



Education

Provision of direct financial support to public educational systems within the County.

Business Area Name	FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Original	FY 2024-25 Estimated	FY 2025-26 Requested	FY 2025-26 Approved	% Change Appr. v. Orig.	Dept. % of Funct. Area
Durham Public Schools	\$187,951,627	\$208,601,332	\$208,601,332	\$230,579,667	\$224,528,912	7.64%	90.97%
Community Colleges	\$11,707,065	\$12,432,083	\$12,432,083	\$12,768,661	\$12,618,661	1.50%	5.11%
Other Education	\$8,976,079	\$9,488,185	\$9,544,488	\$10,816,026	\$9,679,072	2.01%	3.92%
Total	\$208,634,771	\$230,521,600	\$230,577,903	\$254,164,354	\$246,826,645	7.07%	100.00%



Description

Effective July 1, 1992, Durham County’s two public school systems merged, forming Durham Public Schools (DPS). All Durham County funding is from general funds. The supplemental taxing districts were discontinued with the merger.

DPS was merged under legislation establishing minimum requirements for local funding based on the highest per pupil expenditure in the last five years of either school system prior to the merger. Per pupil allocation used in the school funding formula is \$1,960. The amount of minimum funding is determined by multiplying the \$1,960 per pupil expense with the average daily membership (ADM) enrollment figure for the upcoming year. County funding for Durham Public Schools, including current expense, capital outlay (excluding bond-funded projects), and debt service, must be no less than the minimum funding required.

A comparison of the minimum funding required, and the approved funding level is shown below.

Per pupil funding	\$1,960
Multiply by total FY 2025-26 ADM	31,024
Minimum funding for FY 2025-26	\$60,807,040

In addition, if the ADM for charter schools was factored in (an additional 8,360 pupils, for a total of 39,384 pupils), the calculation would equate to \$77,192,640 minimum funding for FY 2025-26. Durham County funding significantly exceeds these thresholds.

	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Original	FY 2025-26 Requested	FY 2025-26 Approved
Current Expense	\$181,951,627	\$206,601,332	\$222,579,667	\$219,528,912
Capital Outlay	\$6,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$8,000,000	\$5,000,000
County Funding Total	\$187,951,627	\$208,601,332	\$230,579,667	\$224,528,912
ARPA Capital Outlay	\$0	\$6,000,000	\$0	\$0
ARPA Title I Support	\$0	\$716,624	\$0	\$723,376
Tota Direct DPS Funding	\$187,951,627	\$215,317,956	\$230,579,667	\$225,252,288
DPS Debt Service	\$43,886,484	\$51,719,972	\$61,792,616	\$61,792,616
TOTAL FUNDING	\$231,838,111	\$267,037,928	\$292,372,283	\$287,044,904

In addition to direct funding to Durham Public Schools, Durham County also funds a number of positions and programs through other departments that provide services within Durham Public Schools or in support of DPS goals. These positions/programs and their County-only funding for FY 2025-26 are shown below, but the actual funding is within related departments.

Program or Position (County Department)	FY 2025-26 Durham Approved Funding
28 School Resource Officers (Sheriff)	\$2,614,570
Public Health Services (School Nurses)	\$3,838,103
Community Intervention & Support Services - Project Build	\$1,084,006

Educational Non-Profit Support	FY 2025-26 Approved Funding
Reach out and Read Program (Full Year)	\$50,000
Bull City Community Schools	\$127,050

Budget Highlights

The Durham Board of Education’s FY 2025-26 budget request is a \$15,261,711 increase in current expense funding over its FY 2024-25 current budget (7.08%). Requests for additional “continuation” funding of \$6,353,550 from DPS include state salary and benefits cost increases for DPS positions supported by the County and increasing insurance and utility costs. DPS has also requested an additional \$9,434,911 (see table for more details). DPS also requested annual capital outlay funding of \$8 million.

DPS Expansion Funding Requests	
Increasing Local Teacher Supplement	\$2,264,351
Local Master’s Pay	\$1,444,342
Growing Together Positions	\$1,653,000
Social-Emotional Resources	\$607,095
Additional Exceptional Children Funding	\$1,107,355
Bus Driver Supplement	\$377,436
Charter School Share of Expansion	\$1,981,332
Total	\$9,434,911

The approved budget supports an additional \$15.92 million in County funding for Durham Public Schools. General Fund current expense funding increases from the current budget for Durham Public Schools \$12,927,580, bringing the total FY 2025-26 annual support for DPS up to \$219,528,912, a 6.25% increase. ARPA funding of \$1.44 million for Title I support was split over two years, with FY 2024-25 getting \$716,624 and FY 2025-26 getting the final \$723,376.

