

2008 LOCAL SCHOOL finance STUDY

Introduction

Article IX Section 2 of the state Constitution calls for the General Assembly to provide 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.” In 2006-07, the General Assembly provided \$7.37 billion for public schools and oversaw \$1.1 billion in federal funds, which accounts for 75.9 percent of the \$11.1 billion spent on the state’s 1,389,305 school children.

Also contained in that section is a provision whereby the General Assembly can require “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.” Last year county governments provided \$2.68 billion for public education, which accounts for 24.1 percent of the total spent.

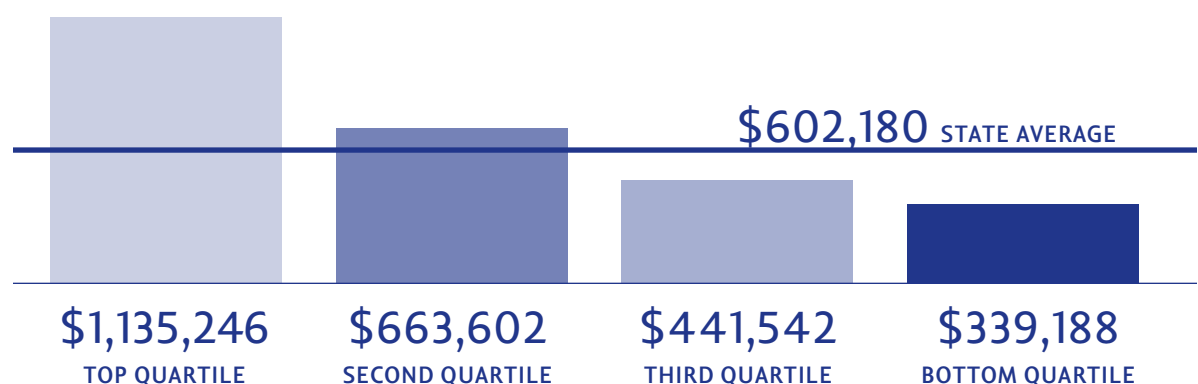
For more than 20 years the Public School Forum has isolated state and federal spending to examine the capacity and effort counties make to support their schools. The intention of the annual local school finance study is to examine the capacity and actual effort the state’s 100 counties make to support 115 school districts. During the Great Depression the state assumed the major

role for funding schools: “provided for the operation of a uniform system of schools... and relieved the county board of education of the responsibility for operating and maintaining the public schools of the county,” according to the 1933 School Machinery Act. Under the school finance system established seven decades ago, 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). Despite being “relieved” of their responsibility, last year counties spent \$2.6 billion to fund current expenses.

North Carolina has been engaged in litigation defending its system of school finance for over 12 years. The litigation was partially instigated because of spending inequities between low wealth and wealthy counties. In 2006-07, the state’s ten highest-spending counties spent an average of \$51,766 more per classroom than the lowest-spending counties. This large gap exists primarily because of the variation in property wealth across the state. The wealthiest counties have more than \$1.9 million per child in real estate capacity available, compared with the poorest counties that have approximately \$305,000 in real estate capacity. This gap has widened by over \$1.1 million per child since the Supreme Court’s first decision in the school finance case in 1997.

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 an average of \$1,135,246 per child of taxable real estate – \$533,066 above the state average. The bottom quartile has \$339,188 available per child – \$262,992 below the state average. (See map on page 6 for more specific information)



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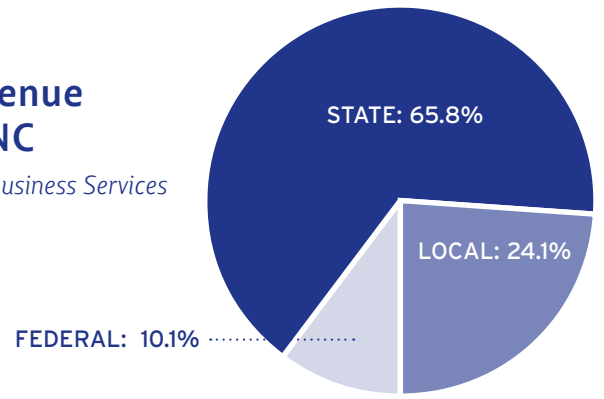
Synopsis

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North Carolina public schools spent \$11.1 billion in the 2006-07 school year using a combination of state, federal, and local resources. State funding accounts for 65.8 percent of expenditures, federal funding accounts for 10.1 percent, and local funding accounts for 24.1 percent of spending. According to a recent National Education Association survey, the US average breakdown of expenditures is 47.2 percent from the state, 8.8 percent from the federal government, and 44.0 percent from local sources.

2006-07 Sources of Revenue for Schools in NC

Source: DPI, Financial & Business Services



Findings

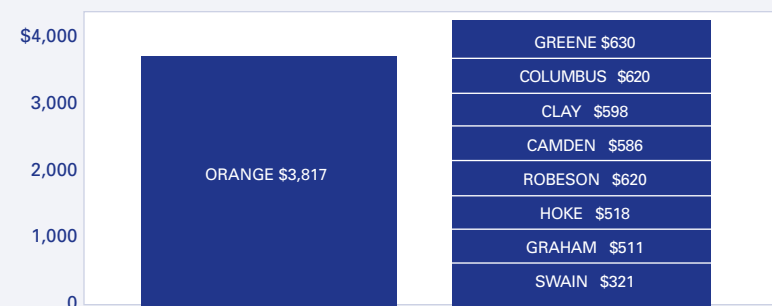
The primary source of revenue for county government comes from local property taxes and there is a wide variation between the property values of the state's wealthiest and poorest counties. The ten wealthiest counties in the state have an average real estate capacity of \$1,963,674 per student, compared with the ten poorest counties that have an average real estate capacity of \$305,686 per student. The gap has been growing steadily every year, and this year has exceeded \$1.6 million. The wealthiest counties' real estate capacity rose more than 20 percent since last year, compared with the poorest counties whose capacity grew by only 9.3 percent.

The highest-spending counties have increased their spending \$309 per student since last year, compared with the lowest-spending counties that have raised their spending only \$27. Only 20 of the state's 100 counties are above the state average of \$1,610 per student.

Current Spending Disparities Grow

Orange County spends nearly twelve times more per student than Swain County, and, if you treat the supplemental tax in Orange County as its only source of current educational expenditures, it would spend \$525 more per student than Swain County. The gap between the highest- and lowest-spending counties has widened to \$1,991 per child. The top spending counties spend 4.5 times more per child (\$2,564 per child), compared with the bottom spending counties (\$573 per child). At the classroom level, the highest spending counties are spending \$51,766 more per classroom.

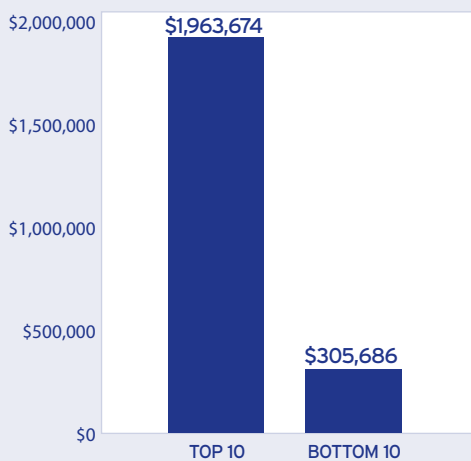
Spending Disparities 2006-07



If the bottom 8 counties' total current educational spending were combined, they would only spend \$487 more per child than Orange County spends.

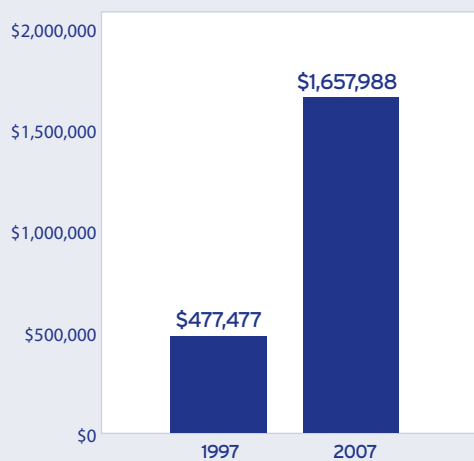
LOW VS. HIGH WEALTH: THE WIDENING GAP

Taxable Real Estate Wealth Available Per Child in the Wealthiest & Poorest Counties



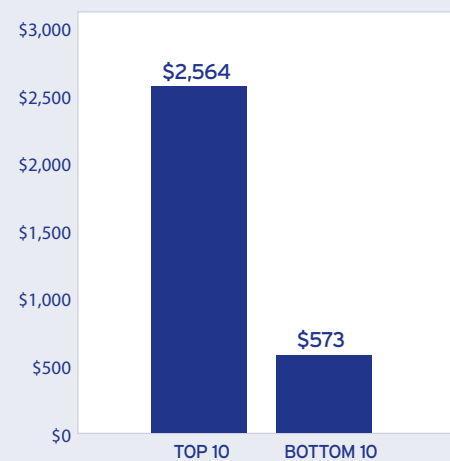
The major source of revenue for county government is the taxable property value. The wealthiest counties have 6.5 times more taxable property wealth per child available to them. This problem is further exacerbated because the poorest counties tax themselves at nearly 50 cents higher than the wealthiest counties, but the revenue generated by the taxation is substantially less than that of the wealthy counties.

Real Estate Wealth Gap Widening Between Wealthiest & Poorest Counties



The real estate capacity of the state's wealthiest counties has grown \$1,296,557 since 1997, compared to the \$126,002 in the poorest counties. The gap has widened by over \$1.1 million since the Supreme Court's decision in the school finance case in 1997.

Current Spending Per Student



Current expenditures represent annual county spending on programs and personnel. Since 1997, the top spending counties have increased their spending 69% compared to 20% for the bottom spending counties. The top spending counties spend \$1,991 more per student than the bottom spending counties.

Supplemental Funding is Integral

In 1991 the state enacted two supplemental funds for low wealth and small counties, to address the limited capacity that some counties have because of their limited local resources and size. In 2006-07 the General Assembly provided an appropriation of \$181.8 million for the 70 low wealth counties and \$40.5 million for the 27 small counties.

Low wealth supplemental funding is provided to systems whose ability to generate local revenue per student is below the state average. Some of the factors used to determine eligibility are county adjusted property tax base, square miles in the county and per capita income. In FY 2006-07 low wealth eligible counties received per student dollars that ranged from \$18.87 (Graham) to \$614.71 (Robeson).

Small county supplemental funding is provided to those county school systems with average daily membership (ADM) less than 3,239 or to county school systems with ADM between 3,239 and 4,080 whose county adjusted property tax base per student is below the state adjusted property tax base per student. In FY 2006-07 eligible counties received between \$1.3 and \$1.5 million in small county supplemental funding. The per student dollars were between \$363 (Currituck) and \$2,435 (Hyde).

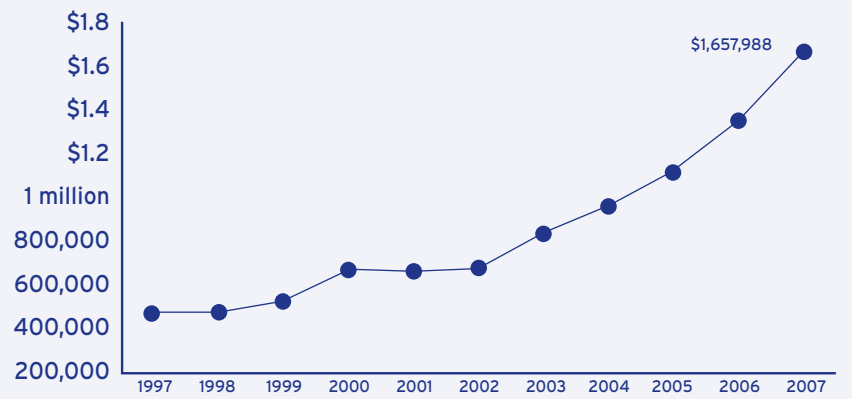
Real Estate Capacity Gap Continues to Grow

Coastal and mountain counties have the largest real estate capacity in the state. In 2006-07, every county in the top ten in real estate had an average per student real capacity above \$1.3 million.

