BUDGET BASICS

WHAT IS THE STATE MANDATED TO FUND FOR PUBLIC EDUCATION?

N.C. General Statue 115C-408 (b):

...to provide from
State revenue sources
the *instructional expenses*
for current operations
of the public school system
as defined in the
standard course of study.

Source: N.C. General Statute 115C-408

The State is mandated to fund the instructional expenses as defined by the standard course of study in North Carolina.

North Carolina's Constitution
Article IX

Section 2:
...General Assembly shall provide through taxation and otherwise for a general and uniform system of free public schools.... Wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students.

Source: N.C. State Constitution, Article IX

The NC Constitution requires that the General Assembly provide a general and uniform system of free public schools.

What are Local Governments Mandated to Fund?

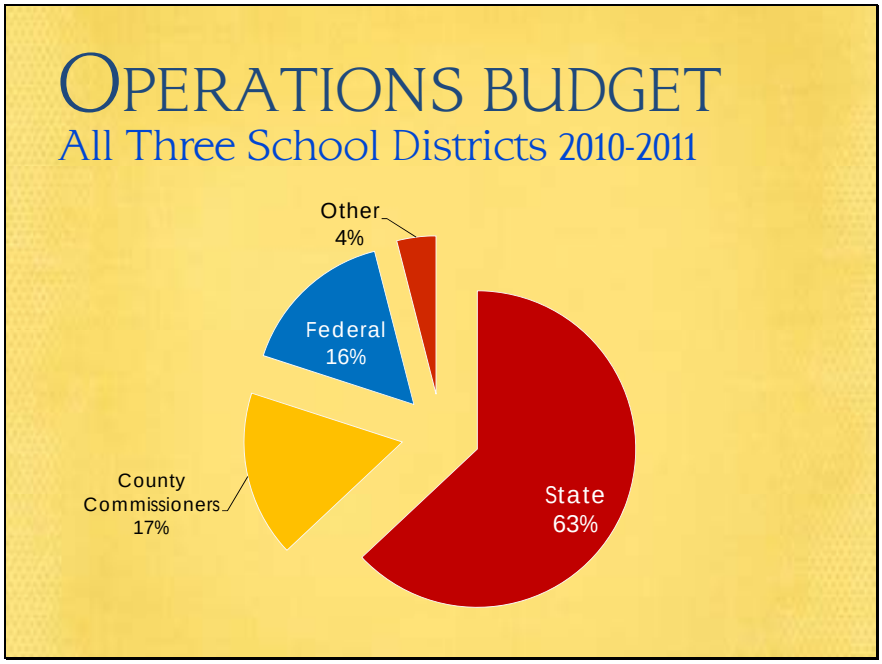
N.C. General Statute 115C-408(b):
...the *facilities requirements* for a public education system will be met by county governments.

Source: N.C. General Statute 115C-408

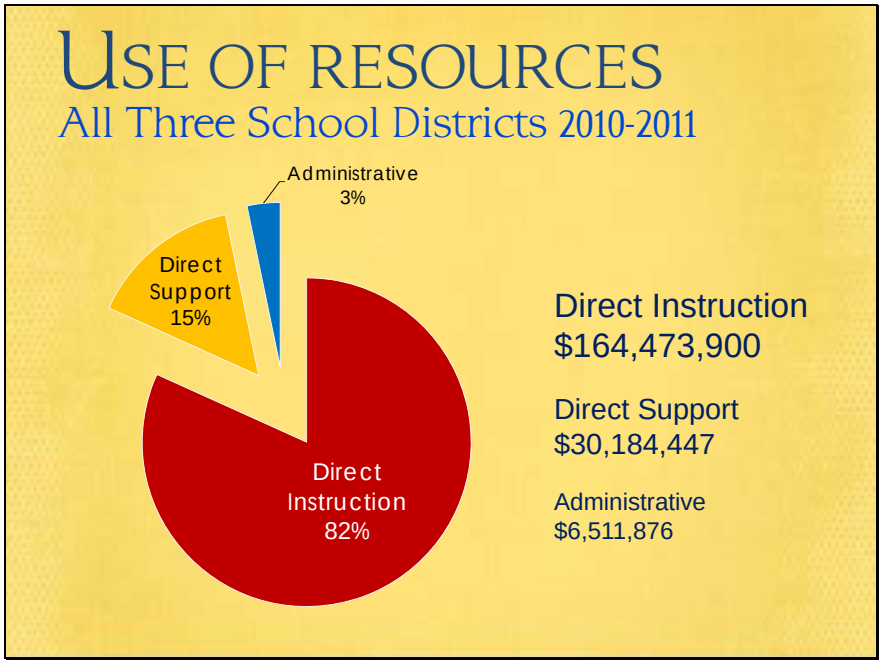
Local Governments are required to fund the facilities within the county school district(s).