The Board of County Commissioners provided \$15.92 million in additional funding to specifically support DPS continuation costs estimated at \$6.35 million plus additional expansion request items highlighted in blue in the above table. Additional County funding was allocated to support related charter school share of expansion funding as well (highlighted in brown).

County capital outlay support increases from \$2 million to \$5 million. However, this \$5 million total amount is \$3 million less than the \$8 million received in FY 2024-25, which was a combination of General Fund (\$2 million) and ARPA funding (\$6 million).

In addition to direct funding to DPS for current expense needs, the Board of County Commissioners, working closely with the Board of Education, has provided an additional 15 Public Health School Nurses over the last two fiscal years to support child health needs at Durham Public Schools. These positions are in the Public Health department and the increase progresses the County towards the goal of a School Health Nurse in every Durham Public School. With the County creating these positions, the County and DPS avoid an effective “Charter School surcharge” of approximately 20%.

Total FY 2025-26 Durham County funding for Durham Public Schools increases 4.61% over FY 2024-25 ARPA and General Fund supported funding. With the General Fund taking over some of the ARPA one-time subsidy funding from FY 2024-25, the total net increase in General Fund spending for Durham Public Schools for FY 2025-26 is \$15,927,580

Pre-K Support

A dedicated Article 46 sales tax allocation of \$508,140 directly supports Durham Public Schools efforts in Pre-K. The County also provides significant Pre-K support outside of direct DPS funding support. At the Whitted School up to 144 Pre-K students are now being educated in preparation for entering Durham Public Schools. The annual operating cost of the Pre-K program at Whitted School is budgeted at \$1.5 million for FY 2025-26, but that funding is housed outside of the Durham Public School budget as is the additional County Pre-K expansion support of \$7,246,365. More information about County Pre-K support can be found on the Other Education Nonprofit Agencies pages of this document.

Article 46 Sales Tax

Durham County provides funding for DPS from two revenue sources: local property taxes and Article 46 sales taxes. The County estimates total Article 46 sales tax collection for DPS at \$15,528,084 and for Pre-K programs at \$508,140, for a total Article 46 funding support of DPS current expense of \$16,036,224. This is a significant decrease (\$2,057,856) from the previous year’s Article 46 funding because of lower over collected sales tax growth from previous years.

The County will also pay an estimated \$61.7 million in debt service for DPS. Annual DPS debt service supports the amortization payments related to major DPS capital projects paid for by Durham County. Major DPS capital projects include the construction of new schools as well as various major renovation projects.

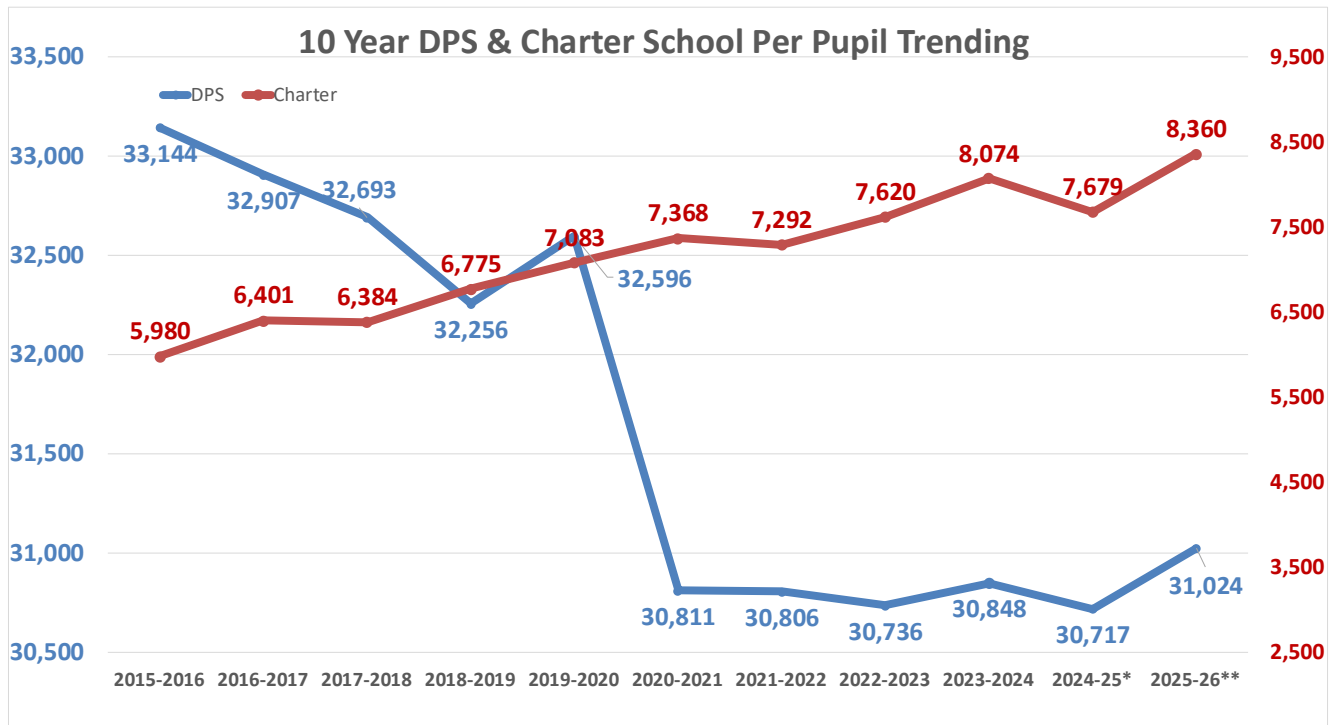
DPS’s and Durham County Charter School student projection for FY 2025-26 is 39,384, an increase of 988 students from the FY 2024-25 budgeted estimate. To clearly identify local per pupil current expense funding support for DPS and Charter School students, some funding folded up in the current expense allocation of \$219,528,912 needs to be subtracted out.