The ten wealthiest counties had an average real estate capacity of \$1,963,674 million, compared with the ten poorest counties which had an average real capacity of \$305,686 per student. The gap has reached over \$1.65 million, and has risen 23 percent since last year and nearly 250 percent since 1997.

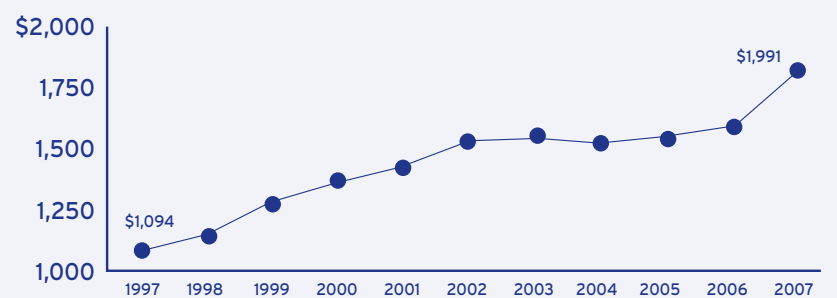
The state's wealthiest counties have nearly 6.5 times the real estate capacity of the poorest counties despite having an average effective tax that is nearly 50 cents lower. The poorest counties continue raising their tax rates, but the revenue they can generate remains limited, while the wealthiest counties rate is over eleven cents lower than it was a decade ago.

Widening Spending Gap Between Counties



The disparity in spending is driven by vast differences in real estate capacity. The gap has increased over 250% and \$1,180,511. The top ten spending counties all have an average real estate capacity over \$1.3 million.

Real Estate Capacity Widening



The spending gap between the top- and bottom- spending counties has grown \$897 per student since 1997. The top-spending counties are able to spend \$51,776 more per classroom than their bottom-spending counterparts.

School Funding: Who Pays for What?

North Carolina's first state Constitution in 1776 included an education provision that called for "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.

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 is maintained today with 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

Article IX, Sec. 2.
UNIFORM SYSTEM OF SCHOOLS

(1) **General and uniform system:** term. 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.

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 delineations proscribed by the School Machinery Act and the School Budget and Fiscal Control Act have become blurred. In 2006-07 counties funded 1,095 principals and assistant principals, 6,235 teachers (6.5 percent of the total), 3,018 teacher assistants (10.3 percent of the total), and 2,381 instructional support personnel (17.5 percent of the total).

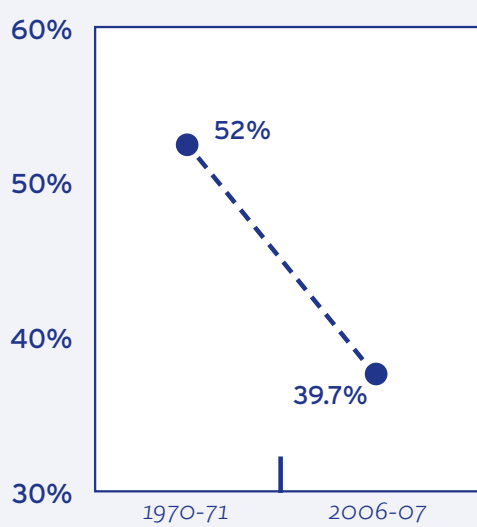
State Funds

In 2006-07, the state provided \$7.37 billion to operate 2,397 regular and charter schools in 115 school systems across 100 counties for 1,389,305 students. Ninety-one percent of state funds were spent on salaries and benefits for 139,152 state-funded school personnel, including 84.3 percent who were principals, teachers, instructional support personnel, or teacher assistants.

North Carolina ranks sixth in the nation and first in the Southeast in the percentage of the education dollar paid by the state. Two-thirds of state funds (64.1%) are appropriated as position allotments (e.g., teachers and principals), 21.4 percent as categorical allotments (e.g., transportation cost or for children with special needs), and 14.5 percent as dollar allotments (e.g., textbooks, teacher assistants, or central office administration).

Funding has continually increased since 1992-93 from \$3.44 billion to \$7.37 billion in 2006-07. But while the level of funding has increased, the percentage of the state's General Fund dedicated to education continues to decline. Thirty-nine percent of the state's General Fund is appropriated for public education, which is a decline from 52.5 percent in 1970. If public education were funded at the same percentage of the General Fund as it was in FY 1969-70, schools today would have an additional \$2.54 million for our students.

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 how it has declined from 52 percent in 1970 to 39.7 percent in 2006-07. In 2007-08 it has continued to fall to 37.3 percent.

Federal Funds

Resources from the federal government account for 10.1 percent of public education spending, down from 10.9 percent the previous year, and currently total \$1,124,644,840. The federal government has added additional resources in an

effort to help meet the mandates of the No Child Left Behind legislation. Eighty-five percent of federal supports go toward helping the low-income students improve academically (Title I), providing services for disabled students, and funding school nutrition programs. Federal resources are given to states in the form of direct grants, state applications, state plans, or a combination of the three.

Local Funds

While the bulk of school funding comes from the state, the NC Constitution permits the General Assembly to "assign to units of local government such responsibility for the financial support of the free public schools as it may deem appropriate." The seven-decade-old division of responsibility has eroded with local governments funding 8.8 percent of the instructional-related positions, including 21.4 percent of principals and assistant principals, 6.5 percent of teachers, 17.5 percent of instructional support personnel, and 10.3 percent of teacher assistants.

Since 1997 the top-spending counties have increased their average student expenditure 69 percent, compared with the bottom-spending counties that have increased their average expenditure 20 percent. The gap has grown to \$1,991 – an 82.0 percent – and only 20 counties are above the state average of \$1,610. Orange County continues to spend as much per student as the bottom seven counties combined.

One of the primary challenges from the five low-wealth plaintiffs dealt with the inequities between varying levels of county support for schools. The state Supreme Court ruled in 1997 that "the 'equal opportunities' clause of Article IX, Section 2(1) of the North Carolina Constitution does not require substantially equal funding or educational advantages in all school districts. 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."

DISCREPANCIES AMONG CLASSROOMS & SCHOOLS

The difference in what the state's counties invest in their school systems translates into major discrepancies for schools and classrooms. A look at current expenditures in the state's top and bottom 10 spending counties provides a compelling picture. Witness:

- With a class size of 26 students, the state's top 10 counties spend on average \$66,664 per classroom, while the bottom 10 counties spend only \$14,898 – a difference of nearly \$51,766 per classroom.
- In a school of 500 students, the bottom 10 counties are outspent by the top 10 counties by an average of \$995,500 per school.
- For a high school of 1,500 students, the disparity translates into nearly \$3.0 million per high school.

In Conclusion...

Impact on Achievement

The Forum's Local School Finance Study has not been, nor is it currently, designed to do an in-depth analysis of the correlation between wealth, spending and achievement. Such a study involves many factors and equations which the data in this study cannot support.

Nonetheless, it is difficult not to notice:

- The achievement gap between students in the state's wealthiest and poorest districts.
- The discrepancy in the per pupil spending gap between the state's highest and lowest performing districts.

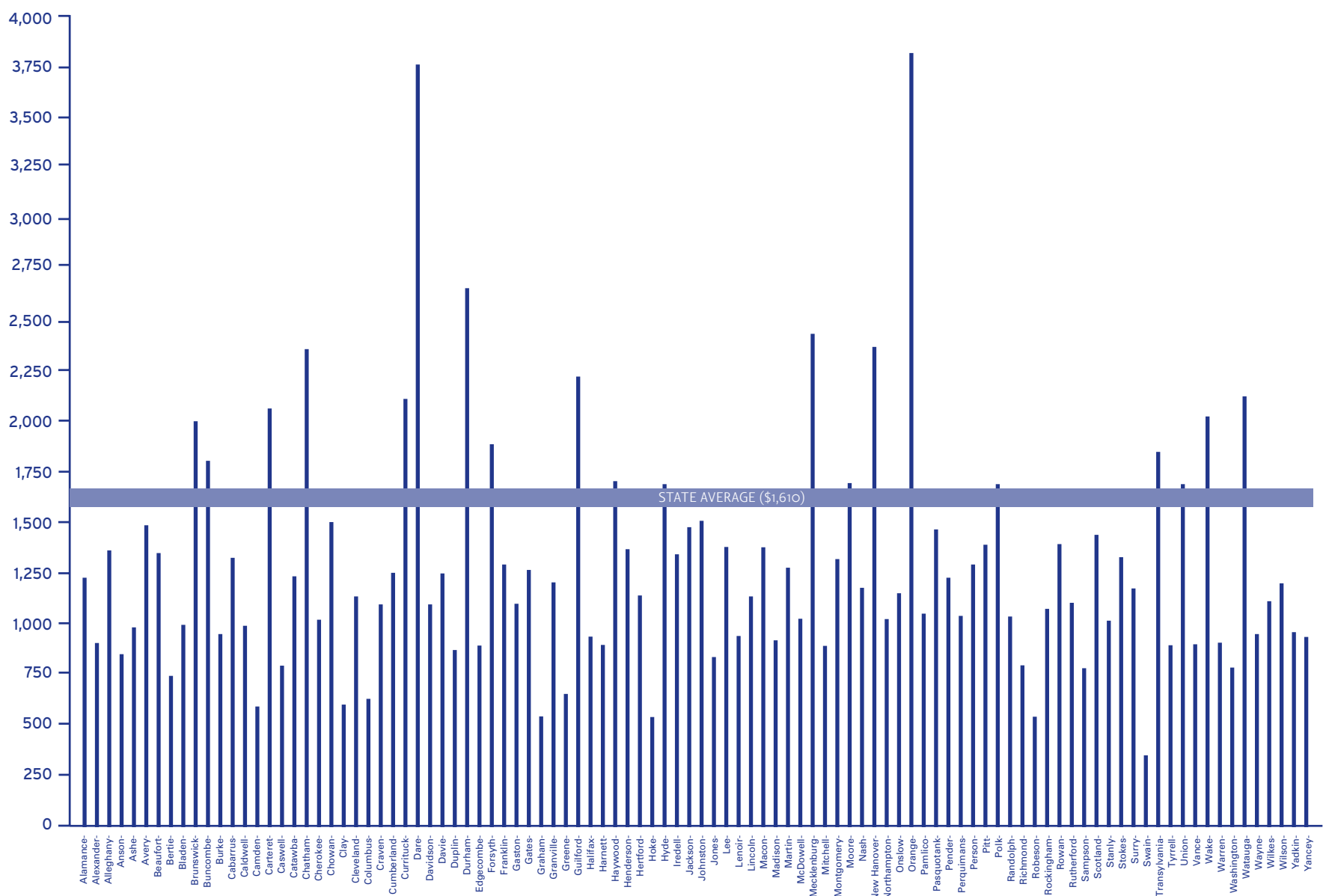
When one looks at the percentage of students in grades 3-8 at or above grade level in mathematics and reading, the achievement gap is startling. The percentage of students at or above grade level in reading and math was 88.8% and 70.4% in the state's top 10 spending counties and 76.5% and 49.9% in the bottom 10 spending counties.

Similarly, there is a major disparity between the amount spent per student between high and low achieving systems. For example, counties with the top 10 scores in grades 3-8 reading spent an average of \$2,096 per pupil in local dollars. The 10 worst performing schools spent \$794 per pupil – a difference of \$1,302.