North Carolina ranks 45th in the nation in per-pupil spending.

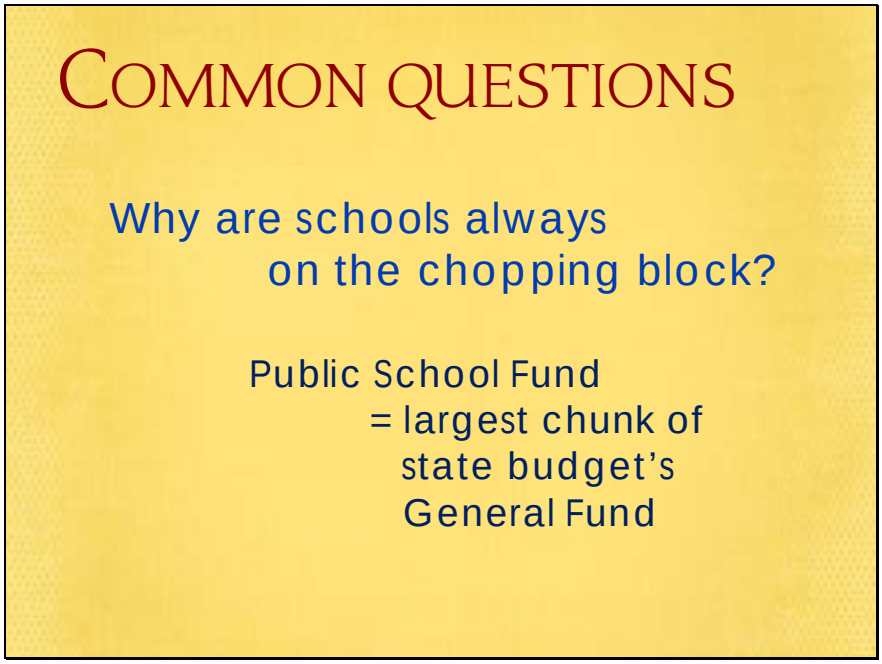
With the upcoming year's budget cuts, we are likely to rank even lower in per-pupil spending.



The majority of our funding comes from the State. The rest of the budget is divided between local and federal funding (with a small percentage from other funding sources).



The majority of funding resources are spent on direct instruction and direct support. A small percentage is spent on administrative purposes.



Due to the fact that the largest part of the State's General Fund is spent on Public Education, it is impossible to cut from the State budget without affecting the public school funds.

Common questions

Won't lottery funds help?

3.9% of the budget

Designated for specific purposes

- K-3 teachers
- More at Four
- School construction
- Scholarships

Lottery funds make up a very small percentage of the public school budget. Additionally, these funds are designated for specific purposes, including K-3 teachers, More at Four, school construction, and scholarships.