	FY 2024-25	FY 2025-26	Difference
Current Expense Funding	\$206,601,332	\$219,528,912	\$12,927,580
Annual Pre-K support (Article 46 Sales Tax)	(\$508,140)	(\$508,140)	\$ 0
Net Current Expense funding	\$206,093,192	\$219,020,772	\$12,927,580
DPS and Charter School pupil estimate	38,396	39,384	988
Local Per Pupil funding	\$5,368	\$5,561	\$ 193

Therefore, approved FY 2025-26 County supported “current expense” funding per pupil is \$5,561 per pupil, an increase of \$193 per pupil from FY 2024-25. Including capital outlay and debt service funding, Durham County supports public education at \$7,130 per pupil, a \$416 per pupil increase from FY 2024-25, due largely to increasing debt service support for schools.

If indirect County funding for Durham Public Schools (\$7,713,729) is included along with annual DPS related debt service and current expense funding, local per pupil funding would be \$7,325.

Overall trending of DPS student attendance took a significant hit during the previous four years, two of which were COVID related, dropping by nearly 2,000 students in FY 2020-21 from FY 2019-20, and still down by nearly 1,500 in FY 2024-25. FY 2024-25 numbers are the second month pupil survey, while FY 2025-26 is estimated (planned) number of pupils. Mid-year tracking of pupil numbers for FY 2024-25 are indicating an increase in both DPS pupils and Charter School students. That uptick is expected to continue in FY 2025-26



