	\$73,686,776,584	\$0.597	\$439,910,056	\$148,931,993	\$73,663,569	\$515,178,480	114,815	\$38,376	136.7%	\$704,302,995	\$6,134	170.1%
New Hanover	10	10	\$18,365,108,805	\$0.597	\$109,639,700	\$38,862,738	\$17,748,556	\$130,753,882	22,492	\$29,607	105.5%	\$137,908,524	\$6,131	170.1%
Polk	11	11	\$1,814,636,599	\$0.597	\$10,834,574	\$3,065,089	\$1,355,324	\$12,544,340	2,388	\$32,290	115.0%	\$14,429,722	\$6,043	167.6%
Pennsylvania	12	9	\$3,775,211,935	\$0.597	\$22,538,015	\$6,266,366	\$2,571,213	\$26,233,168	3,955	\$25,280	90.1%	\$23,624,897	\$5,973	165.7%
Wake	13	12	\$7,475,063,456	\$0.597	\$43,676,129	\$15,045,738	\$46,389,937	\$901,331,330	112,308	\$35,864	127.8%	\$640,510,432	\$5,703	158.2%
Chatham	14	13	\$4,988,730,105	\$0.597	\$29,782,719	\$8,918,573	\$3,955,271	\$34,746,021	7,653	\$32,236	114.8%	\$39,901,419	\$5,214	144.6%
Moore	15	19	\$7,717,217,216	\$0.597	\$46,071,787	\$13,568,723	\$6,032,528	\$53,607,981	11,861	\$32,038	114.1%	\$61,183,873	\$5,158	143.1%
Hyde	16	25	\$720,151,582	\$0.597	\$4,299,305	\$1,310,117	\$990,937	\$4,618,485	657	\$20,564	73.3%	\$3,383,368	\$5,150	142.8%
Orange	17	17	\$10,638,313,441	\$0.597	\$63,510,731	\$18,491,489	\$9,152,063	\$72,850,158	17,320	\$34,182	121.8%	\$88,709,490	\$5,122	142.1%
Henderson	18	15	\$8,724,419,902	\$0.597	\$52,084,787	\$17,467,074	\$8,692,773	\$60,859,088	12,197	\$28,286	100.8%	\$61,325,217	\$5,028	139.5%
Alleghany	19	16	\$1,284,319,138	\$0.597	\$7,667,385	\$2,008,752	\$1,049,616	\$8,626,521	1,472	\$24,023	85.6%	\$7,382,527	\$5,015	139.1%
Durham	20	18	\$20,692,621,335	\$0.597	\$123,534,949	\$41,007,663	\$24,927,984	\$139,614,629	31,733	\$31,129	110.9%	\$154,823,974	\$4,879	135.3%
Clay	21	20	\$1,183,085,331	\$0.597	\$7,063,019	\$1,759,388	\$980,147	\$7,842,261	1,251	\$21,580	76.9%	\$6,028,855	\$4,819	133.7%
Buncombe	22	21	\$18,627,318,415	\$0.597	\$111,205,091	\$47,033,760	\$22,372,781	\$135,866,070	29,001	\$27,681	98.6%	\$133,978,436	\$4,620	128.1%
Ashe	23	24	\$2,498,923,300	\$0.597	\$14,918,572	\$4,712,945	\$2,800,908	\$16,830,609	6,133	\$23,702	84.4%	\$14,211,075	\$4,536	125.8%
Guilford	24	23	\$3,546,073,527	\$0.597	\$22,150,059	\$7,241,172	\$3,813,738	\$25,674,063	3,439	\$31,786	113.2%	\$290,726,869	\$4,376	121.4%
Forsyth	25	22	\$25,487,836,653	\$0.597	\$152,162,385	\$58,626,369	\$26,242,368	\$184,546,386	48,515	\$32,067	114.2%	\$210,817,176	\$4,345	120.5%