DISPARITIES IN WEALTH & ACHIEVEMENT

	WEALTH RANK	GR 3-8 READING	GR 3-8 MATH
Dare	1	91.9	76.4
Currituck	2	93.1	74.9
Watauga	3	93.3	83.1
Jackson	4	85.8	66.9
Avery	5	88.6	67.5
STATE AVERAGE		85.5	66.4
Bertie	96	71.4	48.7
Scotland	97	84.7	63.9
Greene	98	75.7	44.1
Hoke	99	78.9	51.2
Robeson	100	76.1	51.8

2006-07 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER STUDENT



Twenty counties have total current spending per student above the state average. Current spending is used for instruction-related costs and programs.

Methodology

Capital Spending

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 is calculated by using data from the Department of State Treasurer's Public School Capital Outlay report.

Using data provided in the Public School Capital Outlay report, the local school finance study reports 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 and fines and forfeitures. Allotments from the ADM fund and grants for school construction have been removed to isolate capital spending. Finally, 10 counties have supplemental school taxes, and this additional revenue totals \$44.1 million, down from nearly 20 percent in 2005-06.

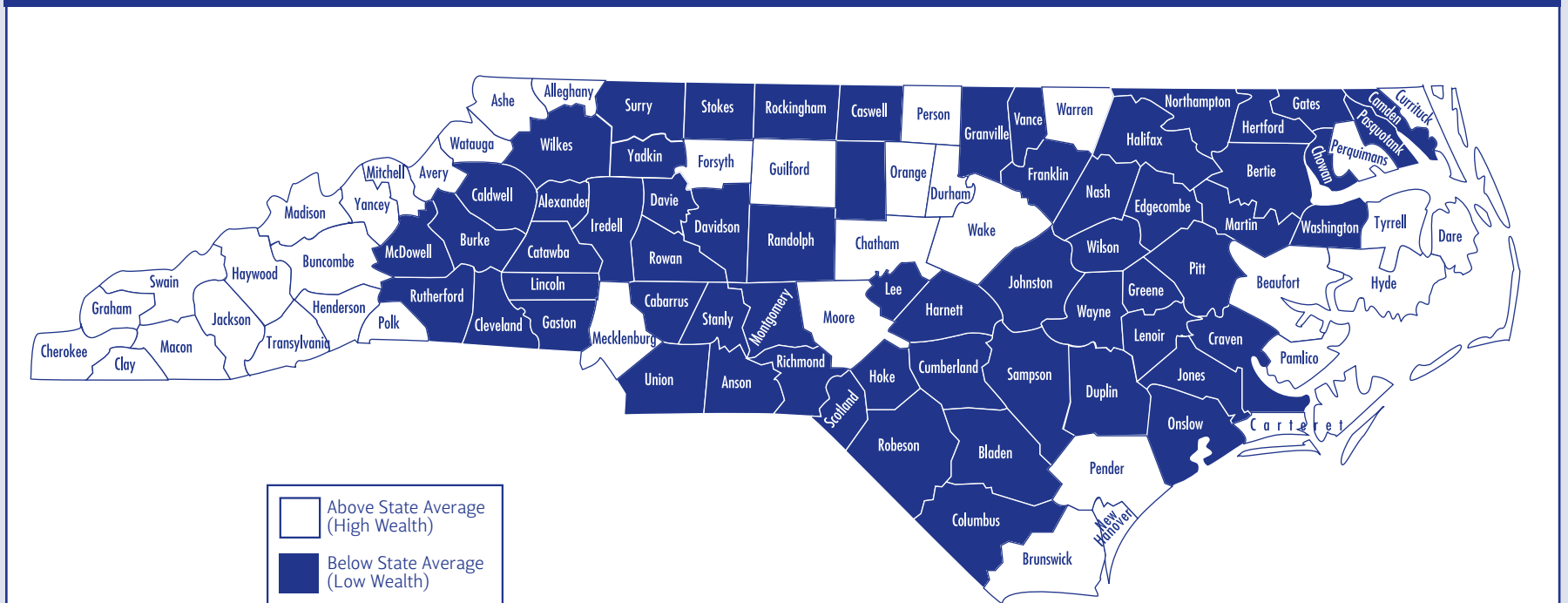
table 1

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.

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	LAST YEAR REVALUED	2006-07 STUDENT POPULATION	2006-07 ADJUSTED TAX BASE	ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX BASE PER STUDENT	AVERAGE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	LAST YEAR REVALUED	2006-07 STUDENT POPULATION	2006-07 ADJUSTED TAX BASE	ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX BASE PER STUDENT	AVERAGE EFFECTIVE TAX RATE	
Dare	1	1	2005	4,843	\$19,627,700,929	\$4,052,798	\$0.223	McDowell	51	58	2003	6,434	\$3,223,271,092	\$500,975	\$0.480	
Currituck	2	2	2005	4,044	\$9,606,086,969	\$2,375,392	\$0.261	Alamance	52	49	2001	22,202	\$10,988,762,315	\$494,945	\$0.526	
Jackson	3	3	2004	3,633	\$7,151,730,613	\$1,968,547	\$0.325	Onslow	53	87	2006	22,787	\$11,232,132,795	\$492,918	\$0.467	
Watauga	4	4	2006	4,486	\$8,720,493,558	\$1,943,935	\$0.277	Rowan	54	48	2007	20,700	\$9,847,816,463	\$475,740	\$0.629	
Avery	5	8	2006	2,288	\$4,184,856,736	\$1,829,046	\$0.335	Franklin	55	59	2004	8,187	\$3,765,394,027	\$459,924	\$0.735	
Hyde	6	7	2003	638	\$1,033,623,815	\$1,620,100	\$0.490	Stokes	56	55	2005	7,228	\$3,313,121,115	\$458,373	\$0.567	
Clay	7	10	2002	1,353	\$2,088,927,117	\$1,543,922	\$0.243	Wilkes	57	45	2007	9,972	\$4,530,202,744	\$454,292	\$0.602	
Macon	8	5	2007	4,239	\$5,779,524,927	\$1,363,417	\$0.370	Rutherford	58	53	2007	9,915	\$4,478,666,149	\$451,706	\$0.571	
Brunswick	9	6	2007	11,523	\$15,512,833,349	\$1,346,250	\$0.536	Wilson	59	64	2000	12,376	\$5,580,729,381	\$450,932	\$0.680	
Pamlico	10	32	2004	1,510	\$2,007,581,919	\$1,329,524	\$0.367	Rockingham	60	60	2003	14,179	\$6,350,181,419	\$447,858	\$0.620	
Transylvania	11	11	2002	3,757	\$4,641,250,052	\$1,235,361	\$0.438	Pitt	61	65	2004	22,217	\$9,856,936,318	\$443,666	\$0.637	
Ashe	12	13	2006	3,264	\$3,682,590,951	\$1,128,245	\$0.358	Stanly	62	67	2005	9,581	\$4,209,764,604	\$439,387	\$0.605	
Polk	13	14	2001	2,399	\$2,632,348,265	\$1,097,269	\$0.452	Lee	63	50	2007	9,258	\$4,066,476,279	\$439,239	\$0.790	
Carteret	14	9	2007	8,104	\$8,656,295,164	\$1,068,151	\$0.440	Caswell	64	63	2004	3,248	\$1,400,639,079	\$431,231	\$0.589	
Graham	15	17	2002	1,202	\$1,227,176,126	\$1,020,945	\$0.287	Surry	65	66	2004	11,538	\$4,972,486,203	\$430,966	\$0.591	
Buncombe	16	21	2006	29,148	\$28,306,780,244	\$971,140	\$0.484	Northampton	66	54	2007	2,934	\$1,260,296,542	\$429,549	\$0.863	
Cherokee	17	23	2004	3,613	\$3,357,576,181	\$929,304	\$0.365	Caldwell	67	68	2005	13,010	\$5,470,837,607	\$420,510	\$0.495	
Warren	18	39	2001	2,783	\$2,560,954,047	\$920,213	\$0.427	Yadkin	68	71	2005	6,137	\$2,548,253,936	\$415,228	\$0.627	
Chatham	19	18	2005	7,574	\$6,861,454,630	\$905,922	\$0.562	Gaston	69	72	2007	31,677	\$12,833,593,616	\$405,139	\$0.852	
Haywood	20	19	2006	7,785	\$6,991,438,860	\$898,065	\$0.452	Martin	70	73	2001	4,133	\$1,666,758,745	\$403,281	\$0.649	
Yancey	21	20	2000	2,530	\$2,220,294,277	\$877,587	\$0.333	Washington	71	81	2005	2,053	\$825,729,377	\$402,206	\$0.705	
New Hanover	22	15	2007	23,781	\$20,039,469,078	\$842,667	\$0.665	Alexander	72	70	2002	5,650	\$2,271,463,626	\$402,029	\$0.468	
Swain	23	31	2005	1,801	\$1,462,601,069	\$812,105	\$0.278	Granville	73	75	2002	8,756	\$3,516,904,934	\$401,657	\$0.644	
Pender	24	30	2003	7,667	\$6,206,621,030	\$809,524	\$0.419	Davidson	74	62	2007	25,998	\$10,319,270,241	\$396,926	\$0.540	
Durham	25	25	2001	31,299	\$24,407,588,377	\$779,820	\$0.712	Duplin	75	83	2001	8,833	\$3,492,796,399	\$395,426	\$0.628	
Orange	26	24	2005	17,842	\$13,866,108,153	\$777,161	\$0.789	Randolph	76	57	2007	23,104	\$9,111,448,680	\$394,367	\$0.518	
Madison	27	26	2004	2,610	\$2,024,844,334	\$775,802	\$0.405	Gates	77	92	2001	2,031	\$799,206,843	\$393,504	\$0.515	
Henderson	28	16	2007	12,792	\$9,849,809,367	\$769,998	\$0.553	Cleveland	78	78	2004	16,760	\$6,537,613,761	\$390,072	\$0.645	
Mecklenburg	29	22	2003	127,639	\$97,166,637,889	\$761,261	\$0.743	Edgecombe	79	77	2001	7,385	\$2,851,286,812	\$386,092	\$0.737	
Tyrrell	30	29	2005	597	\$453,010,445	\$758,811	\$0.620	Hertford	80	84	2003	3,371	\$1,249,685,378	\$370,717	\$0.819	
Perquimans	31	37	2000	1,721	\$1,304,480,549	\$757,978	\$0.456	Burke	81	69	2007	14,055	\$5,160,450,125	\$367,161	\$0.590	
Mitchell	32	33	2001	2,192	\$1,604,567,474	\$732,011	\$0.333	Anson	82	82	2002	4,103	\$1,494,315,782	\$364,201	\$0.690	
Alleghany	33	12	2007	1,560	\$1,134,473,212	\$727,226	\$0.700	Columbus	83	85	2005	9,480	\$3,431,761,774	\$362,000	\$0.679	
Wake	34	28	2000	127,460	\$91,232,068,740	\$715,770	\$0.531	Nash	84	89	2001	17,904	\$6,445,474,884	\$360,002	\$0.602	
Moore	35	27	2007	12,190	\$8,460,819,184	\$694,079	\$0.445	Johnston	85	76	2003	28,984	\$10,368,881,173	\$357,745	\$0.713	
Person	36	36	2005	5,633	\$3,891,192,066	\$690,785	\$0.614	Lenoir	86	86	2001	9,648	\$3,451,115,623	\$357,703	\$0.786	
Beaufort	37	42	2002	7,046	\$4,620,662,104	\$655,785	\$0.446	Bertie	87	90	2004	3,098	\$1,099,756,572	\$354,989	\$0.689	
Guilford	38	34	2004	69,677	\$43,734,482,838	\$627,675	\$0.627	Wayne	88	88	2003	19,214	\$6,695,899,416	\$348,491	\$0.662	
Forsyth	39	38	2005	50,206	\$30,658,835,040	\$610,661	\$0.638	Bladen	89	61	2007	5,429	\$1,883,768,196	\$346,983	\$0.860	
Iredell	40	35	2007	26,020	\$15,451,611,120	\$593,836	\$0.462	Vance	90	91	2000	7,764	\$2,590,418,983	\$333,645	\$0.706	
Jones	41	51	2006	1,270	\$742,024,206	\$584,271	\$0.602	Cumberland	91	93	2003	52,346	\$17,311,420,187	\$330,711	\$0.777	
Davie	42	40	2005	6,523	\$3,793,225,481	\$581,515	\$0.632	Sampson	92	94	2003	11,163	\$3,668,418,894	\$328,623	\$0.703	
Montgomery	43	43	2004	4,460	\$2,576,434,413	\$577,676	\$0.465	Halifax	93	80	2007	8,670	\$2,798,781,081	\$322,812	\$0.850	
Lincoln	44	47	2004	12,017	\$6,733,918,788	\$560,366	\$0.537	Harnett	94	95	2003	17,912	\$5,772,014,713	\$322,243	\$0.645	
Chowan	45	56	2006	2,493	\$1,384,836,256	\$555,490	\$0.504	Richmond	95	96	2004	8,036	\$2,502,319,048	\$311,389	\$0.745	
Catawba	46	41	2007	24,699	\$13,614,482,277	\$551,216	\$0.479	Camden	96	74	2007	1,864	\$563,944,068	\$302,545	\$0.900	
Craven	47	52	2002	14,538	\$7,792,353,575	\$535,999	\$0.469	Scotland	97	98	2003	6,733	\$1,971,232,077	\$292,772	\$1.017	
Cabarrus	48	44	2004	30,301	\$16,215,324,827	\$535,142	\$0.587	Greene	98	97	2005	3,249	\$931,307,351	\$286,644	\$0.726	
Pasquotank	49	79	2006	6,119	\$3,235,728,560	\$528,800	\$0.437	Hoke	99	99	2006	7,146	\$2,005,577,407	\$280,657	\$0.684	
Union	50	46	2004	34,254	\$17,852,786,106	\$521,188	\$0.559	Robeson	100	100	2005	23,730	\$5,530,570,225	\$233,062	\$0.730	
												STATE TOTAL/AVERAGE	1,389,305	\$836,611,669,346	\$602,180	\$0.573