Durham Public Schools Performance Measures

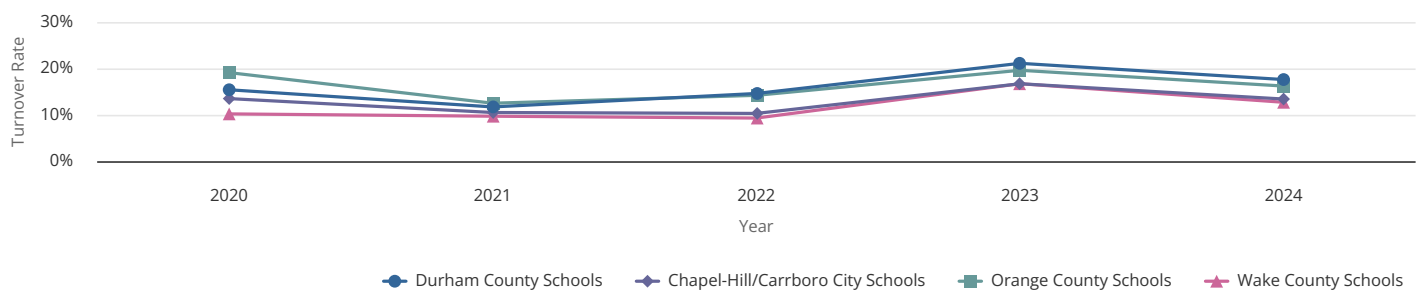
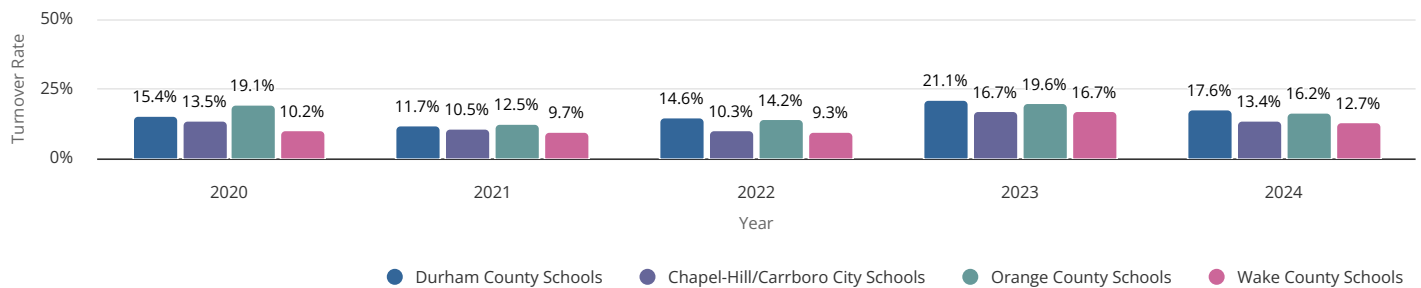
DPS: DPS Teacher Turnover Rate

MEASURE DESCRIPTION (WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?)

This measures the percentage of teachers employed by Durham Public Schools (DPS) in March of the previous school year who are no longer employed by the district in March of the current academic year. Excessive teacher turnover is disruptive to school culture and student achievement and is costly for school districts. Starting in the 2015-16 academic year, the State validated self-reported teacher turnover data against payroll records. Given the change in reporting, prior results cannot be compared to data from 2015-2016 and beyond.

EXPLANATION OF ACTUALS AND TRENDS

Requested from DPS



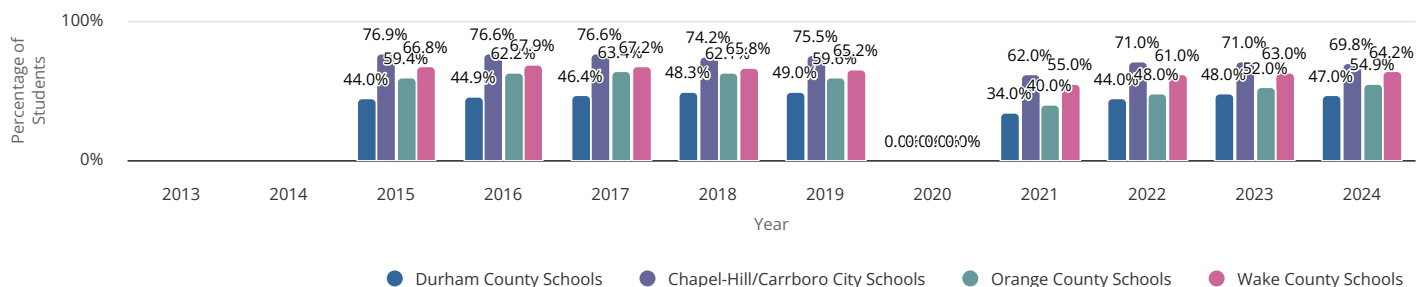
DPS: Percentage of students scoring at or above grade level proficiency on State end-of-grade and end-of-course exams

MEASURE DESCRIPTION (WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?)

This measures the percentage of students scoring at or above grade level proficiency on State End-of Grade and End-of-Course exams (3rd-8th grade math and English Language Arts; 5th and 8th grade science; high school Biology, English II, and Math I or Math III).

EXPLANATION OF ACTUALS AND TRENDS

Grade level proficiency in DPS has fallen from its peak in FY 2019 of 49 percent to 47 percent in 2023-24. Proficiency rates in Orange County Schools and Chapel-Hill Carrboro City Schools have also fallen from 59.6 percent and 75.5 percent to 54.9 percent and 69.8 percent. Wake County has stagnated at 64.2 percent only increasing slightly over the past 5 year. DPS is dedicated to achieving its FY 2028 Strategic Goal of 70 percent. DPS fell 2.2 points short of the FY 2023-24 Goal of 49.2 percent. * FY 2020 Data is not available at the local or state level*