Orange	26	28	\$13,045,353,169	\$0.597	\$77,880,758	\$26,649,871	\$11,094,574	\$94,436,056	23,730	\$27,137	96.7%	\$91,293,906	\$3,847	106.7%
Davie	27	26	\$3,056,964,642	\$0.597	\$18,250,079	\$5,579,855	\$2,371,746	\$21,458,188	6,017	\$29,174	103.9%	\$22,301,350	\$3,706	102.8%
Haywood	28	27	\$4,769,082,354	\$0.597	\$28,471,422	\$10,913,988	\$6,274,303	\$33,111,107	7,776	\$24,324	86.7%	\$28,691,339	\$3,690	102.3%
Cabarrus	29	29	\$12,420,795,446	\$0.597	\$74,152,149	\$25,270,906	\$14,639,230	\$84,783,824	26,097	\$29,842	106.3%	\$90,132,838	\$3,454	95.8%
Catawba	30	30	\$12,669,192,543	\$0.597	\$75,635,079	\$27,447,373	\$18,243,064	\$84,839,389	23,836	\$26,483	94.3%	\$80,039,953	\$3,358	93.1%
Person	31	31	\$3,221,813,053	\$0.597	\$19,234,224	\$6,652,290	\$4,276,955	\$21,609,559	6,049	\$23,824	84.9%	\$18,340,143	\$3,023	84.1%
Madison	32	32	\$1,492,780,422	\$0.597	\$8,911,899	\$3,077,063	\$2,010,566	\$9,978,416	2,536	\$21,609	77.0%	\$7,881,365	\$3,029	84.0%
Yancey	33	35	\$1,595,056,745	\$0.597	\$9,522,489	\$3,264,291	\$1,965,369	\$10,821,411	2,525	\$19,730	70.3%	\$7,805,943	\$3,012	83.5%
Wilkes	34	36	\$4,514,298,292	\$0.597	\$26,950,361	\$13,111,773	\$6,867,708	\$34,194,426	10,082	\$24,633	87.8%	\$30,006,459	\$2,976	82.5%
Union	35	34	\$11,593,349,643	\$0.597	\$69,212,297	\$25,061,185	\$10,341,860	\$83,931,622	27,139	\$26,778	95.4%	\$80,065,583	\$2,950	81.8%
Alamance	36	33	\$9,543,774,152	\$0.597	\$56,976,322	\$21,853,235	\$10,312,680	\$68,516,886	21,950	\$26,030	92.7%	\$63,535,127	\$2,895	80.3%
Lee	37	42	\$3,635,172,739	\$0.597	\$21,701,981	\$9,091,350	\$4,619,157	\$26,174,175	8,999	\$27,669	98.6%	\$25,799,339	\$2,867	79.5%
Craven	38	39	\$5,630,522,631	\$0.597	\$33,614,220	\$15,924,832	\$9,008,608	\$40,530,445	14,261	\$28,097	100.1%	\$40,567,985	\$2,845	78.9%
Rowan	39	44	\$9,310,692,518	\$0.597	\$55,584,834	\$19,585,285	\$11,120,994	\$64,049,125	20,617	\$25,326	90.2%	\$57,785,905	\$2,803	77.7%
Cherokee	40	40	\$2,046,317,564	\$0.597	\$12,216,516	\$5,521,792	\$2,755,492	\$14,982,815	3,684	\$19,290	68.7%	\$10,295,982	\$2,795	77.5%
Lincoln	41	41	\$5,183,142,874	\$0.597	\$30,943,363	\$11,972,832	\$5,008,307	\$37,907,888	11,689	\$23,998	85.5%	\$32,407,591	\$2,772	76.9%
Pamlico	42	38	\$1,005,449,542	\$0.597	\$6,002,534	\$2,067,891	\$1,799,650	\$6,270,775	2,058	\$24,751	88.2%	\$5,529,121	\$2,687	74.5%
Pender	43	37	\$3,520,556,996	\$0.597	\$21,017,725	\$7,133,134	\$4,139,691	\$24,011,168	6,932	\$21,489	76.6%	\$18,381,105	\$2,652	73.5%