Common questions

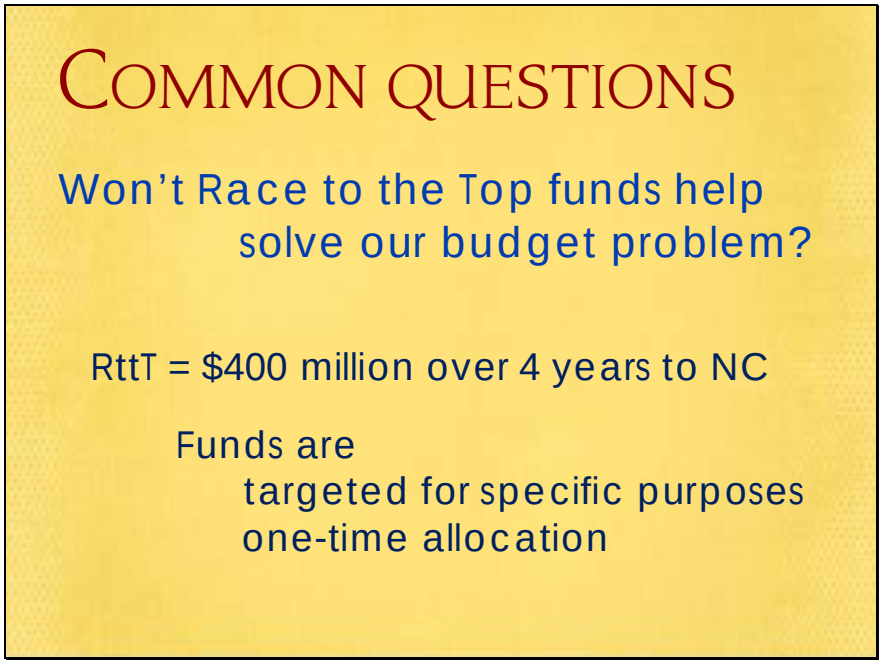
Why not cut out testing?

Save $11 million

...far short of needed cuts

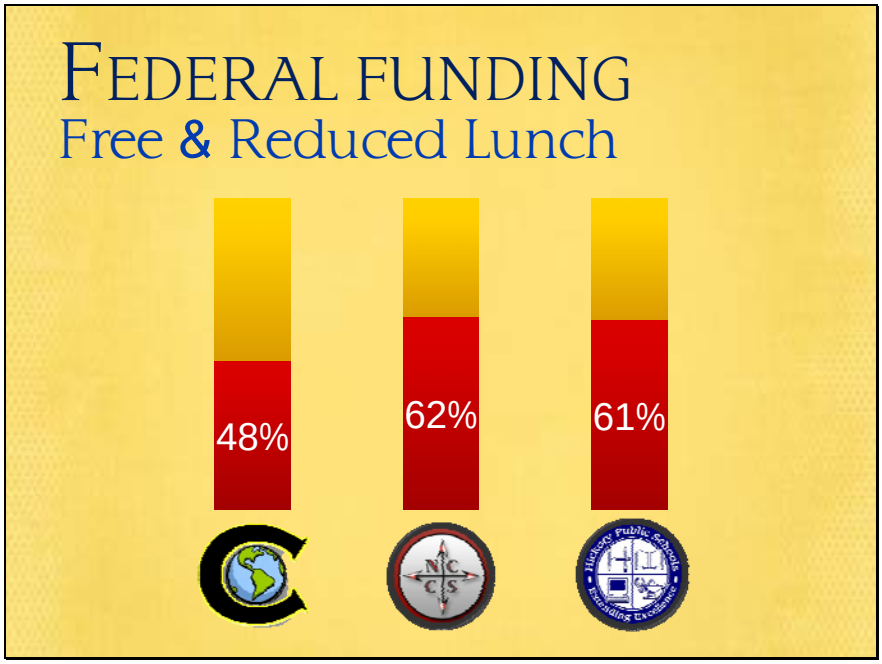
Some testing required under federal / state laws

Cutting out testing in North Carolina would only save $11 million, which is far short of the needed cuts. It is also important to note that some testing is required by federal and state laws. Eliminating these tests would also eliminate our eligibility to receive some federal and state funding.



Race to the Top funds include $400 million over four years to North Carolina schools districts. These funds are targeted for specific purposes and will only be a one-time allocation.

Slide 12



Much of federal funding is allocated based on the free and reduced lunch population within a school district. Currently, the percentage of students in each Catawba County district who receive free and reduced lunch are: Catawba County Schools: 48%, Newton-Conover City Schools: 62%, and Hickory Public Schools: 61%.