Durham Public Schools Performance Measures

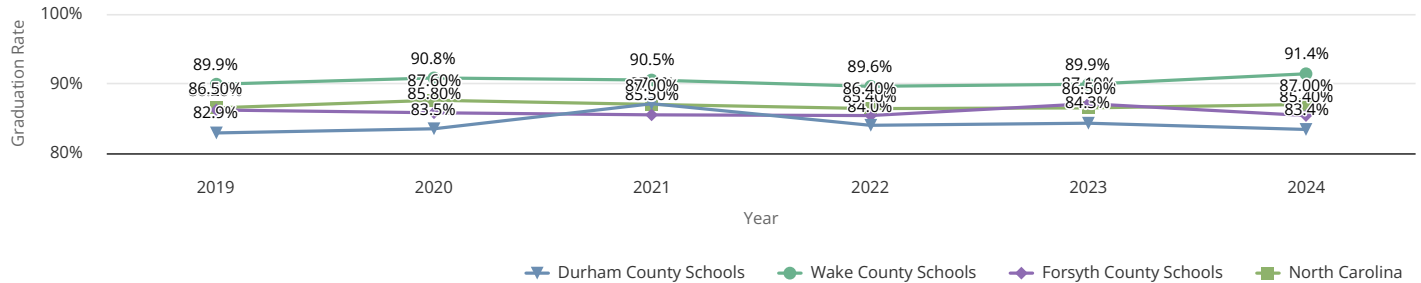
DPS: Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

MEASURE DESCRIPTION (WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?)

This measures the percentage of entering ninth graders graduating within four years. Priority 1 of the DPS Strategic Plan is to increase academic achievement, including the goal of attaining a 90 percent four-year cohort graduation rate by 2028.

EXPLANATION OF ACTUALS AND TRENDS

The DPS graduation rate decreased from a high of 87.1 in 2020-21 to 83.4 in 2023-24. In the same time period, four-year cohort graduation rates increased from 90.5 to 91.4 percent in Wake County, increased from 92.8 to 93.9 percent in Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, and decreased from 84.2 to 79.7 percent in Orange County Schools. While DPS fell 0.1 percentage points short of the 87.2 percent target for the 2023-24 graduation rate in our Strategic Plan, we continue to strive towards the target of 87.9 percent graduation rate for the 2024-25 academic year.



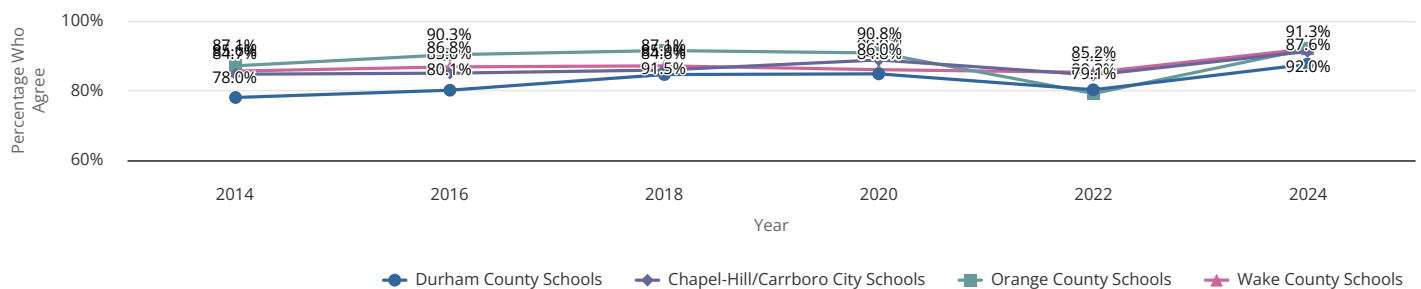
DPS: Teacher working conditions survey: percent of teachers who agree that their school is a good place to teach and learn

MEASURE DESCRIPTION (WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?)

This measures the percentage of teachers who agree or strongly agree that “overall their school is a good place to teach and learn.” Out of all the questions in the bi-annual Teacher Working Conditions Survey, this response best encapsulates the overall health of the school environment from the teachers’ perspective.

EXPLANATION OF ACTUALS AND TRENDS

The percentage of DPS teachers who agree that their school is a good place to teach and learn increased steadily from 80.1 percent in 2014 to 87.6 percent in 2024. DPS exceeded its goal for FY 2023-24 of 83.4 percent, but is still striving for the 90 percent benchmark goal in the Strategic Plan. Orange County, Wake County, and Chapel Hill-Carrboro schools saw significant increases from prior years attaining >90% for FY 2023-24.