Beaufort	44	51	\$3,541,951,352	\$0.597	\$21,145,450	\$8,416,372	\$6,135,347	\$23,426,475	7,345	\$23,324	83.1%	\$19,464,896	\$2,650	73.5%
Davidson	45	43	\$9,643,619,338	\$0.597	\$57,572,407	\$23,513,292	\$10,596,401	\$70,489,298	24,940	\$26,036	92.8%	\$65,379,194	\$2,621	72.7%
Graham	46	48	\$723,732,771	\$0.597	\$4,320,685	\$1,482,056	\$1,796,158	\$4,006,983	1,192	\$21,508	76.6%	\$3,069,844	\$2,575	71.4%
Surry	47	46	\$4,504,781,727	\$0.597	\$26,893,547	\$14,556,767	\$6,532,259	\$34,918,055	11,725	\$24,051	85.7%	\$29,917,500	\$2,552	70.4%
Perquimans	48	53	\$819,819,851	\$0.597	\$4,894,325	\$1,750,388	\$1,171,089	\$5,475,624	1,682	\$21,968	78.3%	\$4,283,587	\$2,547	70.6%
Montgomery	49	45	\$2,123,649,768	\$0.597	\$12,678,189	\$4,238,922	\$2,873,383	\$14,043,728	4,423	\$22,174	79.0%	\$11,093,500	\$2,508	69.6%
Pitt	50	52	\$7,908,063,919	\$0.597	\$47,211,142	\$22,859,403	\$13,240,897	\$56,829,648	20,905	\$25,746	91.7%	\$52,122,693	\$2,493	69.2%
Franklin	51	58	\$3,190,695,514	\$0.597	\$19,048,452	\$8,465,772	\$4,840,192	\$22,674,032	7,945	\$24,264	86.4%	\$19,598,971	\$2,467	68.4%
Randolph	52	47	\$8,964,406,436	\$0.597	\$53,517,506	\$20,529,887	\$9,507,343	\$64,540,050	22,218	\$32,651	84.3%	\$54,377,711	\$2,447	67.9%
Alexander	53	49	\$2,071,049,208	\$0.597	\$12,364,164	\$5,338,588	\$2,815,115	\$15,487,637	5,556	\$24,486	87.2%	\$13,509,682	\$2,432	67.4%
Johnston	54	60	\$8,766,899,656	\$0.597	\$52,338,391	\$23,760,730	\$11,090,895	\$65,008,226	24,801	\$25,910	95.1%	\$59,725,772	\$2,408	66.8%
Gaston	55	50	\$11,735,213,665	\$0.597	\$70,059,226	\$27,974,896	\$22,616,454	\$75,417,668	31,130	\$27,649	98.5%	\$74,283,890	\$2,386	66.2%
Yadkin	56	54	\$2,334,316,303	\$0.597	\$13,935,868	\$6,263,325	\$3,548,451	\$16,650,743	5,963	\$23,863	85.0%	\$14,154,703	\$2,374	65.8%
Swain	57	68	\$798,813,652	\$0.597	\$4,768,918	\$2,479,716	\$1,045,253	\$6,203,381	1,858	\$19,813	70.6%	\$4,378,454	\$2,357	65.4%
Wilson	58	59	\$4,924,369,667	\$0.597	\$29,398,487	\$13,352,265	\$9,124,902	\$33,625,850	12,788	\$25,121	89.5%	\$30,092,087	\$2,353	65.3%
Rutherford	59	57	\$4,136,700,199	\$0.597	\$24,696,100	\$11,108,145	\$6,269,817	\$29,534,428	10,186	\$22,778	81.1%	\$23,965,487	\$2,353	65.3%
Stokes	60	62	\$2,745,119,711	\$0.597	\$16,388,365	\$7,025,335	\$3,099,592	\$20,314,107	7,307	\$23,581	80.0%	\$17,064,834	\$2,335	64.8%
Mitchell	61	55	\$1,196,685,127	\$0.597	\$7,144,210	\$3,139,549	\$2,699,570	\$7,584,010	2,302	\$19,875	70.8%	\$5,369,677	\$2,333	64.7%

