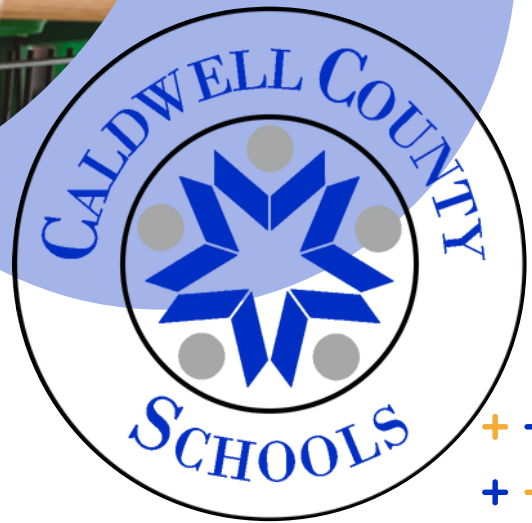




# Annual Report

**2023**



**Charting the Future:**

A vision of success

**CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS**

# Table Of

# Contents

- 1 Charting the Future ++  
++
- 2 Vision & Mission ++  
++
- 3 Student Review
- 4 Highlights In 2023
- 5 Fiscal Management Review
- 6 School Review
- 7 Graduate Review
- 8 A Vision of Success

# Charting the Future

In the wake of the unprecedented challenges posed by COVID-19, public education has faced one of its most formidable tests. School closures, the shift away from in-person learning, heightened concerns for mental health, learning setbacks, and health-related anxieties have marked this tumultuous period. However, Caldwell County Schools is now charting new opportunities for students, and there is cause for optimism and celebration. The learning environment offers more creative options and purposeful resources, and students have responded by demonstrating remarkable resilience and a keen desire to engage and thrive within the school community.



With innovative teaching strategies that seamlessly integrate technology, whether in-person or online, student learning has exhibited notable advancements. This is evidenced by significant improvements in math and reading proficiency at the individual and school-wide levels. Across national, statewide, and local metrics, test scores continue climbing upward after the COVID-19 collapse. Educators and support staff are firmly committed to evaluating students' needs and providing optimal educational tools and opportunities for successful learning outcomes.

Additionally, engagement in extracurricular activities such as sports, clubs, and competitions is witnessing a robust resurgence, with many students participating. The school district encourages student involvement while also ensuring that students have the necessary resources available for a balanced, healthy, emotional, and social experience. New initiatives to care for students and their families have been introduced. School hallways and classrooms buzz with vibrant and enthusiastic social and academic interaction.

Although similar to the familiar sounds of previous years, the education landscape has transformed into a richer tapestry of resources and a more concerted focus on student well-being and mental health. Student learning has advanced through technology, taught by qualified and caring educators. Caldwell County Schools is charting a bright, prosperous future for all its students.

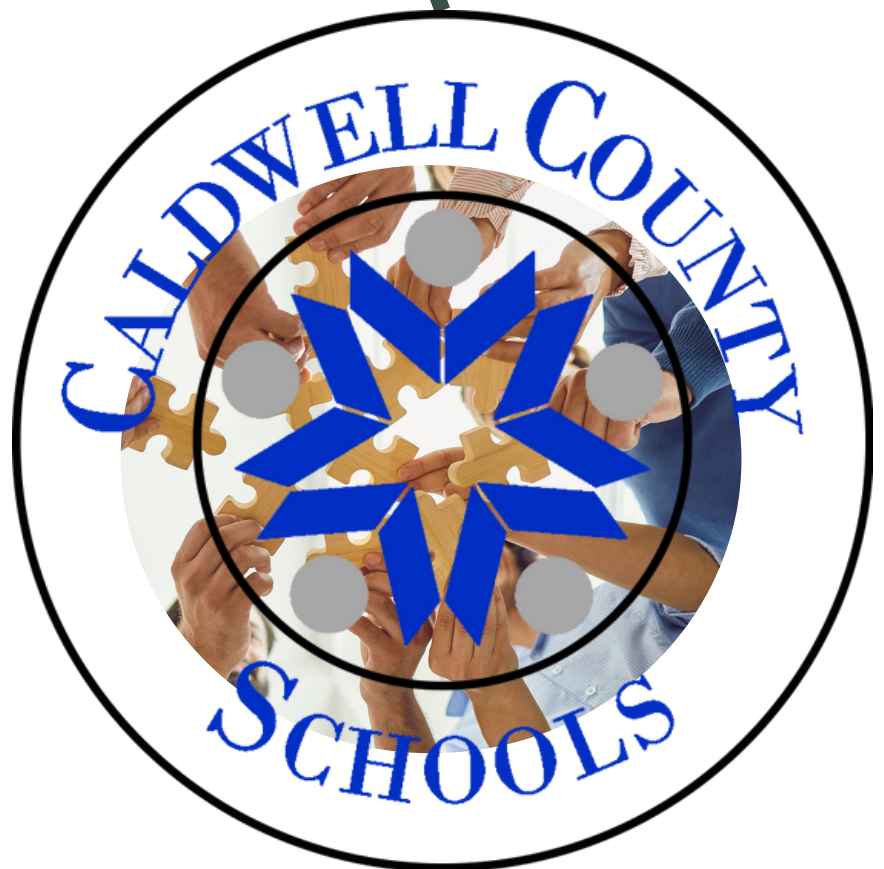
# Vision & Mission

## Vision

Caldwell County Schools will provide diverse opportunities for all students to achieve success now and in the future.