Description

Durham County provides support from the general fund to Durham Technical Community College. In accordance with North Carolina General Statute 115D-32, Durham County provides financial support under the following categories:

- Plant Fund, including acquisition of land, erection of buildings, and purchases of motor vehicles
- Current Expense Fund, including plant operation and maintenance
- Support Services, including building and motor vehicle insurance

As a comprehensive community college serving Durham and Orange counties, Durham Tech has a guided placement admissions philosophy to provide all students an opportunity to acquire meaningful credentials and secure living-wage employment through education and training. Offerings include postsecondary technical and occupational programs leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate; the first two years of a four-year degree; general education for personal growth; a wide variety of corporate and continuing education courses for workforce preparation and development; and college and career readiness instruction that includes an adult high school diploma program, high school equivalency preparation programs, and English language development courses. Durham Technical Community College serves more than 18,000 students annually, with 73% of the students coming from either Durham or Orange County, and 27% coming from outside the regional area.

	FY 2023-24 Actual	FY 2024-25 Original	FY 2025-26 Requested	FY 2025-26 Approved
Current expense	11,164,565	\$11,872,083	\$12,180,661	\$12,058,661
Capital outlay	\$542,500	\$560,000	\$588,000	\$560,000
TOTAL	\$11,707,065	\$12,432,083	\$12,768,661	\$12,618,661
Debt service	\$2,925,765	\$4,309,998	\$10,493,086	\$10,493,086
TOTAL FUNDING	\$14,632,830	\$16,742,081	\$23,261,747	\$23,111,747

Durham County also provides large capital project support to Durham Technical Community College through long term debt issuances (mainly General Obligation Bonds).

2007 GO Bond funds for DTCC capital projects	\$8,680,000
2016 GO Bond funds for DTCC capital projects	\$20,000,000
2022 GO Bond funds for DTCC capital projects	\$112,740,000

Budget

Category	FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Original	FY 2024-25 Estimate	FY 2025-26 Requested	FY 2025-26 Approved	% Change Orig. v. Appr.
Expenditure	\$11,707,065	\$12,432,083	\$12,432,083	\$12,768,661	\$12,618,661	1.50%
Operating	\$11,164,565	\$11,872,083	\$11,872,083	\$12,180,661	\$12,058,661	1.57%
Capital	\$542,500	\$560,000	\$560,000	\$588,000	\$560,000	0.00%

Budget Highlights

- As the County continues to collect revenue from the Article 46 quarter cent sales tax, by Board of County Commissioners' resolution, Durham Technical Community College will receive \$2,075,192 for student scholarship support and other educational opportunities.
 - Article 46 Sales Tax revenue is decreasing by \$275,014 (dedicated for Durham student scholarship support). This decrease in dedicated funding is indicative of overall sales tax revenue collection slowing significantly

over the last couple of years and is largely related to inflation pressures on the current economy. This slowing growth in sales tax revenue may continue for the foreseeable future.

- Durham Technical Community College’s County funding increases \$186,578 or 1.57% from the FY 2024-25 Original Budget.
 - Additional funding helps support state directed 3% salary increases for certain DTCC employees, plus a 2% increase in retirement funding.
 - Capital support is held flat at \$560,000.
- Additional funding for a fifth year is available for the DTCC “Back to Work (BTW)” initiative and the “BULLS initiative and life sciences talent pipeline”. See following table for details. (\$500,000)

EXPENSE	Funding	NOTES
BULLS stipend	\$250,000	25-50 students with \$5-10K stipend
BTW scholarships	\$250,000	20 classes with 25 students @\$500 per class (covers tuition and other needs)
TOTAL	\$500,000	