Relative Effort

TABLE

5

This is a measure comparing Actual Effort and Ability to Pay. Actual Effort includes county appropriations for current expense, and, when appropriate, supplemental tax levies for schools. Low wealth counties with comparatively high spending levels have tended to rank highest in this measure.

COUNTY	RELATIVE EFFORT RANK: CURRENT SPENDING	ABILITY RANK	REVENUE PER ADM	EFFORT RANK	TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM	CAPITAL OUTLAY SPENDING PER ADM	DEBT SERVICE SPENDING PER ADM	EFFORT AS % OF REVENUE PER STUDENT CURRENT SPENDING
Scotland	1	95	\$1,411	28	\$1,256	\$459	\$112	89.0%
Gates	2	96	\$1,371	48	\$1,041	\$336	\$248	75.9%
Pasquotank	3	76	\$1,860	24	\$1,270	\$402	\$237	68.3%
Edgecombe	4	83	\$1,674	34	\$1,135	\$129	\$74	67.8%
Orange	5	17	\$5,122	1	\$3,314	\$1,120	\$656	64.7%
Robeson	6	100	\$793	98	\$503	\$151	\$35	63.4%
Martin	7	79	\$1,825	33	\$1,139	\$194	\$37	62.4%
Chowan	8	62	\$2,282	21	\$1,363	\$931	\$343	59.7%
Vance	9	85	\$1,643	59	\$950	\$99	\$232	57.8%
Cumberland	10	73	\$1,959	36	\$1,127	\$423	\$102	57.5%
Northampton	11	86	\$1,626	64	\$929	\$134	\$175	57.1%
Halifax	12	94	\$1,412	78	\$803	\$133	\$93	56.9%
Washington	13	97	\$1,226	86	\$689	\$83	\$212	56.2%
Nash	14	72	\$1,959	42	\$1,096	\$236	\$27	55.9%
Hertford	15	89	\$1,506	75	\$825	\$202	\$41	54.8%
Johnston	16	54	\$2,408	22	\$1,317	\$1,195	\$647	54.7%
Anson	17	93	\$1,427	80	\$760	\$74	\$221	53.3%
Cleveland	18	74	\$1,950	55	\$986	\$128	\$145	50.6%
Pitt	19	50	\$2,493	27	\$1,260	\$423	\$200	50.5%
Granville	20	75	\$1,931	57	\$972	\$468	\$112	50.3%
Hoke	21	99	\$1,018	97	\$503	\$236	\$44	49.4%
Bertie	22	98	\$1,225	92	\$603	\$122	\$154	49.2%
Durham	23	20	\$4,879	3	\$2,321	\$93	\$575	47.6%
Lenoir	24	78	\$1,846	70	\$867	\$90	\$120	47.0%
Sampson	25	88	\$1,568	83	\$728	\$506	\$173	46.5%
Stokes	26	60	\$2,335	45	\$1,077	\$557	\$181	46.1%
Rowan	27	39	\$2,803	23	\$1,290	\$112	\$244	46.0%
Wilson	28	58	\$2,353	47	\$1,057	\$640	\$180	44.9%
Wayne	29	77	\$1,848	58	\$828	\$120	\$89	44.8%
Rockingham	30	69	\$2,161	74	\$960	\$571	\$80	44.4%
Montgomery	31	49	\$2,508	40	\$1,102	\$241	\$209	43.9%
Richmond	32	90	\$1,492	89	\$655	\$149	\$39	43.9%
Bladen	33	82	\$1,704	81	\$741	\$1,110	\$57	43.5%
Pender	34	43	\$2,652	32	\$1,152	\$697	\$241	43.4%
Harnett	35	84	\$1,658	84	\$717	\$98	\$275	43.3%
Guilford	36	24	\$4,376	10	\$1,891	\$780	\$167	43.2%
Gaston	37	55	\$2,386	49	\$1,030	\$230	\$228	43.2%
Onslow	38	67	\$2,200	60	\$940	\$194	\$238	42.7%
Stanly	39	66	\$2,206	65	\$937	\$722	\$124	42.5%
Caldwell	40	68	\$2,191	61	\$927	\$250	\$125	42.3%
Surry	41	47	\$2,552	44	\$1,078	\$264	\$256	42.3%
Franklin	42	51	\$2,467	50	\$1,028	\$396	\$294	41.7%
Beaufort	43	44	\$2,650	43	\$1,092	\$132	\$90	41.2%
Burke	44	70	\$2,122	72	\$854	\$49	\$327	40.2%
Forsyth	45	25	\$4,345	12	\$1,737	\$329	\$418	40.0%