## Mission

Challenging  
Children for  
Success





# Student Review



01. Student Enrollment: 10,376

02. Pre-K Enrollment: 405

03. Ethnicity: 73.21% White; 14.5% Hispanic;  
5.96% Multi-racial; 5.34% Black, & ~1%Asian

04. Academically & Intellectually Gifted: 13.57%

05. Exceptional Children: 15.47%

# Highlights In 2023



## 1 Free Breakfast & Lunch Meals

Effective 8-23-23, all students became eligible for free breakfast and lunch meals through 2027 as part of a key provision in the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act.

## 2 Awarded NC's First EV Activity Bus & 310K in Technology

The Transportation Department received a 72-passenger electric bus, made possible through grant funding from the Department of Environmental Quality. The school district was awarded more than 310 million in grant funding for technology, including digital learning, robotics, STEM, and Lego League STEM Challenges.



3

Superintendent Dr. Don Phipps was awarded North Carolina Superintendent of the Year. Darrell Pennell, Chairman of the Board of Education, was elected Chairman of the North Carolina School Boards Association.

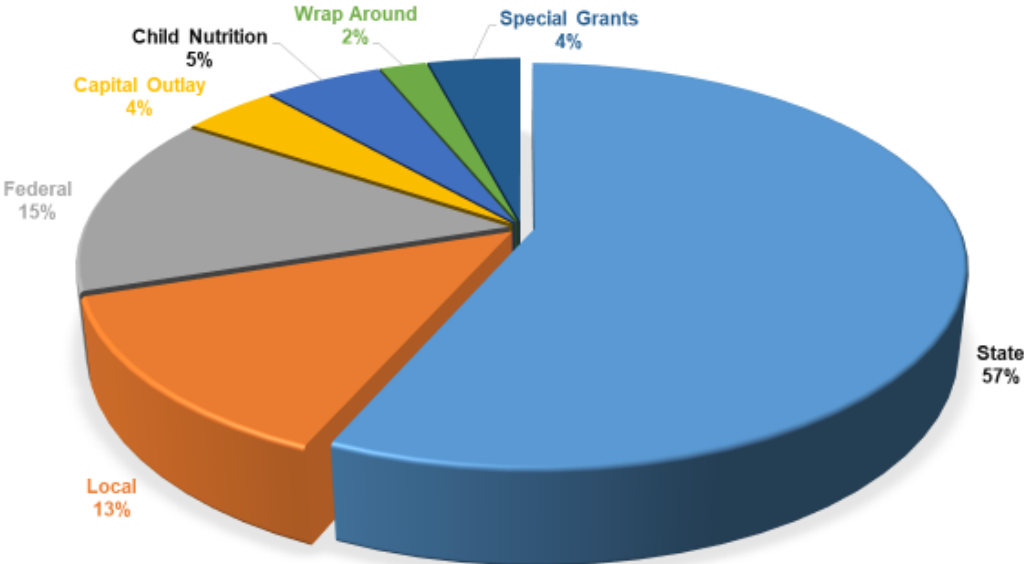
# Fiscal Management Review



## Funding Sources

- State: \$88,768,307.41 (57%)
- Local: \$20,882,955.00 (13%)
- Federal: \$22,639,838.91 (14%)
- Capital: \$6,556,526.00 (4%)
- Child Nutrition: \$8,192,778.00 (5%)
- Wrap Around Program: \$3,281,600.00
- Special Grants: \$6,455,453.03

Funding Sources 2023-2024 Budget



# School Review



## Elementary (K-5)

- Baton
- Davenport A+
- Dudley Shoals
- Gamewell
- Granite Falls
- Hudson
- Lower Creek
- Sawmills
- Valmead
- Whitnel

## K-8 Schools

- Collettsville
- Happy Valley
- Kings Creek

## Middle (6-8)

- Gamewell
- Granite Falls
- Hudson
- William Lenoir

## High Schools



### Comprehensive

- Hibriten
- South Caldwell
- West Caldwell

### Cooperative and Innovative

- Caldwell Applied Sciences Academy
- Caldwell Early College

## Alternative

- Horizons (K-5)
- Gateway (6-12)

## Online

- Caldwell Online Academy (4-12)

Education Center  
Freedman Center  
Transportation Department  
Maintenance Department

**25**  
Schools



# Graduate Review Class of 2023



Scholarships

**\$18.44**  
Million



Graduation Rate

**84.2%**  
4-Year



Graduation  
Rate per High School

**100%**

Caldwell Early College & Caldwell  
Applied Sciences Academy



College Credits  
Earned

**14,170**

Free Tuition & Books



# Annual Report 2023

Caldwell County Schools  
is committed to  
establishing clear goals  
and implementing  
strategic actions to  
enhance educational  
success.



## Charting the Future: CALDWELL COUNTY SCHOOLS