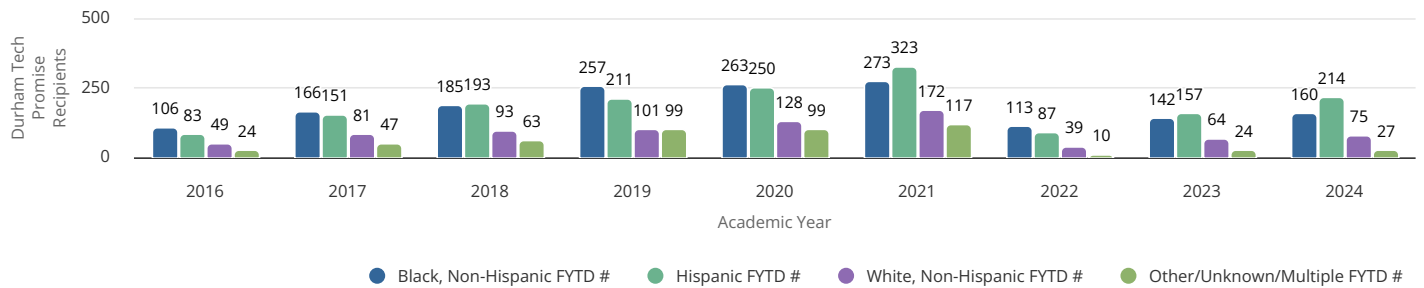
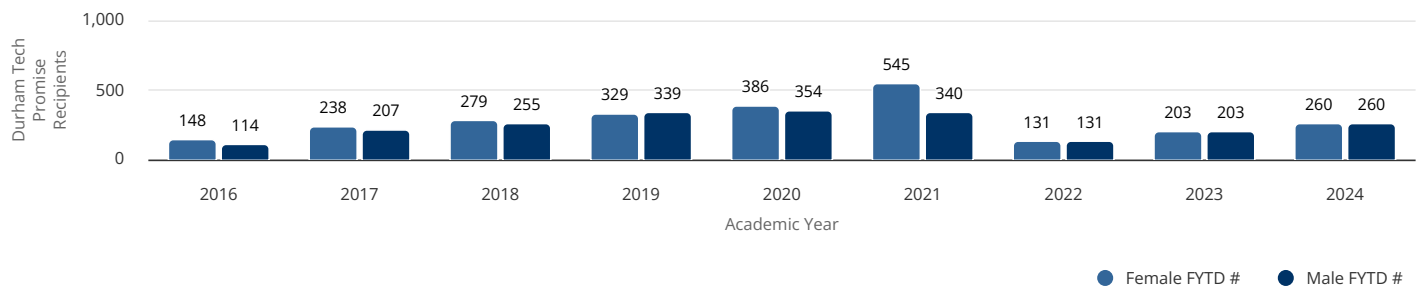
DTCC Performance Measures

DTCC: Promise Scholarship Recipients by Gender & Race/Ethnicity

MEASURE DESCRIPTION (WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT?)

Durham Tech offers the Promise Scholarship to all recent high school graduates in Durham who enroll at the College within one year of graduation. Students are eligible to receive up to \$2,000 over two years; funds are automatically applied to the students' accounts at the point of enrollment, to cover tuition and fees. <https://www.durhamtech.edu/promise>

EXPLANATION OF ACTUALS AND TRENDS





Description

The Other Education business area is comprised of three distinct fund centers that help track items related to education in Durham County. These fund centers are: Early Childhood, Pre-K, and New Non-Profits. The first table below reflects the expenditures and revenues for the entire business area, while the following sections display and highlight the more specific intention of each fund center.

Other Education Business Area Budget

Category	FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Original	FY 2024-25 Estimate	FY 2025-26 Requested	FY 2025-26 Approved	% Change Orig. v. Appr.
Expenditure	\$8,976,079	\$9,488,185	\$9,544,488	\$10,816,026	\$9,679,072	2.01%
Personnel	\$61,245	\$107,304	\$106,498	\$114,576	\$114,576	6.78%
Operating	\$8,914,834	\$9,380,881	\$9,437,990	\$10,701,450	\$9,564,496	1.96%

Early Childhood Fund Center

Description

Durham County is committed to ensuring that its youngest residents get a strong start in life. Through investments across the areas of early childhood education, maternal and infant health, and other family supports for families with young children birth to eight, Durham County is building a strong foundation for families to thrive. Systems-level investments in the Early Childhood fund center include over five million dollars a year for Durham PreK, Durham’s universal pre-k program that provides high-quality early childhood education to 4-year-olds, and funding toward the development and implementation of a comprehensive Durham County Early Childhood Action Plan, inspired by North Carolina’s state-level plan. This fund center also includes allocations that support early literacy initiatives, childcare navigation support, and diaper provision.