Warren	46	81	\$1,716	87	\$683	\$55	\$258	39.8%
Columbus	47	91	\$1,478	94	\$587	\$87	\$79	39.7%
Duplin	48	87	\$1,625	90	\$645	\$136	\$59	39.7%
Rutherford	49	59	\$2,353	62	\$933	\$388	\$513	39.7%
Greene	50	92	\$1,441	95	\$571	\$168	\$148	39.6%
Chatham	51	14	\$5,214	6	\$2,060	\$115	\$274	39.5%
McDowell	52	65	\$2,225	68	\$879	\$559	\$114	39.5%
Haywood	53	28	\$3,690	20	\$1,436	\$422	\$260	38.9%
Caswell	54	80	\$1,820	85	\$703	\$22	\$103	38.7%
Alamance	55	36	\$2,895	39	\$1,104	\$261	\$195	38.1%
Davidson	56	45	\$2,621	53	\$999	\$166	\$105	38.1%
Union	57	35	\$2,950	37	\$1,123	\$685	\$558	38.1%
Mecklenburg	58	9	\$6,134	4	\$2,308	\$1,037	\$639	37.6%
Yadkin	59	56	\$2,374	69	\$873	\$147	\$173	36.8%
Person	60	31	\$3,032	41	\$1,101	\$608	\$270	36.3%
Pamlico	61	42	\$2,687	56	\$972	\$74	\$223	36.2%
Lincoln	62	41	\$2,772	54	\$997	\$658	\$349	36.0%
Perquimans	63	48	\$2,547	66	\$914	\$437	\$167	35.9%
New Hanover	64	10	\$6,131	5	\$2,179	\$1,090	\$382	35.5%
Tyrrell	65	64	\$2,226	79	\$791	\$89	\$234	35.5%
Randolph	66	52	\$2,447	71	\$866	\$488	\$251	35.4%
Lee	67	37	\$2,867	51	\$1,014	\$181	\$462	35.4%
Wake	68	13	\$5,703	8	\$1,947	\$1,030	\$743	34.1%
Wilkes	69	34	\$2,976	52	\$1,002	\$652	\$47	33.7%
Buncombe	70	22	\$4,620	14	\$1,550	\$486	\$285	33.5%
Cabarrus	71	29	\$3,454	31	\$1,155	\$842	\$617	33.4%
Alexander	72	53	\$2,432	77	\$810	\$418	\$138	33.3%
Catawba	73	30	\$3,358	38	\$1,114	\$494	\$385	33.2%
Craven	74	38	\$2,845	63	\$929	\$363	\$266	32.7%
Iredell	75	26	\$3,847	30	\$1,206	\$675	\$352	31.3%
Davie	76	27	\$3,706	35	\$1,129	\$288	\$172	30.5%
Cherokee	77	40	\$2,795	73	\$843	\$356	\$424	30.2%
Hyde	78	16	\$5,150	15	\$1,528	\$390	\$63	29.7%
Jones	79	71	\$2,090	91	\$616	\$255	\$50	29.5%
Moore	80	15	\$5,158	18	\$1,507	\$441	\$290	29.2%
Carteret	81	6	\$6,778	7	\$1,979	\$740	\$616	29.2%
Mitchell	82	61	\$2,333	88	\$657	\$151	\$99	28.2%
Brunswick	83	5	\$6,928	9	\$1,933	\$1,219	\$535	27.9%
Yancey	84	33	\$3,012	76	\$824	\$265	\$53	27.4%
Currituck	85	7	\$6,683	11	\$1,784	\$534	\$401	26.7%
Camden	86	63	\$2,264	93	\$600	\$894	\$599	26.5%
Transylvania	87	12	\$5,973	17	\$1,510	\$1,227	\$395	25.3%
Henderson	88	18	\$5,028	25	\$1,268	\$658	\$282	25.2%
Polk	89	11	\$6,043	16	\$1,513	\$36	\$189	25.0%
Madison	90	32	\$3,029	82	\$734	\$156	\$312	24.2%
Alleghany	91	19	\$5,015	46	\$1,073	\$383	\$316	21.4%
Watauga	92	2	\$8,120	13	\$1,703	\$226	\$409	21.0%
Ashe	93	23	\$4,536	67	\$901	\$483	\$375	19.9%
Avery	94	8	\$6,281	29	\$1,230	\$835	\$497	19.6%
Jackson	95	4	\$7,431	19	\$1,453	\$1,100	\$418	19.6%
Dare	96	1	\$14,572	2	\$2,679	\$1,219	\$1,148	18.4%
Macon	97	3	\$7,578	26	\$1,262	\$1,051	\$572	16.7%
Graham	98	46	\$2,575	99	\$420	\$204	\$157	16.3%
Swain	99	57	\$2,357	100	\$299	\$87	\$227	12.7%
Clay	100	21	\$4,819	96	\$555	\$137	\$111	11.5%
			\$3,605		\$1,395	\$547	\$342	38.7%