DISPARITIES IN REAL ESTATE WEALTH



Thirty-nine counties' property wealth was above the state average of \$602,180 per student, while the remaining 61 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.

table 2

Actual Effort

This is a summary of data for the 100 counties in the state. It includes 2006-07 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 THIS YEAR	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	2006-07 CURRENT EXPENSE	2006-07 SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL TAXES	SIX-YEAR CAPITAL OUTLAY AVERAGE	SIX-YEAR CAPITAL DEBT SERVICE AVERAGE	2006-07 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING	2006-07 STUDENT POPULATION	CAPITAL OUTLAY SPENDING PER STUDENT	DEBT SERVICE PER STUDENT	CURRENT SPENDING PER STUDENT	TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER STUDENT
Orange	1	1	\$54,193,744	\$15,102,442	\$22,152,065	\$15,102,001	\$69,296,186	17,842	\$1,242	\$846	\$2,989	\$3,817
Dare	2	2	\$18,306,847	\$0	\$24,712,521	\$6,555,293	\$18,306,847	4,843	\$5,103	\$1,354	\$3,780	\$3,780
Durham	3	3	\$89,127,705	\$0	\$14,248,627	\$14,592,645	\$89,127,705	31,299	\$455	\$466	\$2,662	\$2,662
Mecklenburg	4	4	\$321,560,000	\$0	\$154,216,171	\$88,920,098	\$321,560,000	127,639	\$1,208	\$697	\$2,424	\$2,424
New Hanover	5	5	\$56,891,438	\$0	\$15,247,740	\$14,406,895	\$56,891,438	23,781	\$641	\$606	\$2,360	\$2,360
Chatham	6	6	\$19,118,789	\$0	\$3,685,308	\$2,595,772	\$19,118,789	7,574	\$487	\$343	\$2,354	\$2,354
Guilford	7	7	\$156,665,521	\$0	\$80,855,331	\$15,780,654	\$156,665,521	69,677	\$1,160	\$226	\$2,205	\$2,205
Watauga	8	11	\$9,740,344	\$0	\$868,190	\$1,906,239	\$9,740,344	4,486	\$194	\$425	\$2,114	\$2,114
Currituck	9	8	\$8,526,751	\$0	\$2,567,997	\$1,411,059	\$8,526,751	4,044	\$635	\$349	\$2,108	\$2,108
Carteret	10	10	\$18,115,660	\$0	\$4,598,927	\$6,033,229	\$18,115,660	8,104	\$567	\$744	\$2,061	\$2,061
Wake	11	9	\$274,229,013	\$0	\$172,446,865	\$93,885,559	\$274,229,013	127,460	\$1,353	\$737	\$2,007	\$2,007
Brunswick	12	12	\$25,210,677	\$0	\$16,702,037	\$6,900,756	\$25,210,677	11,523	\$1,449	\$599	\$1,995	\$1,995
Forsyth	13	13	\$98,166,729	\$0	\$30,267,909	\$19,369,598	\$98,166,729	50,206	\$603	\$386	\$1,886	\$1,886
Transylvania	14	15	\$7,190,713	\$0	\$1,510,754	\$1,686,367	\$7,190,713	3,757	\$402	\$449	\$1,828	\$1,828
Buncombe	15	14	\$47,471,291	\$6,902,672	\$21,769,686	\$1,608,479	\$54,373,963	29,148	\$747	\$55	\$1,575	\$1,805
Haywood	16	17	\$13,129,647	\$0	\$3,813,085	\$2,132,914	\$13,129,647	7,785	\$490	\$274	\$1,685	\$1,685
Moore	17	19	\$20,807,940	\$0	\$2,060,448	\$3,669,198	\$20,807,940	12,190	\$169	\$301	\$1,659	\$1,659
Hyde	18	16	\$1,051,496	\$0	\$407,824	\$0	\$1,051,496	638	\$639	\$0	\$1,638	\$1,638
Union	19	31	\$57,042,554	\$0	\$66,741,659	\$15,243,445	\$57,042,554	34,254	\$1,948	\$445	\$1,629	\$1,629
Polk	20	20	\$3,905,549	\$59,506	\$347,542	\$819,484	\$3,905,549	2,399	\$145	\$342	\$1,628	\$1,628
Chowan	21	22	\$3,749,350	\$0	\$1,024,202	\$1,281,325	\$3,749,350	2,493	\$411	\$514	\$1,504	\$1,504
Avery	22	24	\$3,564,500	\$0	\$1,746,592	\$1,815,988	\$3,564,500	2,288	\$763	\$794	\$1,491	\$1,491
Johnston	23	23	\$43,128,477	\$0	\$35,525,715	\$18,130,714	\$43,128,477	28,984	\$1,226	\$626	\$1,488	\$1,488
Jackson	24	18	\$5,915,468	\$0	\$3,238,931	\$1,122,946	\$5,915,468	3,633	\$892	\$309	\$1,461	\$1,461
Pasquotank	25	26	\$8,858,760	\$0	\$3,743,501	\$1,752,090	\$8,858,760	6,119	\$612	\$286	\$1,448	\$1,448
Scotland	26	25	\$9,855,913	\$0	\$597,000	\$771,948	\$9,855,913	6,733	\$89	\$115	\$1,429	\$1,429
Pitt	27	29	\$30,640,965	\$0	\$10,279,620	\$5,512,902	\$30,640,965	22,217	\$463	\$248	\$1,379	\$1,379
Rowan	28	33	\$30,053,013	\$0	\$15,885,327	\$5,946,315	\$30,053,013	20,700	\$767	\$287	\$1,376	\$1,376
Macon	29	21	\$6,265,069	\$0	\$1,996,062	\$2,771,297	\$6,265,069	4,239	\$471	\$654	\$1,366	\$1,366
Lee	30	28	\$12,666,167	\$0	\$6,625,386	\$3,107,543	\$12,666,167	9,258	\$716	\$336	\$1,358	\$1,358
Alleghany	31	34	\$2,117,647	\$0	\$661,924	\$160,729	\$2,117,647	1,560	\$424	\$103	\$1,357	\$1,357
Beaufort	32	35	\$9,846,673	\$0	\$996,940	\$42,734	\$9,846,673	7,046	\$141	\$6	\$1,352	\$1,352
Henderson	33	27	\$17,717,673	\$0	\$10,424,390	\$3,791,983	\$17,717,673	12,792	\$815	\$296	\$1,346	\$1,346
Cabarrus	34	37	\$39,025,489	\$0	\$33,089,651	\$18,008,835	\$39,025,489	30,301	\$1,092	\$594	\$1,325	\$1,325
Iredell	35	32	\$33,643,448	\$1,592,359	\$28,213,173	\$10,037,311	\$35,235,807	26,020	\$1,084	\$386	\$1,264	\$1,324
Stokes	36	30	\$9,485,169	\$0	\$1,147,428	\$781,889	\$9,485,169	7,228	\$159	\$108	\$1,307	\$1,307
Montgomery	37	40	\$5,860,789	\$0	\$878,715	\$440,327	\$5,860,789	4,460	\$197	\$99	\$1,302	\$1,302
Person	38	45	\$7,875,000	\$0	\$735,967	\$2,147,380	\$7,875,000	5,633	\$131	\$381	\$1,272	\$1,272
Franklin	39	38	\$10,601,444	\$0	\$5,384,476	\$3,059,633	\$10,601,444	8,187	\$658	\$374	\$1,265	\$1,265
Martin	40	36	\$5,214,203	\$0	\$1,025,010	\$0	\$5,214,203	4,133	\$248	\$0	\$1,260	\$1,260
Gates	41	52	\$2,539,130	\$0	\$267,740	\$505,604	\$2,539,130	2,031	\$132	\$249	\$1,250	\$1,250
Cumberland	42	39	\$65,348,540	\$0	\$13,101,731	\$4,604,039	\$65,348,540	52,346	\$250	\$88	\$1,245	\$1,245
Davie	43	47	\$8,058,379	\$0	\$5,828,397	\$1,172,001	\$8,058,379	6,523	\$894	\$180	\$1,240	\$1,240
Catawba	44	41	\$30,589,556	\$0	\$13,862,712	\$11,637,759	\$30,589,556	24,699	\$561	\$471	\$1,236	\$1,236
Alamance	45	44	\$28,166,238	\$0	\$6,028,034	\$4,935,701	\$28,166,238	22,202	\$272	\$222	\$1,214	\$1,214
Pender	46	43	\$9,234,539	\$0	\$6,344,403	\$3,856,267	\$9,234,539	7,667	\$827	\$503	\$1,201	\$1,201
Wilson	47	48	\$15,393,254	\$0	\$5,321,484	\$2,950,171	\$15,393,254	12,376	\$430	\$238	\$1,182	\$1,182
Granville	48	53	\$10,319,028	\$0	\$8,832,314	\$1,939,036	\$10,319,028	8,756	\$1,009	\$221	\$1,179	\$1,179
Nash	49	42	\$21,771,902	\$0	\$4,699,153	\$235,210	\$21,771,902	17,904	\$262	\$13	\$1,099	\$1,162
Surry	50	49	\$12,339,581	\$1,644,686	\$4,582,964	\$3,236,530	\$13,984,267	11,538	\$397	\$281	\$1,015	\$1,154
Onslow	51	62	\$25,736,250	\$0	\$9,095,328	\$4,408,263	\$25,736,250	22,787	\$399	\$193	\$1,129	\$1,129
Cleveland	52	51	\$9,808,213	\$9,089,430	\$3,254,809	\$1,806,044	\$18,897,643	16,760	\$194	\$108	\$585	\$1,128
Lincoln	53	55	\$14,298,011	\$0	\$17,644,288	\$6,199,438	\$14,298,011	12,017	\$1,468	\$516	\$1,124	\$1,124
Hertford	54	60	\$3,751,983	\$0	\$924,240	\$0	\$3,751,983	3,371	\$274	\$0	\$1,113	\$1,113
Wilkes	55	56	\$11,104,769	\$0	\$8,797,280	\$607,611	\$11,104,769	9,972	\$882	\$61	\$1,097	\$1,097
Davidson	56	58	\$25,761,675	\$2,628,715	\$7,791,260	\$2,797,975	\$28,390,390	25,998	\$300	\$108	\$991	\$1,092
Craven	57	61	\$15,854,199	\$0	\$7,465,445	\$3,503,175	\$15,854,199	14,538	\$514	\$241	\$1,089	\$1,089
Gaston	58	54	\$35,954,643	\$0	\$8,760,796	\$6,392,771	\$35,954,643	31,677	\$277	\$202	\$1,082	\$1,082
Rutherford	59	57	\$11,172,007	\$0	\$6,252,368	\$4,075,725	\$11,172,007	9,915	\$631	\$411	\$1,074	\$1,074
Rockingham	60	59	\$15,102,726	\$0	\$9,413,490	\$1,564,142	\$15,102,726	14,179	\$664	\$110	\$1,056	\$1,056
Pamlico	61	46	\$2,324,018	\$0	\$185,574	\$401,297	\$2,324,018	1,510	\$123	\$266	\$1,035	\$1,035
Randolph	62	64	\$19,280,922	\$4,322,063	\$8,348,683	\$6,866,140	\$23,602,985	23,104	\$361	\$297	\$835	\$1,021
Cherokee	63	63	\$3,859,002	\$0	\$2,087,480	\$961,560	\$3,859,002	3,613	\$578	\$266	\$1,020	\$1,020
Perquimans	64	69	\$1,753,004	\$0	\$319,164	\$187,231	\$1,753,004	1,721	\$185	\$109	\$1,019	\$1,019
McDowell	65	68	\$6,444,600	\$0	\$3,478,303	\$1,171,280	\$6,444,600	6,434	\$541	\$182	\$1,008	\$1,008
Northampton	66	73	\$3,398,419	\$0	\$2,095,211	\$670,986	\$3,398,419	2,934	\$714	\$229	\$1,005	\$1,005
Bladen	67	78	\$5,394,216	\$0	\$3,310,275	\$395,517	\$5,394,216	5,429	\$610	\$73	\$994	\$994
Stanly	68	67	\$9,696,552	\$0	\$1,860,136	\$1,860,136	\$9,696,552	9,581	\$758	\$194	\$988	\$988
Ashe	69	70	\$3,199,115	\$0	\$1,978,190	\$1,395,748	\$3,199,115	3,264	\$606	\$428	\$983	\$983
Caldwell	70	66	\$12,699,727	\$0	\$1,913,794	\$1,159,805	\$12,699,727	13,010	\$147	\$89	\$976	\$976
Burke	71	74	\$13,362,450	\$0	\$6,879,748	\$5,546,474	\$13,362,450	14,055	\$489	\$395	\$938	\$938
Yadkin	72	72	\$5,734,000	\$0	\$2,367,194	\$336,377	\$5,734,000	6,137	\$386	\$55	\$934	\$934
Wayne	73	76	\$17,907,468	\$0	\$2,437,546	\$1,484,666	\$17,907,468	19,214	\$127	\$77	\$926	\$926
Lenoir	74	75	\$9,130,955	\$0	\$852,657	\$497,917	\$9,130,955	9,648	\$88	\$52	\$910	\$910
Halifax	75	50	\$6,116,739	\$2,555,308	\$4,037,357	\$1,387,252	\$8,672,047	8,670	\$466	\$160	\$615	\$909
Yancey	76	71	\$2,304,723	\$0	\$860,301	\$0	\$2,304,723	2,530	\$340	\$0	\$908	\$908
Alexander	77	77	\$5,100,000	\$0	\$3,101,681	\$1,149,501	\$5,100,000	5,650	\$549	\$203	\$903	\$903
Warren	78	81	\$2,610,104	\$0	\$116,390	\$757,893	\$2,610,104	2,783	\$42	\$272	\$890	\$890
Edgecombe	79	79	\$6,555,660	\$0	\$2,305,380	\$526,275	\$6,555,660	7,385	\$312	\$71	\$888	\$888
Vance	80	65	\$8,180,000	\$0	\$989,259	\$1,701,881	\$8,180,000	7,764	\$127	\$219	\$876	\$876
Tyrrell	81	80	\$561,810	\$0	\$67,371	\$40,882	\$561,810	597	\$113	\$68	\$874	\$874
Harnett	82	82	\$15,400,000	\$252,453	\$4,111,269	\$4,845,513	\$15,652,453	17,912	\$230	\$271	\$860	\$870
Mitchell	83	91	\$1,913,195	\$0	\$940,943	\$53,477	\$1,913,195	2,192	\$429	\$24	\$867	\$867
Duplin	84	90	\$7,597,646	\$0	\$1,547,111	\$576,883	\$7,597,646	8,833	\$175	\$65	\$860	\$860
Anson	85	83	\$3,502,532	\$0	\$157,198	\$1,058,058	\$3,502,532	4,103	\$38	\$258	\$854	\$854
Madison	86	86	\$2,077,770	\$0	\$276,319	\$266,386	\$2,077,770	2,610	\$106	\$102	\$829	\$829
Jones	87	88	\$1,022,388	\$0	\$395,434	\$0	\$1,022,388	1,270	\$311	\$0	\$805	\$805
Caswell	88	84	\$2,568,615	\$0	\$224,948	\$720,155	\$2,568,615	3,248	\$69	\$222	\$791	\$791
Richmond	89	87	\$6,200,000	\$0	\$1,905,949	\$474,998	\$6,200,000	8,036	\$237	\$59	\$772	\$772
Washington	90	89	\$1,559,332	\$0	\$153,599	\$4						