Federal funding
Exceptional Children

12% 12.1% 11.5%

Federal funding is also allocated based on the Exceptional Children population within a school district. Currently, the percentage of Exceptional Children in each Catawba County district are: Catawba County Schools: 12%, Netwon-Conover City Schools: 12.1%, and Hickory Public Schools: 11.5%.

State funding

Budgeted by line item

Teachers
Teacher Assistants
Instructional Supplies
Assistant Principals
Non-instructional Support

State funding is allocated by line item. For example, there are line items for teachers, teacher assistants, instructional supplies, assistant principals, and non-instructional support.

STATE FUNDING

In addition to
line item cuts,
we have returned money,
actual dollars,
to the state
for the past 3 years.

School districts have been required to revert money back to the state for the past three years.

HISTORICAL CUTS
Catawba County Schools

2009-10

- 43.5 classroom teachers
- 3 Central Office positions
- 69 Teacher assistants
- 4 Custodians
- Reduced school nurses
- Eliminated summer school

Resources and positions cut within the 2009-2010 budget in Catawba County Schools.

HISTORICAL CUTS
Catawba County Schools

2010-11

- 1 Central Office position
- 7.5% reduction in instructional materials
- 12.5% reduction in professional development
- 5% reduction in technology
- Reduced Transportation allotments

Resources and positions cut within the 2010-2011 budget in Catawba County Schools.

PROJECTED CUTS
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Line Item & Position Cuts	
Central Office	$ 175,128
Classroom Materials	$ 448,052
Textbooks	$ 903,530
Non-Instructional Support	$ 789,086
Driver's Education	$ 74,475
Mentors, Staff Dev., Drop-out Grants	$ 200,000
Assistant Principals	$ 254,880
Instructional Support	$ 245,952
Total	**$ 3,091,103**

Catawba County Schools: Projected line item and position cuts by the General Assembly.

HISTORICAL CUTS
Hickory Public Schools

2009-10

- 14 Classroom Teachers
- 2 Assistant Principals
- 5 Teacher Assistants
- 2 Custodians
- 1 District-wide mentor
- 2 Maintenance staff
- 1 District-wide support

Resources and positions cut within the 2009-2010 budget in Hickory Public Schools.

HISTORICAL CUTS
Hickory Public Schools

2010-2011

- 2 Classroom Teachers
- 5 Teacher Assistants
- 1 District-Wide position
- 5 Custodians

Resources and positions cut within the 2010-2011 budget in Hickory Public Schools.

PROJECTED CUTS
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Line Item & Position Cuts	
Central Office	$ 93,969
Classroom Materials	$ 142,736
Textbooks	$ 275,781
Non-Instructional Support	$ 170,204
Driver's Education	$ 11,020
Mentors, Staff Dev., Drop-out Grants	$ 150,000
Assistant Principals	$ 95,580
Instructional Support	$ 61,488
Total	**$ 1,000,778**

Hickory Public Schools: Projected line item and position cuts by the General Assembly.

HISTORICAL CUTS
Newton-Conover City Schools

2009-2010

12 Classroom Teachers
2 Teacher Assistants
3 Central Office Staff
2 School Administrators

Resources and positions cut within the 2009-2010 budget in Newton-Conover City Schools.

Historical cuts
Newton-Conover City Schools

2010-2011

4 Classroom Teachers
3 Teacher Assistants
1 Central Office Staff
1 School Administrators

Resources and positions cut within the 2010-2011 budget in Newton-Conover City Schools.

Projected cuts
by the General Assembly

Line Item & Position Cuts	
Central Office	$ 85,926
Classroom Materials	$ 97,780
Textbooks	$ 188,753
Non-Instructional Support	$ 116,493
Driver's Education	$ 4,315
Mentors, Staff Dev., Drop-out Grants	$ 75,000
Assistant Principals	$ 63,720
Instructional Support	$ 61,488
Total	**$ 693,475**

Newton-Conover City Schools: Projected line item and position cuts by the General Assembly.