GLOSSARY

ABILITY TO PAY A measure of a county's per student fiscal capacity to support local public schools. It is a combined measure of revenue that would have been generated at the state average tax rate based on 2003-04 property valuations per student (adjusted to reflect current market prices and to account for differences in income levels) and the value of non-property tax revenues, such as the county's share of local option sales tax, local tax aid (including reimbursements for inventory tax revenues, homestead exclusions, food stamp distribution, and the intangibles tax), and fines and forfeitures. Note: counties did not receive local tax reimbursement this year. Each county's mandated social service payments were subtracted from the total adjusted revenues. (See Table 4.)

ACTUAL EFFORT A summary of data for each county. It includes 2003-04 current expenses (including supplemental school taxes), six-year averages on capital outlay and capital debt service. The measure reflects the actual dollar effort of counties to fund local public schools without taking into account property wealth. (See Tables 2 and 3.)

ADJUSTED TAX BASE The total valuation of real, tangible, and public utility property for a county, adjusted using a three-year weighted average of the sales assessment ratio. (Notes about adjustment and weighted average: In North Carolina, residential and commercial property typically is revalued once every eight years. The longer it has been since properties in a county have been revalued, the more likely it is that the market value of property exceeds the assessed valuation. To help remedy this difficulty of estimating the market value of property valuations, the Department of Revenue computes an adjusted property tax rate for each county by using the ratio of assessed property value to market value. Typically, the longer the gap between revaluations, the larger the difference between market and assessed value. In an effort to be as accurate as possible, this study uses a three-year weighted average (except in the case of counties revalued in 2002 and 2003 to calculate the adjusted property valuation.) (Source: School Business Services, NC DPI)

AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (ADM)
The sum of the number of days in membership for all students in each county's local public schools, divided by the number of school days in

the term. Note that city districts and charter schools are included in the county school total. (Source: Statistical Research, NC DPI)

CAPITAL OUTLAY Withdrawals from the Public School Building Capital Fund and Grants from the Public School Building Bond Fund have been removed from the county total. A six-year average of public school capital outlay using proceeds from local option sales taxes and other sources to fund actual spending on capital projects or equipment for buildings.