table 3

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.

COUNTY	RANK	PREVIOUS YEAR'S RANK	2006-07 CURRENT EXPENSE	2006-07 SUPPLEMENTAL SCHOOL TAXES	2006-07 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING	2006-07 LOW WEALTH FUNDING	2006-07 SMALL COUNTY FUNDING	2006-07 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING WITH LOW WEALTH & SMALL COUNTY	2006-07 STUDENT POPULATION	TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING PER STUDENT	2006-07 TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING/STUDENT W/LOW WEALTH & SMALL COUNTY/STUDENT	CHANGE IN SPENDING PER STUDENT
Hyde	1	1	\$1,051,496	\$0	\$1,051,496	\$0	\$1,556,366	\$2,607,862	638	\$1,648	\$4,088	\$2,439
Orange	2	3	\$54,193,744	\$15,102,442	\$69,296,186	\$0	\$0	\$69,296,186	17,842	\$3,884	\$3,884	\$0
Dare	3	4	\$18,306,847	\$0	\$18,306,847	\$0	\$0	\$18,306,847	4,843	\$3,780	\$3,780	\$0
Tyrrell	4	2	\$561,810	\$0	\$561,810	\$139,820	\$1,464,882	\$2,166,512	597	\$941	\$3,629	\$2,688
Durham	5	5	\$89,127,705	\$0	\$89,127,705	\$0	\$0	\$89,127,705	31,299	\$2,848	\$2,848	\$0
Pamlico	6	20	\$2,324,018	\$0	\$2,324,018	\$219,918	\$1,423,735	\$3,967,671	1,510	\$1,539	\$2,628	\$1,089
Chatham	7	13	\$19,118,789	\$0	\$19,118,789	\$0	\$0	\$19,118,789	7,574	\$2,524	\$2,524	\$0
Mecklenburg	8	6	\$321,560,000	\$0	\$321,560,000	\$0	\$0	\$321,560,000	127,639	\$2,519	\$2,519	\$0
Gates	9	11	\$2,539,130	\$0	\$2,539,130	\$1,096,065	\$1,438,496	\$5,073,691	2,031	\$1,250	\$2,498	\$1,248
Currituck	10	7	\$8,526,751	\$0	\$8,526,751	\$0	\$1,535,448	\$10,062,199	4,044	\$2,108	\$2,488	\$380
New Hanover	11	9	\$56,891,438	\$0	\$56,891,438	\$0	\$0	\$56,891,438	23,781	\$2,392	\$2,392	\$0
Jones	12	12	\$1,022,388	\$0	\$1,022,388	\$456,213	\$1,484,218	\$2,962,819	1,270	\$805	\$2,333	\$1,528
Chowan	13	10	\$3,749,350	\$0	\$3,749,350	\$598,404	\$1,300,055	\$5,647,809	2,493	\$1,504	\$2,265	\$762
Guilford	14	15	\$156,665,521	\$0	\$156,665,521	\$0	\$0	\$156,665,521	69,677	\$2,248	\$2,248	\$0
Carteret	15	17	\$18,115,660	\$0	\$18,115,660	\$0	\$0	\$18,115,660	8,104	\$2,235	\$2,235	\$0
Alleghany	16	8	\$2,117,647	\$0	\$2,117,647	\$0	\$1,358,888	\$3,476,535	1,560	\$1,357	\$2,229	\$871
Polk	17	14	\$3,905,549	\$59,506	\$3,965,055	\$0	\$1,311,638	\$5,276,693	2,399	\$1,653	\$2,200	\$547
Brunswick	18	19	\$25,210,677	\$0	\$25,210,677	\$0	\$0	\$25,210,677	11,523	\$2,188	\$2,188	\$0
Watauga	19	18	\$9,740,344	\$0	\$9,740,344	\$0	\$0	\$9,740,344	4,486	\$2,171	\$2,171	\$0
Avery	20	21	\$3,564,500	\$0	\$3,564,500	\$0	\$1,372,511	\$4,937,011	2,288	\$1,558	\$2,158	\$600
Wake	21	16	\$274,229,013	\$0	\$274,229,013	\$0	\$0	\$274,229,013	127,460	\$2,151	\$2,151	\$0
Perquimans	22	22	\$1,753,004	\$0	\$1,753,004	\$349,091	\$1,499,271	\$3,601,366	1,721	\$1,019	\$2,093	\$1,074
Northampton	23	37	\$3,398,419	\$0	\$3,398,419	\$1,120,371	\$1,422,141	\$5,940,931	2,934	\$1,158	\$2,025	\$867
Hertford	24	24	\$3,751,983	\$0	\$3,751,983	\$1,502,073	\$1,398,897	\$6,652,953	3,371	\$1,113	\$1,974	\$861
Forsyth	25	23	\$98,166,729	\$0	\$98,166,729	\$0	\$0	\$98,166,729	50,206	\$1,955	\$1,955	\$0
Scotland	26	26	\$9,855,913	\$0	\$9,855,913	\$3,145,860	\$0	\$13,001,773	6,733	\$1,464	\$1,931	\$467
Transylvania	27	28	\$7,190,713	\$0	\$7,190,713	\$0	\$0	\$7,190,713	3,757	\$1,914	\$1,914	\$0
Buncombe	28	27	\$47,471,291	\$6,902,672	\$54,373,963	\$0	\$0	\$54,373,963	29,148	\$1,865	\$1,865	\$0
Washington	29	29	\$1,559,332	\$0	\$1,559,332	\$867,860	\$1,370,452	\$3,797,644	2,053	\$760	\$1,850	\$1,090
Warren	30	36	\$2,610,104	\$0	\$2,610,104	\$1,001,661	\$1,381,321	\$4,993,086	2,783	\$938	\$1,794	\$856
Pasquotank	31	33	\$8,858,760	\$0	\$8,858,760	\$1,999,125	\$0	\$10,857,885	6,119	\$1,448	\$1,774	\$327
Johnston	32	34	\$43,128,477	\$0	\$43,128,477	\$6,980,566	\$0	\$50,109,043	28,984	\$1,488	\$1,729	\$241
Union	33	62	\$57,042,554	\$0	\$57,042,554	\$1,893,173	\$0	\$58,935,727	34,254	\$1,665	\$1,721	\$55
Moore	34	38	\$20,807,940	\$0	\$20,807,940	\$0	\$0	\$20,807,940	12,190	\$1,707	\$1,707	\$0
Bertie	35	45	\$2,263,000	\$0	\$2,263,000	\$1,564,664	\$1,406,435	\$5,234,099	3,098	\$730	\$1,690	\$959
Camden	36	30	\$1,092,358	\$0	\$1,092,358	\$671,656	\$1,383,882	\$3,147,896	1,864	\$586	\$1,689	\$1,103
Haywood	37	31	\$13,129,647	\$0	\$13,129,647	\$0	\$0	\$13,129,647	7,785	\$1,687	\$1,687	\$0
Clay	38	25	\$855,152	\$0	\$855,152	\$0	\$1,424,612	\$2,279,764	1,353	\$632	\$1,685	\$1,053
Mitchell	39	61	\$1,913,195	\$0	\$1,913,195	\$267,744	\$1,480,182	\$3,661,121	2,192	\$873	\$1,670	\$797
Martin	40	42	\$5,214,203	\$0	\$5,214,203	\$1,577,760	\$0	\$6,791,963	4,133	\$1,262	\$1,643	\$382
Jackson	41	32	\$5,915,468	\$0	\$5,915,468	\$0	\$0	\$5,915,468	3,633	\$1,628	\$1,628	\$0
Graham	42	35	\$521,000	\$0	\$521,000	\$27,859	\$1,407,356	\$1,956,215	1,202	\$433	\$1,627	\$1,194
