

The Challenge of Returning to K-12 Public School

COVID-19 and School Support Personnel in North Carolina

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Key Findings

1. A new index reveals that North Carolina K-12 Public Schools do not have the support personnel to keep students healthy.
2. Generally, the districts which are experiencing the greatest concentration of COVID-19 cases (per 100,000) are the least prepared to support student needs.

School Support Personnel

- School support personnel provide care for K-12 students.
 - Nurses support physical health.
 - Guidance counselors support mental health.
 - School psychologists support behavioral/developmental health.
- Personnel are mostly supported through state funding, with some local or national supplements.

Creating School Support Personnel Support Index

- New measure is a **Support Index**.
- Data on school nurses, school counselors, and school psychologists provides a rough snapshot of districts' ability to support students during the upcoming school year.
- North Carolina K-12 Public Schools fail to meet nationally recommended ratios for support personnel.

Support Personnel

- The nationally recommended ratio for school nurses is **750 students to 1 school nurse**. For daily care, the recommendation is 250 students to 1 school nurse.
 - **54%** of county LEAs* fail to meet the nationally recommended ratio for school nurses.
 - **0%** of county LEAs* fail to meet the ratio for daily health services.
- The nationally recommended ratio for guidance counselors is **250 students to 1 counselor**.
 - **91%** of county LEAs* fail to meet the nationally recommended ratio for guidance counselors.
- The nationally recommended ratio for school psychologists is **500 students to 1 school psychologist**.
 - **98%** of county LEAs* fail to meet the nationally recommended ratio for school psychologists.

*County LEAs refer to the North Carolina LEAs that follow county boundaries. These figures omit city school districts.

Support Personnel

- Even more, we know that the support personnel who are currently in schools are overwhelmingly white.
 - North Carolina psychologists are 85.0% white, 10.6% are Black, 4.4% other.
 - North Carolina guidance counselors are 66.4% white, 29.3% are Black, 4.2% other.

Index Meaning

Minimum
1.5



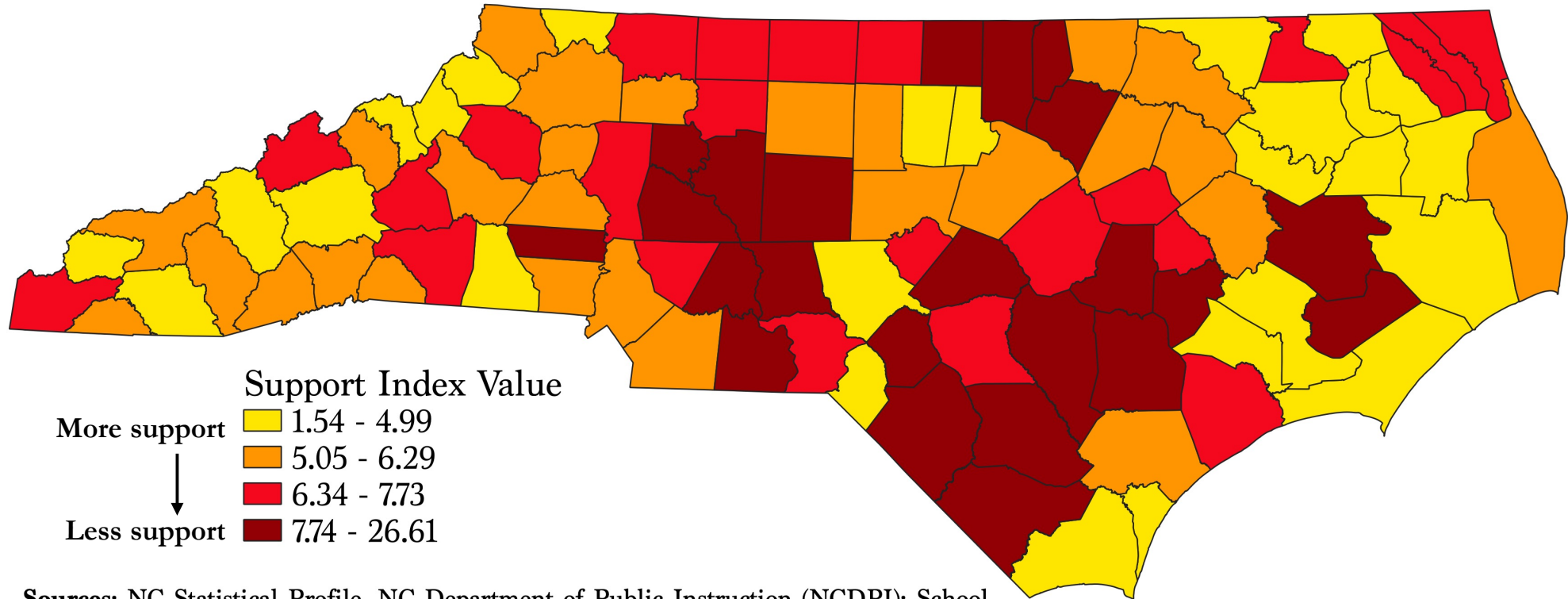
Maximum
26.6

More personnel support



Less personnel support

NC County School Support Index



Sources: NC Statistical Profile, NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI); School Psychologist/School Counseling Position Study, NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI); Student to Nurse Ratios, NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS); COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard, NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Notes: The index creates a composite score from three support personnel ratios (psychologists, guidance counselors, and nurses) in relation to their respective national recommended ratios. It aims to provide a holistic understanding of personnel support when considering school reopening and resource allocation.