Public School Capital Outlay report, the local school finance will report a six-year average of county debt services from local sources and capital outlay from local sources. The debt service includes expenditures for school bond repayment and lease purchase agreements

CAPITAL OUTLAY PER ADM Six-year average of capital outlay spending for a county divided by the ADM for the county.

CHANGE IN SPENDING PER ADM The difference between the county's total current spending with supplemental funding and its total current spending.

CURRENT EXPENSE The most recent current expense appropriation by the county to the public schools, as reported in the audited financial statement of the local board(s) of education. (Source: School Business Services, NC DPI)

CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM The total amount of spending for a county divided by the ADM for the county.

DEBT SERVICE Using the *Public School Capital Outlay* report, withdrawals from the Public School Building Capital Fund have been removed from the county total. A six-year average of public school debt service outlay using proceeds from local option sales taxes and other sources to fund school bond repayments and lease purchase agreements.

DEBT SERVICE PER ADM Six-year average of debt service outlay spending for a county divided by the ADM for the county.

INCOME ADJUSTED TOTAL REVENUES
The total revenues for a county, minus the amount paid in mandated welfare, multiplied by the percent of state average per capita income.

LOW WEALTH FUNDING Supplemental state funding intended to enhance instructional programs in counties designated as low wealth based on a formula that examines the ability to generate revenue per student below the state average. In addition, county adjusted property tax base, square miles in the county and per capita income are also used in the formula. (Source: School Business Services, NC DPI)

MANDATED SOCIAL SERVICES The amount of money each county pays in the health and human services categories mandated by the state. These categories include the Medicaid, public assistance, and Work First services (Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services)

NON-PROPERTY TAX REVENUE Sources of revenue for the county other than property taxes. Examples include the sales tax and fines/forfeitures. (Source: School Business Services, NC DPI)

RELATIVE EFFORT A measure comparing the Actual Effort of a county to its Ability to Pay. In general, low wealth districts with comparatively high spending levels rank highest in this measure. (See Table 5)

SMALL COUNTY FUNDING Supplemental state funding provided to two categories of local education agencies: those with less than 3,150 ADM, and those with 3,150-4,000 ADM who have an adjusted property tax base less than the state average. (Source: School Business Services, NC DPI)

STATE AVERAGE EFFECTIVE PROPERTY TAX The average of all 100 counties' adjusted tax rate. (Source: School Business Services, NC DPI)

SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL TAXES
According to GS 115C-501(a), "a special tax to supplement the funds from State and county allotments and thereby operate schools of a higher standard by supplementing any item of expenditure in the school budget." (Source: School Business Services, NC DPI)

TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER ADM
The sum of the current expense and the supplemental school taxes for a county, divided by the county's ADM.

DATA SOURCES

The 2005 Local School Finance Study examines data from the 2003-04 school year. Every effort has been made to guarantee that the data included in this year's study are accurate and reflect what is being measured. The primary source of financial information is the Division of School Business Services at the Department of Public Instruction, which provided the non-property tax revenue, low wealth and small county supplemental funding information, final average daily membership numbers, effective

county tax rate, adjusted revenue tax base, and current expense.

Other sources include the NC Department of Revenue's Tax Research and Ad Valorem Tax Divisions provided the 2003-04 property tax valuations and tax rates. The Department of Health and Human Services provided data for the mandated social services expenditures.

The Department of State Treasurer's State and Local Finance Division provided the Public

School Capital Outlay Report, and the Office of State Budget provided the School Construction Average Daily Membership. The per capita income was provided by United States Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Finally, a special thanks to Karen Peng and Lydia Prude at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for the wealth of information they provided for our preparation of this year's study.

2005 Local School FINANCE STUDY

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