Beaufort	43	51	\$9,846,673	\$0	\$9,846,673	\$1,567,624	\$0	\$11,414,297	7,046	\$1,397	\$1,620	\$222
Stokes	44	41	\$9,485,169	\$0	\$9,485,169	\$2,071,604	\$0	\$11,556,773	7,228	\$1,312	\$1,599	\$287
Montgomery	45	47	\$5,860,789	\$0	\$5,860,789	\$1,222,056	\$0	\$7,082,845	4,460	\$1,314	\$1,588	\$274
Rowan	46	55	\$30,053,013	\$0	\$30,053,013	\$2,775,311	\$0	\$32,828,324	20,700	\$1,452	\$1,586	\$134
Pitt	47	44	\$30,640,965	\$0	\$30,640,965	\$4,305,543	\$0	\$34,946,508	22,217	\$1,379	\$1,573	\$194
Granville	48	54	\$10,319,028	\$0	\$10,319,028	\$3,370,171	\$0	\$13,689,199	8,756	\$1,179	\$1,563	\$385
Franklin	49	52	\$10,601,444	\$0	\$10,601,444	\$2,132,317	\$0	\$12,733,761	8,187	\$1,295	\$1,555	\$260
Yancey	50	39	\$2,304,723	\$0	\$2,304,723	\$250,657	\$1,379,191	\$3,934,571	2,530	\$911	\$1,555	\$644
Cherokee	51	46	\$3,859,002	\$0	\$3,859,002	\$316,516	\$1,410,816	\$5,586,334	3,613	\$1,068	\$1,546	\$478
Greene	52	50	\$2,047,000	\$0	\$2,047,000	\$1,604,898	\$1,350,377	\$5,002,275	3,249	\$630	\$1,540	\$910
Person	53	67	\$7,875,000	\$0	\$7,875,000	\$739,615	\$0	\$8,614,615	5,633	\$1,398	\$1,529	\$131
Caswell	54	49	\$2,568,615	\$0	\$2,568,615	\$957,375	\$1,402,770	\$4,928,760	3,248	\$791	\$1,517	\$727
Lee	55	48	\$12,666,167	\$0	\$12,666,167	\$1,311,906	\$0	\$13,978,073	9,258	\$1,368	\$1,510	\$142
Macon	56	40	\$6,265,069	\$0	\$6,265,069	\$0	\$0	\$6,265,069	4,239	\$1,478	\$1,478	\$0
Nash	57	53	\$21,771,902	\$0	\$21,771,902	\$4,681,666	\$0	\$26,453,568	17,904	\$1,216	\$1,478	\$261
Vance	58	68	\$8,180,000	\$0	\$8,180,000	\$3,187,171	\$0	\$11,367,171	7,764	\$1,054	\$1,464	\$411
Surry	59	63	\$12,339,581	\$1,644,686	\$13,984,267	\$2,884,210	\$0	\$16,868,477	11,538	\$1,212	\$1,462	\$250
Wilson	60	66	\$15,393,254	\$0	\$15,393,254	\$2,460,556	\$0	\$17,853,810	12,376	\$1,244	\$1,443	\$199
Halifax	61	43	\$6,116,739	\$2,555,308	\$8,672,047	\$3,803,927	\$0	\$12,475,974	8,670	\$1,000	\$1,439	\$439
Madison	62	58	\$2,077,770	\$0	\$2,077,770	\$255,611	\$1,400,209	\$3,733,590	2,610	\$796	\$1,430	\$634
Pender	63	59	\$9,234,539	\$0	\$9,234,539	\$1,455,630	\$0	\$10,690,169	7,667	\$1,204	\$1,394	\$190
Cleveland	64	64	\$9,808,213	\$9,089,430	\$18,897,643	\$4,465,474	\$0	\$23,363,117	16,760	\$1,128	\$1,394	\$266
Ashe	65	56	\$3,199,115	\$0	\$3,199,115	\$0	\$1,349,649	\$4,548,764	3,264	\$980	\$1,394	\$413
Henderson	66	60	\$17,717,673	\$0	\$17,717,673	\$0	\$0	\$17,717,673	12,792	\$1,385	\$1,385	\$0
Cumberland	67	57	\$65,348,540	\$0	\$65,348,540	\$7,098,008	\$0	\$72,446,548	52,346	\$1,248	\$1,384	\$136
Rutherford	68	71	\$11,172,007	\$0	\$11,172,007	\$2,501,407	\$0	\$13,673,414	9,915	\$1,127	\$1,379	\$252
Onslow	69	72	\$25,736,250	\$0	\$25,736,250	\$5,456,452	\$0	\$31,192,702	22,787	\$1,129	\$1,369	\$239
Bladen	70	77	\$5,394,216	\$0	\$5,394,216	\$2,029,136	\$0	\$7,423,352	5,429	\$994	\$1,367	\$374
Iredell	71	65	\$33,643,448	\$1,592,359	\$35,235,807	\$0	\$0	\$35,235,807	26,020	\$1,354	\$1,354	\$0
Rockingham	72	69	\$15,102,726	\$0	\$15,102,726	\$4,010,973	\$0	\$19,113,699	14,179	\$1,065	\$1,348	\$283
Anson	73	76	\$3,502,532	\$0	\$3,502,532	\$1,934,153	\$0	\$5,436,685	4,103	\$854	\$1,325	\$471
Alamance	74	74	\$28,166,238	\$0	\$28,166,238	\$1,038,207	\$0	\$29,204,445	22,202	\$1,269	\$1,315	\$47
Duplin	75	96	\$7,597,646	\$0	\$7,597,646	\$3,885,356	\$0	\$11,483,002	8,833	\$860	\$1,300	\$440
Lincoln	76	81	\$14,298,011	\$0	\$14,298,011	\$1,314,632	\$0	\$15,612,643	12,017	\$1,190	\$1,299	\$109
Cabarrus	77	70	\$39,025,489	\$0	\$39,025,489	\$149,920	\$0	\$39,175,409	30,301	\$1,288	\$1,293	\$5
Stanly	78	80	\$9,696,552	\$0	\$9,696,552	\$2,676,535	\$0	\$12,373,087	9,581	\$1,012	\$1,291	\$279
Harnett	79	83	\$15,400,000	\$252,453	\$15,652,453	\$7,389,948	\$0	\$23,042,401	17,912	\$874	\$1,286	\$413
McDowell	80	78	\$6,444,600	\$0	\$6,444,600	\$1,824,598	\$0	\$8,269,198	6,434	\$1,002	\$1,285	\$284
Lenoir	81	86	\$9,130,955	\$0	\$9,130,955	\$3,206,631	\$0	\$12,337,586	9,648	\$946	\$1,279	\$332
Edgecombe	82	88	\$6,555,660	\$0	\$6,555,660	\$2,733,893	\$0	\$9,289,553	7,385	\$888	\$1,258	\$370
Richmond	83	94	\$6,200,000	\$0	\$6,200,000	\$3,903,551	\$0	\$10,103,551	8,036	\$772	\$1,257	\$486
Wilkes	84	79	\$11,104,769	\$0	\$11,104,769	\$1,386,587	\$0	\$12,491,356	9,972	\$1,114	\$1,253	\$139
Davie	85	75	\$8,058,379	\$0	\$8,058,379	\$110,267	\$0	\$8,168,646	6,523	\$1,235	\$1,252	\$17
Wayne	86	82	\$17,907,468	\$0	\$17,907,468	\$6,046,028	\$0	\$23,953,496	19,214	\$932	\$1,247	\$315
Yadkin	87	91	\$5,734,000	\$0	\$5,734,000	\$1,882,933	\$0	\$7,616,933	6,137	\$934	\$1,241	\$307
Catawba	88	73	\$30,589,556	\$0	\$30,589,556	\$0	\$0	\$30,589,556	24,699	\$1,238	\$1,238	\$0
Randolph	89	87	\$19,280,922	\$4,322,063	\$23,602,985	\$4,876,521	\$0	\$28,479,506	23,104	\$1,022	\$1,233	\$211
Davidson	90	90	\$25,761,675	\$2,628,715	\$28,390,390	\$3,041,874	\$0	\$31,432,264	25,998	\$1,092	\$1,2	