PROJECTED CUTS
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Central Office	$ 355,023
Classroom Materials	$ 688,568
Textbooks	$ 1,368,064
Non-Instructional Support	$ 1,075,783
Driver's Education	$ 89,810
Mentors, Staff Dev., Drop-out Grants	$ 425,000
Assistant Principals	$ 414,174
Instructional Support	$ 368,922
Total	**$ 4,785,356**

Total line item and position projected cuts by the General Assembly for all three Catawba County school districts.

DISCRETIONARY CUTS
BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

$ 5,001,442

$ 1,244,712

$ 851,919

Total $ 7,098,073

In addition to line item and position cuts, the State will require districts to further cut budgets by a certain amount. Districts are left to decide where these cuts should be made, which is very difficult considering deep cuts have already been made in so many areas. This coming year, discretionary cuts for the three school districts will total over seven million dollars.

THE CLIFF YEAR?

Federal Stimulus dollars
end this year

Districts have been told for a couple of years now that the “cliff year” (when Federal Stimulus dollars end) is coming and that preparations need to made in anticipation for this. Fortunately, all three school districts have prepared by saving money to cushion the deep cuts that will have to be made this coming year. However, this cushion will only soften the blow and will be short-lived if the budget is not funded more adequately next year.

2011-12 PROJECTED CUTS BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Line Item & Position Cuts	$ 4,875,356
Discretionary Cuts	$ 7,098,073
Total	**$ 11,883,429**

With the line item and position cuts added to the required discretionary cuts that districts will have to make, our three county school systems are looking at funding cuts that total almost $12 million.

Line Item, Position, & Discretionary Cuts Total	$ 11,883,429
Reduced Class Size Gr. 1-3 (by 1 student)	-$ 960,172
Total Cuts	**$ 10,923,257**

You may hear that the State is not cutting teacher and teacher assistants from the classrooms. This statement is misleading, as there is no way to cut funding so deeply without affecting the number of teachers and assistants in our schools. The State is reducing class size by one student in Grades 1-3 for the coming year. While this increases the number of teachers allotted within each school system, it is important to realize that districts must use this allotment for specialty teachers (PE, Art, Music, etc.) as well. The reduced class size will offset some of the budget cuts, but not by much. The $960, 172 brings the total cuts to just under $11 million.

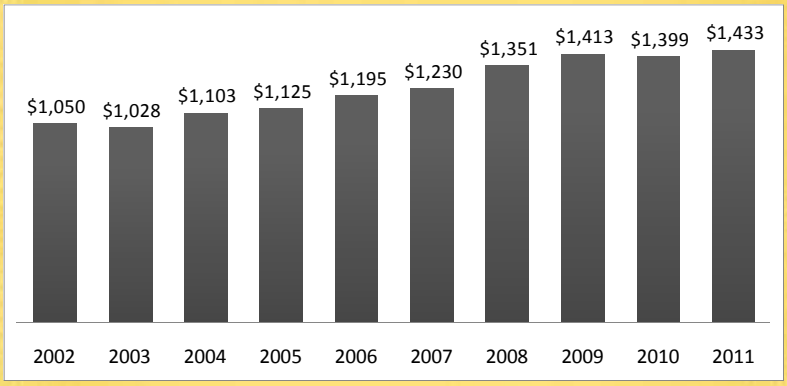
PER PUPIL ALLOCATION

Remains the same for 2011-2012

Current PPA	=	$1,433
Students	=	24,516
Total	=	$35,131,428

Thankfully, Catawba County Commissioners have funded the per-pupil allocation at the same dollar amount as last year, for a total of $35,131,428.

CATAWBA COUNTY
PER PUPIL ALLOCATION



***County reduced 2009-2010 by 2% in the June 2010 allocation.**
The 2% reduction was added back to the 2010-2011 allocation.

This chart shows the per-pupil allocation trend from 2002-2011.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Be a voice!
Contact your legislators.

Advocate for our children.

Contact your legislators.

Senator Austin Allran
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Representative Mark Hilton,
Co-Chair Appropriations
Subcommittee on Education
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Representative Mark Hollo
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Representative Mitchell Setzer
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