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Student Support in the Era of COVID-19

- As/if students return to school in 2020-21, they will have unique physical, mental, and behavioral health needs.
- Generally, the districts which are experiencing the greatest concentration of COVID-19 cases (per 100,000) are the least prepared to support student needs.

25 county-wide LEAs with the most COVID-19 cases per 100,000

COVID CASES PER 100,000 (7/7/20)	COUNTY LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)	SUPPORT INDEX	STUDENT : NURSE RATIO (750)	STUDENT : GUID RATIO (250)	STUDENT : PSYCH RATIO (500)
13,317	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	5.55	869.01	335.50	1,526.93
6,299	Wake County Schools	5.10	1,755.11	295.62	789.56
4,148	Durham Public Schools	4.82	1,175.04	280.66	1,064.87
3,423	Forsyth County Schools	7.66	1,418.25	352.88	2,181.10
3,208	Guilford County Schools	6.17	1,578.77	332.62	1,368.32
1,926	Wayne County Schools	7.98	895.20	386.93	2,617.50
1,789	Johnston County Schools	6.93	1,765.27	407.27	1,474.32
1,595	Duplin County Schools	26.60	736.95	400.21	12,006.25
1,551	Union County Schools	5.71	957.42	364.75	1,485.07
1,443	Gaston County Schools	5.95	1,177.94	326.83	1,536.10
1,402	Cumberland County Schools	7.11	1,648.15	346.59	1,763.75
1,399	Cabarrus County Schools	6.72	933.91	378.40	1,981.06
1,383	Public Schools of Robeson County	17.05	889.50	428.73	7,073.40
1,361	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	9.39	1,424.69	330.29	3,082.67
1,330	Randolph County Schools	7.83	1,437.45	366.07	2,222.57
1,309	Alamance-Burlington Schools	5.56	848.25	408.61	1,395.24
1,161	New Hanover County Schools	3.38	673.46	354.63	530.83
1,129	Burke County Schools	5.52	906.92	326.78	1,502.43
1,117	Sampson County Schools	18.57	884.66	424.27	NO PSYCH
1,114	Davidson County Schools	11.74	2,323.93	324.96	3,672.00
1,018	Catawba County Schools	6.29	1,042.27	355.43	1,737.67
999	Chatham County Schools	5.27	1,100.38	390.35	1,122.25
945	Iredell-Statesville Schools	7.54	1,357.84	324.04	2,214.36
875	Lee County Schools	7.73	998.67	376.46	2,447.00
850	Granville County Schools	17.52	1,443.08	299.88	NO PSYCH

LEGEND
YELLOW = QUARTER 1 (4.99-0.00) = MORE SUPPORT
ORANGE = QUARTER 2 (6.29-5.05)
RED = QUARTER 3 (7.73-6.34)
MAROON = QUARTER 4 (26.61-7.74) = LESS SUPPORT

Sources: NC Statistical Profile, NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI); *School Psychologist/ School Counseling Position Study*, NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI); *Student to Nurse Ratios*, NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS); *COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard*, NC Department of Health and Human Services.