table 4

Ability to Pay

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 2006-07 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	2006-07 ADJUSTED TAX BASE	2006-07 STATE AVG. EFFECTIVE PROPERTY TAX RATE	2006-07 ADJUSTED PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	2006-07 NON-PROPERTY TAX REVENUE	2006-07 MANDATED SOCIAL SERVICES PAYMENTS	2006-07 TOTAL REVENUES LESS WELFARE	2006-07 STUDENTS	2007 ESTIMATED PER CAPITA INCOME	% STATE AVG. PER CAPITA INCOME	INCOME ADJUSTED TOTAL REVENUES	2006-07 REVENUE PER STUDENT	2006-07 % STATE AVE. REVENUE PER STUDENT
Dare	1	1	\$19,627,700,929	\$1	\$112,466,726	\$22,285,751	\$5,267,013	\$129,485,464	4,843	\$34,181	106.0%	\$137,251,299	\$28,340	591.1%
Currituck	2	2	\$9,606,086,969	\$1	\$55,042,878	\$8,643,288	\$2,154,934	\$61,531,233	4,044	\$30,842	95.6%	\$58,850,320	\$14,553	303.5%
Watauga	3	3	\$8,720,493,558	\$1	\$49,968,428	\$16,591,074	\$3,132,025	\$63,427,477	4,486	\$28,835	89.4%	\$56,716,324	\$12,643	263.7%
Jackson	4	4	\$7,151,730,613	\$1	\$40,979,416	\$11,259,858	\$3,446,050	\$48,793,224	3,633	\$26,074	80.9%	\$39,452,803	\$10,860	226.5%
Avery	5	8	\$4,184,856,736	\$1	\$23,979,229	\$5,895,453	\$1,913,575	\$27,961,107	2,288	\$24,747	76.7%	\$21,457,919	\$9,378	195.6%
Polk	6	9	\$2,632,348,265	\$1	\$15,083,356	\$4,462,361	\$1,929,151	\$17,616,566	2,399	\$37,873	117.4%	\$20,690,055	\$8,624	179.9%
Brunswick	7	6	\$15,512,833,349	\$1	\$88,888,535	\$30,256,919	\$9,470,040	\$109,675,414	11,523	\$28,202	87.5%	\$95,917,947	\$8,324	173.6%
Mecklenburg	8	10	\$97,166,637,889	\$1	\$556,764,835	\$308,001,325	\$95,916,590	\$768,849,570	127,639	\$44,267	137.3%	\$1,055,436,596	\$8,269	172.5%
Macon	9	5	\$5,779,524,927	\$1	\$33,116,678	\$11,528,872	\$3,410,834	\$41,234,716	4,239	\$27,203	84.4%	\$34,784,879	\$8,206	171.2%
Carteret	10	7	\$8,656,295,164	\$1	\$49,600,571	\$23,001,272	\$6,301,906	\$66,299,937	8,104	\$32,086	99.5%	\$65,968,921	\$8,140	169.8%
Transylvania	11	13	\$4,641,250,052	\$1	\$26,594,363	\$8,954,582	\$3,137,033	\$32,411,912	3,757	\$29,642	91.9%	\$29,793,590	\$7,930	165.4%
Chatham	12	14	\$6,861,454,630	\$1	\$39,316,135	\$14,128,111	\$5,144,855	\$48,299,391	7,574	\$39,704	123.1%	\$59,468,447	\$7,852	163.8%
Clay	13	16	\$2,088,927,117	\$1	\$11,969,552	\$2,742,764	\$1,156,926	\$13,555,390	1,353	\$24,222	75.1%	\$10,181,991	\$7,525	157.0%
Pamlico	14	32	\$2,007,581,919	\$1	\$11,503,444	\$3,052,882	\$2,174,704	\$12,381,622	1,510	\$29,563	91.7%	\$11,351,068	\$7,517	156.8%
New Hanover	15	11	\$20,039,469,078	\$1	\$114,826,158	\$73,504,139	\$22,416,620	\$165,913,677	23,781	\$33,705	104.5%	\$173,415,216	\$7,292	152.1%
Orange	16	15	\$13,866,108,153	\$1	\$79,452,800	\$33,212,646	\$11,544,817	\$101,120,629	17,842	\$41,435	128.5%	\$129,932,498	\$7,282	151.9%
Hyde	17	12	\$1,033,623,815	\$1	\$5,922,664	\$1,600,833	\$1,223,710	\$6,299,787	638	\$23,684	73.4%	\$4,626,916	\$7,252	151.3%
Buncombe	18	21	\$28,306,780,244	\$1	\$162,197,851	\$81,328,841	\$29,382,786	\$214,143,905	29,148	\$31,345	97.2%	\$208,153,959	\$7,141	149.0%
Wake	19	17	\$91,232,068,740	\$1	\$522,759,754	\$268,092,680	\$61,151,215	\$729,701,219	127,460	\$39,497	122.5%	\$893,757,840	\$7,012	146.3%
Durham	20	23	\$24,407,588,377	\$1	\$139,855,481	\$90,598,276	\$33,152,297	\$197,301,461	31,299	\$35,118	108.9%	\$214,867,514	\$6,865	143.2%
Moore	21	18	\$8,460,819,184	\$1	\$48,480,494	\$25,573,225	\$8,476,784	\$65,576,935	12,190	\$36,932	114.5%	\$75,104,269	\$6,161	128.5%
Ashe	22	22	\$3,682,590,951	\$1	\$21,101,246	\$6,910,318	\$3,897,845	\$24,113,719	3,264	\$26,224	81.3%	\$19,609,829	\$6,008	125.3%
Henderson	23	19	\$9,849,809,367	\$1	\$56,439,408	\$28,886,351	\$12,018,247	\$73,307,511	12,792	\$32,431	100.6%	\$73,725,800	\$5,763	120.2%
Forsyth	24	24	\$30,658,835,040	\$1	\$175,675,125	\$109,268,622	\$33,748,991	\$251,194,755	50,206	\$36,402	112.9%	\$283,560,998	\$5,648	117.8%
Guilford	25	25	\$43,734,482,838	\$1	\$250,598,587	\$150,504,369	\$49,036,450	\$352,066,506	69,677	\$35,658	110.6%	\$389,307,144	\$5,587	116.5%
Haywood	26	26	\$6,991,438,860	\$1	\$40,060,945	\$17,411,390	\$8,655,320	\$48,817,014	7,785	\$27,869	86.4%	\$42,189,393	\$5,419	113.0%
Cherokee	27	30	\$3,357,576,181	\$1	\$19,238,912	\$8,592,393	\$3,632,437	\$24,198,867	3,613	\$22,384	69.4%	\$16,797,452	\$4,649	97.0%
Graham	28	31	\$1,227,176,126	\$1	\$7,031,719	\$2,079,561	\$1,633,085	\$7,478,195	1,202	\$23,919	74.2%	\$5,546,902	\$4,615	96.3%
Iredell	29	27	\$15,451,611,120	\$1	\$88,537,732	\$47,448,704	\$13,459,982	\$122,526,454	26,020	\$30,562	94.8%	\$116,124,089	\$4,463	93.1%
Davie	30	28	\$3,793,225,481	\$1	\$21,735,182	\$9,414,299	\$3,116,463	\$28,033,018	6,523	\$33,264	103.2%	\$28,917,118	\$4,433	92.5%
Cabarrus	31	29	\$16,215,324,827	\$1	\$92,913,811	\$52,415,641	\$17,239,698	\$128,089,754	30,301	\$33,161	102.8%	\$131,720,295	\$4,347	90.7%
Perquimans	32	42	\$1,304,480,549	\$1	\$7,474,674	\$2,691,241	\$1,438,737	\$8,727,178	1,721	\$27,503	85.3%	\$7,443,284	\$4,325	90.2%
Pender	33	34	\$6,206,621,030	\$1	\$35,563,939	\$11,607,623	\$5,475,596	\$41,695,965	7,667	\$25,361	78.6%	\$32,792,240	\$4,277	89.2%
Alleghany	34	20	\$1,134,473,212	\$1	\$6,500,532	\$2,757,417	\$1,363,662	\$7,894,286	1,560	\$26,786	83.1%	\$6,557,396	\$4,203	87.7%
Swain	35	39	\$1,462,601,069	\$1	\$8,380,704	\$3,475,639	\$1,499,538	\$10,356,806	1,801	\$23,430	72.7%	\$7,525,040	\$4,178	87.1%
Onslow	36	49	\$11,232,132,795	\$1	\$64,360,121	\$45,025,440	\$13,398,992	\$95,986,569	22,787	\$31,942	99.1%	\$95,078,704	\$4,172	87.0%
Yancey	37	35	\$2,220,294,277	\$1	\$12,722,286	\$4,510,815	\$2,315,889	\$14,917,212	2,530	\$21,982	68.2%	\$10,168,703	\$4,019	83.8%
Craven	38	41	\$7,792,353,575	\$1	\$44,650,186	\$26,764,757	\$11,161,148	\$60,253,795	14,538	\$31,107	96.5%	\$58,123,695	\$3,998	83.4%
Madison	39	38	\$2,024,844,334	\$1	\$11,602,358	\$4,477,361	\$2,503,837	\$13,575,882	2,610	\$24,284	75.3%	\$10,223,485	\$3,917	81.7%
Person	40	40	\$3,891,192,066	\$1	\$22,296,531	\$9,543,820	\$5,771,076	\$26,069,274	5,633	\$26,847	83.3%	\$21,703,780	\$3,853	80.4%
Catawba	41	36	\$13,614,482,277	\$1	\$78,010,983	\$48,632,928	\$25,219,922	\$101,423,990	24,699	\$30,074	93.3%	\$94,589,421	\$3,830	79.9%
Beaufort	42	50	\$4,620,662,104	\$1	\$26,476,394	\$13,233,621	\$8,768,259	\$31,031,756	7,046	\$27,391	84.9%	\$26,358,756	\$3,741	78.0%
Union	43	37	\$17,852,786,106	\$1	\$102,296,464	\$45,150,854	\$13,795,527	\$133,651,791	34,254	\$30,898	95.8%	\$128,060,689	\$3,739	78.0%
Lincoln	44	44	\$6,733,918,788	\$1	\$38,585,355	\$18,518,571	\$6,851,614	\$50,252,312	12,017	\$28,719	89.1%	\$44,754,431	\$3,724	77.7%
Alamance	45	45	\$10,988,762,315	\$1	\$62,965,608	\$42,406,630	\$13,930,503	\$91,441,735	22,202	\$28,265	87.7%	\$80,150,112	\$3,610	75.3%
Mitchell	46	48	\$1,604,567,474	\$1	\$9,194,172	\$4,455,175	\$2,943,185	\$10,706,162	2,192	\$23,392	72.5%	\$7,766,259	\$3,543	73.9%
Warren	47	73	\$2,560,954,047	\$1	\$14,674,267	\$4,193,257	\$3,879,149	\$14,988,375	2,783	\$21,073	65.3%	\$9,794,710	\$3,519	73.4%
Rowan	48	46	\$9,847,816,463	\$1	\$56,427,988	\$35,068,823	\$13,239,837	\$78,256,975	20,700	\$29,001	89.9%	\$70,379,586	\$3,400	70.9%
Lee	49	47	\$4,066,476,279	\$1	\$23,300,909	\$15,999,838	\$5,211,097	\$34,089,650	9,258	\$28,975	89.9%	\$30,630,682	\$3,309	69.0%
Chowan	50	53	\$1,384,836,256	\$1	\$7,935,112	\$3,815,606	\$2,564,014	\$9,186,703	2,493	\$28,933	89.7%	\$8,242,593	\$3,306	69.0%
Tyrrell	51	43	\$453,010,445	\$1	\$2,595,750	\$1,025,868	\$781,834	\$2,839,784	597	\$22,364	69.4%	\$1,969,452	\$3,299	68.8%
Pitt	52	55	\$9,856,936,318	\$1	\$56,480,245	\$45,043,721	\$20,140,217	\$81,383,749	22,217	\$29,031	90.0%	\$73,267,331	\$3,298	68.8%
Wilkes	53	33	\$4,530,202,744	\$1	\$25,958,062	\$17,553,165	\$8,106,611	\$35,404,616	9,972	\$29,466	91.4%	\$32,351,301	\$3,244	67.7%
Wilson	54	65	\$5,580,729,381	\$1	\$31,977,579	\$22,974,704	\$12,176,234	\$42,776,049	12,376	\$29,879	92.7%	\$39,634,867	\$3,203	66.8%
Jones	55	67	\$742,024,206	\$1	\$4,251,799	\$2,036,029	\$1,578,916	\$4,708,912	1,270	\$27,540	85.4%	\$4,021,536	\$3,167	66.0%
Pasquotank	56	79	\$3,235,728,560	\$1	\$18,540,725	\$11,958,984	\$5,601,628	\$24,898,081	6,119	\$24,860	77.1%	\$19,194,539	\$3,137	65.4%
Cumberland	57	64	\$17,311,420,187	\$1	\$99,194,438	\$90,111,284	\$35,234,699	\$154,071,022	52,346	\$34,245	106.2%	\$163,617,148	\$3,126	65.2%
Stanly	58	66	\$4,209,764,604	\$1	\$24,121,951	\$16,024,823	\$5,959,264	\$34,187,510	9,581	\$27,824	86.3%	\$29,498,350	\$3,079	64.2%
Montgomery	59	52	\$2,576,434,413	\$1	\$14,762,969	\$6,531,139	\$4,091,823	\$17,202,285	4,460	\$25,715	79.7%	\$13,717,765	\$3,076	64.2%
Surry	60	54	\$4,972,486,203	\$1	\$28,492,346	\$21,378,552	\$8,077,867	\$41,793,031	11,538	\$27,181	84.3%	\$35,227,350	\$3,053	63.7%
Gaston	61	58	\$12,833,593,616	\$1	\$73,536,491	\$54,080,607	\$27,189,949	\$100,427,150	31,677	\$30,892	95.8%	\$96,207,260	\$3,037	63.3%
Martin	62	81	\$1,666,758,745	\$1	\$9,550,528	\$10,485,211	\$5,100,056	\$14,935,682	4,133	\$25,901	80.3%	\$11,996,437	\$2,903	60.5%
Davidson	63	51	\$10,319,270,241	\$1	\$59,129,418	\$38,107,187	\$13,466,814	\$83,769,792	25,998	\$28,765	89.2%	\$74,724,410	\$2,874	60.0%
Rockingham	64	72	\$6,350,181,419	\$1	\$36,386,540	\$22,683,309	\$10,440,238	\$48,629,611	14,179	\$26,706	82.8%	\$40,273,588	\$2,840	59.2%
Franklin	65	62	\$3,765,394,027	\$1	\$21,575,708	\$12,497,229	\$6,245,488	\$27,827,448	8,187	\$26,419	81.9%	\$22,798,194	\$2,785	58.1%
Nash	66	77	\$6,445,474,884	\$1	\$36,932,571	\$28,203,433	\$10,895,416	\$54,240,589	17,904	\$29,597	91.8%	\$49,783,195	\$2,781	58.0%
McDowell	67	68	\$3,223,271,092	\$1	\$18,469,343	\$10,922,302	\$4,938,491	\$24,453,154	6,434	\$23,568	73.1%	\$17,871,800	\$2,778	57.9%
Caldwell	68	71	\$5,470,837,607	\$1	\$31,347,899	\$19,563,181	\$8,937,948	\$41,973,133	13,010	\$27,520	85.3%	\$35,820,405	\$2,753	57.4%

