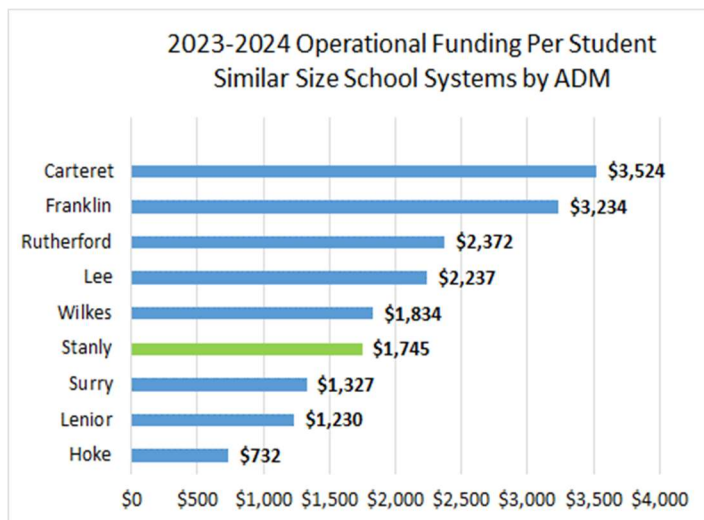
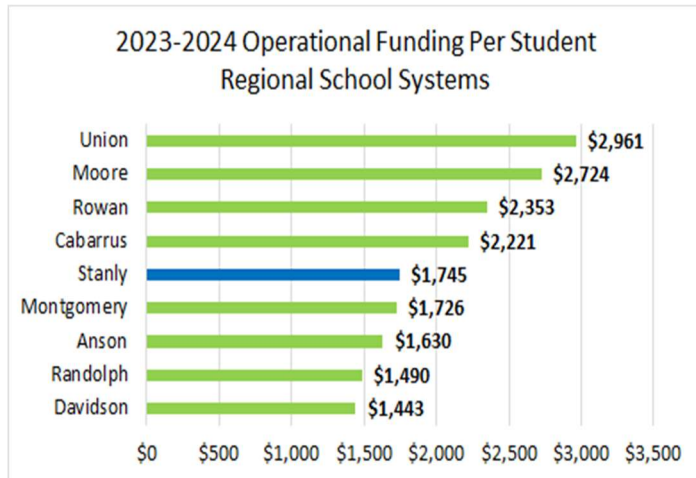


May 31, 2024

Education Funding Comparison

Each year the County is asked to provide additional operational and capital funding support to the local school system. Balancing these requested increases with available growth revenue and other budgetary needs can be challenging.

Below please find a comparison of the County’s operational funding commitment per student based on the most recent ADM figures from NC DPI in FY 2023-2024 (current school year) as compared to neighboring and similar size school districts.



Broadband CAB Grant Update

Stanly County will be participating in the State’s collaborative CAB (Completing Access to Broadband) grant project.

The State (NC DIT - Office of Broadband) is the lead agency on this grant project, but the County will assist in the vendor evaluation process and provide the required \$1.5 million match towards the grant project.

The County’s \$1.5 million match will be made with American Rescue Plan grant funding specifically set aside for broadband initiatives.

Vendor responses to the County’s CAB grant scope of work were due by close of business on Tuesday, May 28. It is my understanding a total of 3 vendors submitted proposals in response to the published scope of work.

The evaluation process will begin on June 11 and conclude on June 19. The County has two (2) representatives on the evaluation committee and NC DIT will have three (3) members. The County Manager and IT Director will represent the County. Per NC DIT, the County’s evaluation team members had to be County staff.

Vendor proposals to the CAB grant had to specifically address areas designated as unserved in the community (less than 25/3 Mbps download/upload speeds).

Eligible projects must provide these unserved areas with broadband service that will reliably meet or exceed symmetrical 100 Mbps download and upload speeds by December 31, 2026.

County staff have worked closely with our broadband mapping consultants to verify the unserved areas designated by NC DIT.

Staff will provide an additional CAB grant update after the evaluation team has selected a vendor and NC DIT moves forward with the award and contracting process.