

FY2022 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Buncombe County Schools	
Project Name:	Increasing Access to High-Quality and Inclusive Early Care and Education at Emma Elementary School	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2021 - September 30, 2021)
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2021 - December 31, 2021)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2022 - March 31, 2022)
	X	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide brief responses that fit within the box provided

Overall project updates:	The new Verner Central at Emma Elementary School center is finally open! The center officially welcomed children and families on Monday, April 25th, and we celebrated with a well-attended Chamber of Commerce ribbon cutting event on Thursday, April 28th. Currently, three classrooms have enrolled Early Head Start children, and one classroom is being used by the Early Head Start home-based program as a place to host small group events, home visits with families who cannot have the visit in their home, and to help prepare enrolled children for a transition into a classroom setting. The remaining six classrooms are not yet operational due to the ongoing, national teacher hiring crisis. We hope to have at least one more infant/toddler classroom and one preschool classroom staffed and open by the start of our 2022-23 program year on August 29th.
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	Verner's Language Justice Initiative is ongoing. We will soon begin our contract with the Language Preservation Project, which will include faculty training and both a teacher and a family language preservation collective. This work will start with a community design process, using input from Verner staff and families to design the training and collectives so that they meet the needs and desired results of the Verner community. Verner is also developing a partnerships with the local group De Mujer a Mujer to focus recruitment efforts for both faculty and families in the Emma Community and in the broader Spanish-speaking community in Asheville. We are continuing our work with Bruce Waller and J. Hackett of Kairos Carolina Digital. now with a Our next contract will focus on developing a more inclusive culture of belonging at Verner, which we hope will help us retain a more diverse workforce.
Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	With our intentional efforts to recruit and retain a more diverse workforce, Verner is also committed to providing training and professional development to all staff, especially educators, to ensure that we are providing high-quality early care and education services. New faculty hired to work at Verner Central will have at least a two-week orientation and training process, during which they will observe experienced Verner teachers prior to working in their own classrooms.

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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Please only include new data for the specific quarter				
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Percent completion of remaining site work, including paving	100%	90%	5%	5%		100%
Percent completion of building construction	100%	85%	5%	8%	2%	100%
Percent completion of outdoor learning environments	100%			50%	10%	60%
Number of classrooms opened)	10			0%	40%	0

Comments:

There are 4 classrooms open for students with 90% reached by August 2022.

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quarter 4 (April 1, 2022 - June 30, 2022)

Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)				Amount
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Personnel						\$ -
Travel/Training						\$ -
Technology						\$ -
Curriculum/Assessments						\$ -
Licensing/Dues						\$ -
Nutrition						\$ -
Transportation						\$ -
Supplies/Materials						\$ -
Building Maintenance/Repair	\$ 500,000		\$ 500,000			\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space	\$ 80,000		\$ 80,000			\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage						\$ -
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						\$ -
Other (Design/site prep, financing costs)	\$ 212,657		\$ 212,657			\$ -
Total	\$ 792,657	\$ -	\$ 792,657	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -

Comments:

The budget is fully expended. The BCS budget was fully expended in Quarter 2 via the transfer of funds to Verner. Verner continues to accrue expenses according to the project budget as indicated and, in the fall of 2022, needs to repay Dogwood Health Trust for the \$1,150,000 bridge loan they provided for this project