table 5

Relative Effort

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 STUDENT	EFFORT RANK	TOTAL CURRENT SPENDING SPENDING PER STUDENT	CAPITAL OUTLAY SPENDING PER STUDENT	DEBT SERVICE SPENDING PER STUDENT	EFFORT AS % OF REVENUE PER STUDENT: CURRENT SPENDING
Scotland	1	97	\$1,572	26	\$1,464	\$88	\$113	93.1%
Gates	2	85	\$2,068	41	\$1,250	\$132	\$249	60.4%
Hertford	3	91	\$1,862	54	\$1,113	\$274	\$0	59.8%
Halifax	4	95	\$1,713	75	\$1,000	\$466	\$160	58.4%
Bladen	5	93	\$1,769	67	\$994	\$610	\$73	56.2%
Northampton	6	84	\$2,079	66	\$1,158	\$620	\$199	55.7%
Johnston	7	71	\$2,678	23	\$1,488	\$1,226	\$626	55.6%
Vance	8	88	\$1,966	80	\$1,054	\$121	\$208	53.6%
Orange	9	16	\$7,282	1	\$3,884	\$1,222	\$833	53.3%
Granville	10	79	\$2,383	48	\$1,179	\$1,009	\$221	49.5%
Stokes	11	69	\$2,728	36	\$1,312	\$159	\$108	48.1%
Robeson	12	100	\$1,108	97	\$520	\$208	\$0	46.9%
Cleveland	13	78	\$2,418	52	\$1,128	\$194	\$108	46.6%
Franklin	14	65	\$2,785	39	\$1,295	\$643	\$365	46.5%
Pasquotank	15	56	\$3,137	25	\$1,448	\$612	\$286	46.2%
Anson	16	90	\$1,872	85	\$854	\$38	\$258	45.6%
Chowan	17	50	\$3,306	21	\$1,504	\$411	\$514	45.5%
Bertie	18	96	\$1,638	92	\$730	\$684	\$143	44.6%
Union	19	43	\$3,739	19	\$1,665	\$1,906	\$435	44.5%
Greene	20	98	\$1,440	93	\$630	\$192	\$103	43.8%
Nash	21	66	\$2,781	49	\$1,216	\$251	\$13	43.7%
Martin	22	62	\$2,903	40	\$1,262	\$248	\$0	43.5%
Washington	23	94	\$1,751	90	\$760	\$75	\$210	43.4%
Harnett	24	87	\$2,027	82	\$874	\$230	\$271	43.1%
Montgomery	25	59	\$3,076	37	\$1,314	\$197	\$99	42.7%
Rowan	26	48	\$3,400	28	\$1,452	\$767	\$287	42.7%
Richmond	27	92	\$1,820	89	\$772	\$237	\$59	42.4%
Edgecombe	28	83	\$2,096	79	\$888	\$312	\$71	42.4%
Pitt	29	52	\$3,298	27	\$1,379	\$463	\$248	41.8%
Durham	30	20	\$6,865	3	\$2,848	\$426	\$436	41.5%
Rutherford	31	70	\$2,722	59	\$1,127	\$604	\$394	41.4%
Lee	32	49	\$3,309	30	\$1,368	\$710	\$333	41.4%
Guilford	33	25	\$5,587	7	\$2,248	\$1,138	\$222	40.2%
Duplin	34	82	\$2,141	84	\$860	\$175	\$65	40.2%
Cumberland	35	57	\$3,126	42	\$1,248	\$250	\$88	39.9%
Surry	36	60	\$3,053	50	\$1,212	\$386	\$273	39.7%
Randolph	37	72	\$2,605	62	\$1,022	\$361	\$297	39.2%
Wilson	38	54	\$3,203	47	\$1,244	\$408	\$226	38.8%
Lenoir	39	77	\$2,441	74	\$946	\$85	\$50	38.8%
Wayne	40	76	\$2,453	73	\$932	\$126	\$77	38.0%
Davidson	41	63	\$2,874	56	\$1,092	\$300	\$108	38.0%
Burke	42	73	\$2,528	71	\$951	\$486	\$392	37.6%
Rockingham	43	64	\$2,840	60	\$1,065	\$658	\$109	37.5%
Gaston	44	61	\$3,037	58	\$1,135	\$270	\$197	37.4%
Hoke	45	99	\$1,386	98	\$518	\$361	\$64	37.4%
Beaufort	46	42	\$3,741	32	\$1,397	\$137	\$6	37.4%
Yadkin	47	74	\$2,527	72	\$934	\$386	\$55	37.0%
Person	48	40	\$3,853	38	\$1,398	\$119	\$347	36.3%
McDowell	49	67	\$2,778	65	\$1,002	\$541	\$182	36.1%
Alexander	50	75	\$2,508	77	\$903	\$549	\$203	36.0%
Caldwell	51	68	\$2,753	70	\$976	\$147	\$89	35.5%
Alamance	52	45	\$3,610	45	\$1,269	\$260	\$213	35.1%
Caswell	53	81	\$2,271	88	\$791	\$69	\$222	34.8%
Forsyth	54	24	\$5,648	13	\$1,955	\$581	\$372	34.6%
Wilkes	55	53	\$3,244	55	\$1,114	\$869	\$60	34.3%
Sampson	56	89	\$1,922	91	\$650	\$745	\$209	33.8%
Stanly	57	58	\$3,079	68	\$1,012	\$740	\$190	32.9%
New Hanover	58	15	\$7,292	5	\$2,392	\$633	\$598	32.8%
Catawba	59	41	\$3,830	44	\$1,238	\$561	\$471	32.3%
Alleghany	60	34	\$4,203	31	\$1,357	\$424	\$103	32.3%
Chatham	61	12	\$7,852	6	\$2,524	\$454	\$320	32.1%
Lincoln	62	44	\$3,724	53	\$1,190	\$1,387	\$487	31.9%
Haywood	63	26	\$5,419	16	\$1,687	\$490	\$274	31.1%
Columbus	64	86	\$2,054	94	\$634	\$114	\$55	30.9%
Wake	65	19	\$7,012	11	\$2,151	\$1,303	\$709	30.7%
Mecklenburg	66	8	\$8,269	4	\$2,519	\$1,178	\$679	30.5%
Iredell	67	29	\$4,463	35	\$1,354	\$1,060	\$377	30.3%
Cabarrus	68	31	\$4,347	34	\$1,288	\$1,077	\$586	29.6%
Tyrrell	69	51	\$3,299	81	\$941	\$113	\$68	28.5%
Pender	70	33	\$4,277	46	\$1,204	\$827	\$503	28.2%
Davie	71	30	\$4,433	43	\$1,235	\$894	\$180	27.9%
Moore	72	21	\$6,161	17	\$1,707	\$164	\$293	27.7%
Carteret	73	10	\$8,140	10	\$2,235	\$545	\$714	27.5%
Craven	74	38	\$3,998	57	\$1,091	\$514	\$241	27.3%
Onslow	75	36	\$4,172	51	\$1,129	\$399	\$193	27.1%
Warren	76	47	\$3,519	78	\$938	\$40	\$258	26.6%
Brunswick	77	7	\$8,324	12	\$2,188	\$1,369	\$566	26.3%
Buncombe	78	18	\$7,141	15	\$1,865	\$727	\$54	26.1%
Jones	79	55	\$3,167	87	\$805	\$311	\$0	25.4%
Camden	80	80	\$2,307	96	\$586	\$1,240	\$40	25.4%
Mitchell	81	46	\$3,543	83	\$873	\$429	\$24	24.6%
Transylvania	82	11	\$7,930	14	\$1,914	\$384	\$429	24.1%
Henderson	83	23	\$5,763	33	\$1,385	\$805	\$293	24.0%
Perquimans	84	32	\$4,325	64	\$1,019	\$185	\$109	23.6%
Cherokee	85	27	\$4,649	63	\$1,068	\$563	\$259	23.0%
Hyde	86	17	\$7,252	18	\$1,648	\$639	\$0	22.7%
Yancey	87	37	\$4,019	76	\$911	\$340	\$0	22.7%
Pamlico	88	14	\$7,517	61	\$1,539	\$100	\$216	20.5%
Madison	89	39	\$3,917	86	\$796	\$106	\$102	20.3%
Polk	90	6	\$8,624	20	\$1,653	\$145	\$342	19.2%
Macon	91	9	\$8,206	29	\$1,478	\$471	\$654	18.0%
Watauga	92	3	\$12,643	8	\$2,171	\$188	\$414	17.2%
Avery	93	5	\$9,378	22	\$1,558	\$730	\$760	16.6%
Ashe	94	22	\$6,008	69	\$980	\$606	\$428	16.3%
Jackson	95	4	\$10,860	24	\$1,628	\$852	\$295	15.0%
Currituck	96	2	\$14,553	9	\$2,108	\$635	\$349	14.5%
Dare	97	1	\$28,340	2	\$3,780	\$5,103	\$1,354	13.3%
Graham	98	28	\$4,615	99	\$433	\$279	\$236	9.4%
Clay	99	13	\$7,525	95	\$632	\$323	\$19	8.4%
Swain	100	35	\$4,178	100	\$343	\$346	\$268	8.2%
STATE TOTAL/AVERAGE			\$4,794		\$1,610	\$748	\$361	33.6%

Data Sources

The 2008 Local School Finance Study examines data from the 2006-07 school year. Every effort has been made to guarantee that the data included in this year's study is accurate and reflects what is being measured. The primary source of financial information is the Financial and Business Services Division 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, which provided the 2006-07 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, special thanks to Philip Price, Alexis Schauss, and Lydia Prude at the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for the wealth of information they provided for the preparation of this year's study.

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 2006-07 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 2006-07 current expenses (including supplemental school taxes), a six-year average capital outlay, capital reserves, and interest on debt. 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 effort to be as accurate as possible, this study uses a three-year weighted average (except in the case of counties revalued in 2005 and 2006) to calculate the adjusted property valuation.) (Source: Financial and 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. City school districts are combined with the county system and charter school enrollment is included. (Source: Financial and Business Services, 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.

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: Financial and 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, fines/forfeitures, and local tax aid. This past year counties did not receive any Local Tax Aid from the state. (Source: Financial and 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: Financial and Business Services, NC DPI)

State Average Effective Property Tax

The average of all 100 counties' adjusted tax rate. (Source: Financial and 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: Financial and 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.

2008

LOCAL SCHOOL

finance STUDY

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