25 county-wide LEAs with the fewest COVID-19 cases per 100,000

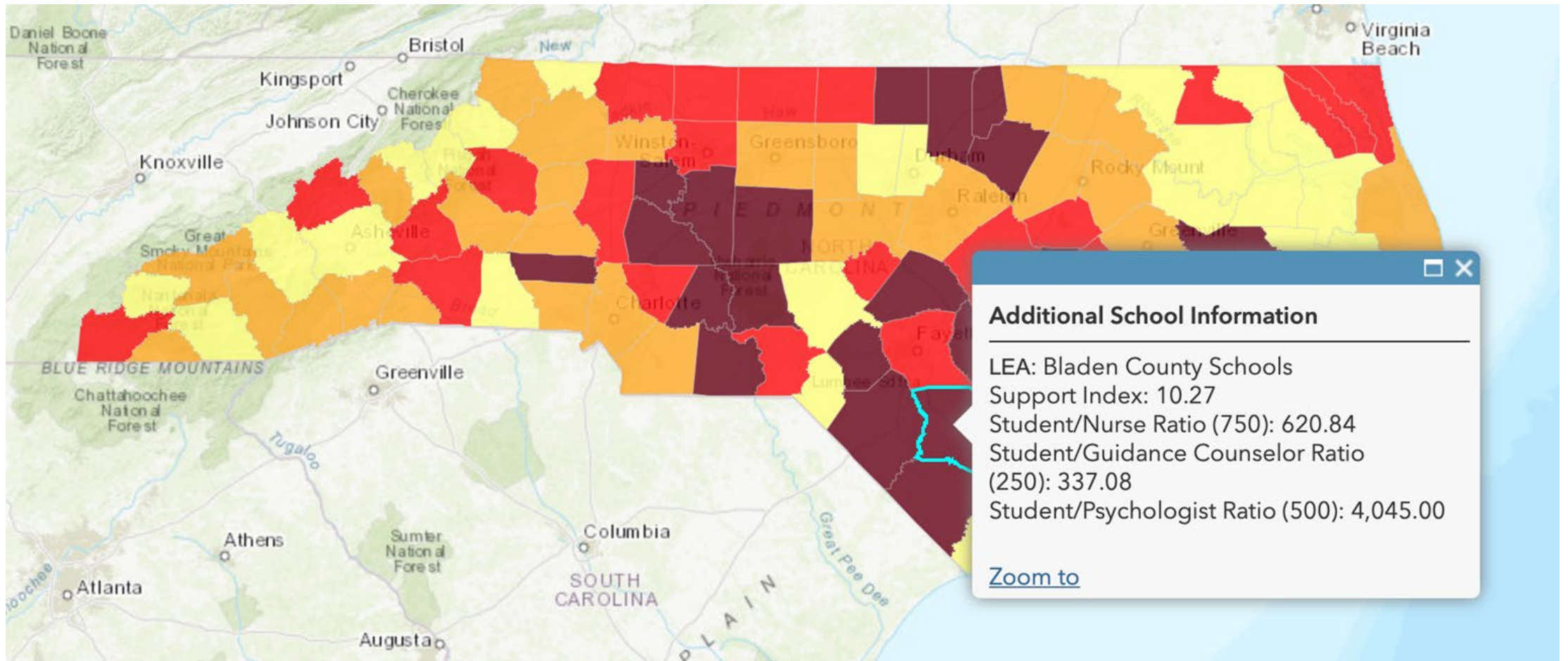
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107	Haywood County Schools	4.80	990.23	374.64	991.71
104	Watauga County Schools	4.38	645.86	305.87	1,147.00
89	Polk County Schools	5.83	523.75	243.33	2,078.00
77	Dare County Schools	5.47	509.10	326.94	1,743.67
61	Swain County Schools	5.94	498.94	376.80	1,884.00
60	Ashe County Schools	5.13	729.50	319.44	1,437.50
51	Mitchell County Schools	1.54	608.00	NO GUID	364.20
51	Yancey County Schools	6.01	460.71	337.17	2,023.00
48	Cherokee County Schools	7.56	491.15	197.35	3,059.00
41	Washington County Schools	3.68	423.67	194.67	1,168.00
39	Jones County Schools	3.68	500.50	251.00	1,004.00
37	Perquimans County Schools	3.14	534.67	404.75	404.75
37	Alleghany County Schools	4.89	660.00	334.00	1,336.00
37	Transylvania County Schools	5.30	1,636.00	366.67	825.00
33	Camden County Schools	6.35	615.33	460.50	1,842.00
30	Edenton/Chowan Schools	4.00	477.25	373.20	933.00
27	Gates County Schools	4.81	527.67	256.50	NO PSYCH
26	Pamlico County Schools	7.81	325.50	1,229.00	1,229.00
21	Currituck County Schools	6.62	461.59	462.22	2,080.00
20	Hyde County Schools	2.50	551.00	176.67	NO PSYCH
19	Tyrrell County Schools	2.71	620.00	188.67	NO PSYCH
18	Avery County Schools	3.80	634.67	268.86	941.00
15	Madison County Schools	6.44	549.50	316.86	2,218.00
11	Clay County Schools	5.05	640.50	419.33	1,258.00
10	Graham County Schools	4.05	539.00	277.75	1,111.00

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Interactive Map

See: <https://arcg.is/0GHfPD>



Data Sources

NC Department of Public Instruction, *Student Accounting Data* 2018-19, 2019-20.

[https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/demographics-and-finances/student-accounting-data#average-daily-membership-and-membership-last-day-by-lea-\(adm-&-mld\)](https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/district-operations/financial-and-business-services/demographics-and-finances/student-accounting-data#average-daily-membership-and-membership-last-day-by-lea-(adm-&-mld))

NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), *NC Statistical Profile*.

<http://apps.schools.nc.gov/ords/f?p=145:109:::NO:::>

NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), *School Psychologist/ School Counseling Position Study*. PDF Upon Request.

NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS), *Student to Nurse Ratios*. PDF Upon Request.

NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). *COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard*.

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>

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