Early Childhood Budget

Category	FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Original	FY 2024-25 Estimate	FY 2025-26 Requested	FY 2025-26 Approved	% Change Orig. v. Appr.
Expenditure	\$377,299	\$388,606	\$423,219	\$659,493	\$659,493	69.71%
Personnel	\$61,245	\$107,304	\$106,498	\$114,576	\$114,576	6.78%
Operating	\$316,053	\$281,302	\$316,721	\$544,917	\$544,917	93.71%

**Operating increases include a reallocation of Reach Out and Read contracted dollars from the Other Education nonprofit fund center to the Early Childhood budget for ease of management for the Early Childhood Coordinator. Remaining contracted dollars increases is rollover funding for the Early Childhood Action Plan implementation phase.*

Pre-K Fund Center

Description

Traditional funding of education nonprofit agencies by Durham County has centered on support of various groups and agencies that directly enhance the goal of quality education opportunities for Durham County children. However, starting in FY 2017-18, the Board of County Commissioners added to this area funding support for enhanced Pre-K services, including Pre-K expansion at Whitted School. First year funding was set at \$1.5 million for expanded Pre-K services specifically at Whitted School, and that level of support is maintained.

Durham County continues to build its commitment to universal access to high quality Pre-K. Building on the \$1.5 million per year for eight new Pre-K classrooms in the renovated Whitted School building, the County added \$2.15 million in FY 2018-19 to bring on Child Care Services Association to manage Durham’s Pre-K expansion, including community engagement, teacher pipeline improvement and expansion, contracting and technical assistance for providers, and other work. In FY 2018-19, 18 classrooms entered the technical assistance pipeline and five new (conversion) Pre-K classrooms opened in March 2019. In FY 2019-20, an additional \$1.6 million funded roughly a dozen more classrooms entering the technical assistance pipeline and the opening of eight new Pre-K classrooms in the fall.

Fiscal Year	Pre-K Expansion Dollars	Total Annual Pre-k Budget
FY 2017-18	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
FY 2018-19	\$2,150,000	\$3,650,000
FY 2019-20	\$1,600,000	\$5,250,000
FY 2020-21	\$164,915	\$5,414,915
FY 2021-22	\$713,602	\$6,128,517
FY 2022-23	\$951,200	\$7,079,717
FY 2023-24	\$847,364	\$7,927,081
FY 2024-25	\$965,448	\$8,892,529
FY 2025-26	\$0	\$8,892,529

The FY 2019-20 expansion funded several critical aspects of this important, community-driven education. The Child Care Services Association has been chosen as the agent of Durham County in managing Pre-K expansion, a task to include community engagement, teacher pipeline improvement and expansion, contracting and technical assistance for providers, and other work. Funding also supported the instructional costs of an estimated six new Pre-K classrooms slated to start in January 2019 as well as conversion costs for 14 existing Pre-K classrooms (both public and private) slated to transition to the “Durham Pre-K” model. FY 2022-23 funding supported expansion of Durham Pre-K by serving an additional 54-100 children with high-quality Pre-K and 40 children with wrap-around care. FY 2023-24 additional funding supports up to an additional 100 available seats. Additional Pre-K support from Article 46 Sales Tax (per changes in BOCC policy related to this sales tax) is added in the amount of \$275,594. FY 2024-25 provides funding to increase Pre-K seats by 45-70 additional seats.

Pre-K Budget

Category	FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Original	FY 2024-25 Estimate	FY 2025-26 Requested	FY 2025-26 Approved	% Change Orig. v. Appr.
Expenditure	\$8,377,480	\$8,892,529	\$8,894,219	\$10,020,133	\$8,892,529	0.00%
Operating	\$8,377,480	\$8,892,529	\$8,894,219	\$10,020,133	\$8,892,529	0.00%
Net County Cost	\$8,377,480	\$8,892,529	\$8,894,219	\$10,020,133	\$8,892,529	0.00%

Overall County funding options are limited for FY 2025-26 necessitating a pause on increased funding for Pre-K support. Additional discussion needs to occur between the County, private Pre-K providers, and DPS about seats, Pre-K standards, and span of control related to Pre-K’s continued expansion. While the overall Pre-K budget looks like a decrease, in reality it reflects a decrease in Article 46 revenue that has been designated for Pre-K funding. FY 2023-24 Article 46 collections were slightly under-collected, making that “extra” revenue not available for FY 2025-26 use.

Nonprofit Fund Center

Description

FY 2025-26 funding supports annual funding of \$127,050 for Bull City Community Schools

Category	FY 2023-24 Actuals	FY 2024-25 Original	FY 2024-25 Estimate	FY 2025-26 Requested	FY 2025-26 Approved	% Change Orig. v. Appr.
Expenditure	\$221,300	\$207,050	\$227,050	\$136,400	\$127,050	-38.64%
Operating	\$221,300	\$207,050	\$227,050	\$136,400	\$127,050	-38.64%
Net County Cost	\$221,300	\$207,050	\$227,050	\$136,400	\$127,050	-38.64%