



United for Youth

Presented by

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Board of Commissioners Meeting

April 20, 2021



Request for Board Action

Vote to join the partnership and authorize the County Manager to sign the Asheville-Buncombe United for Youth Network Partnership Agreement



County Strategic Plan

- **Focus Area:** Educated & Capable Community
- **Vision:** A county where all residents thrive and demonstrate resilience throughout their lives
- **Goals:**
 - Increase kindergarten readiness
 - Increase third grade literacy rates especially among underperforming students
 - Improve college and career readiness



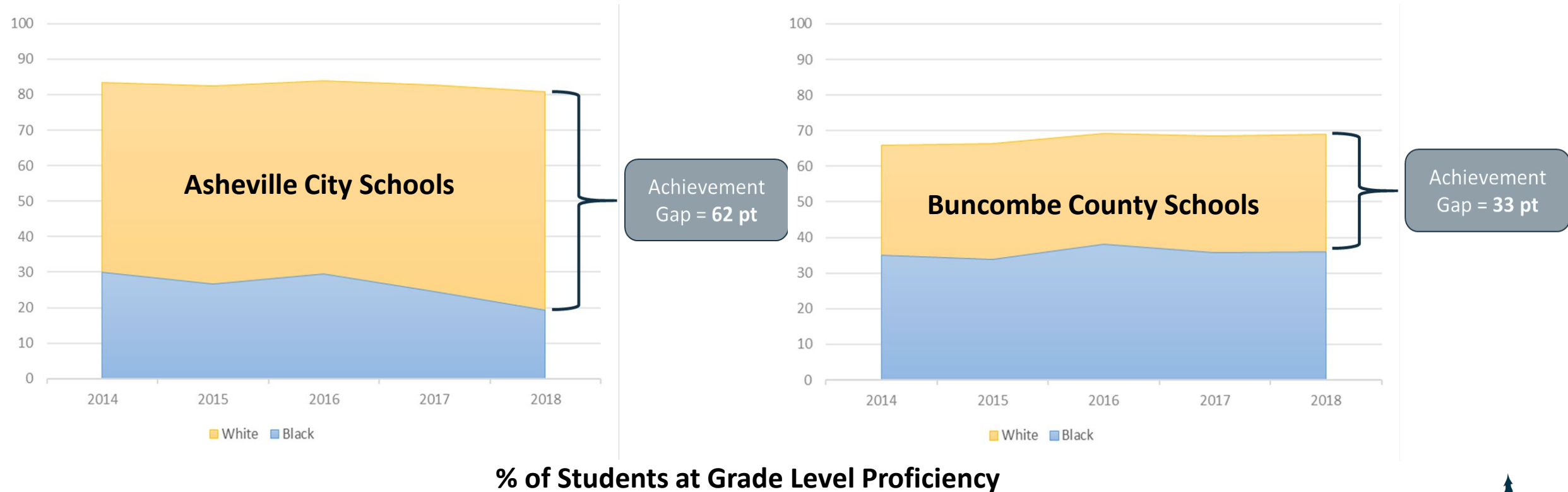
Educational Gaps

“Opportunity Gap” = The fact that the arbitrary circumstances in which people are born—such as their race, ethnicity, ZIP code, and socioeconomic status—determine their opportunities in life, rather than all people having the chance to achieve to the best of their potential. Opportunity gap refers to the gaps based on social system barriers.

“Achievement Gap” = Refers to the disparity in academic performance between groups of students. The achievement gap shows up in grades, standardized-test scores, course selection, dropout rates, and college-completion rates, among other success measures. It is most often used to describe the troubling performance gaps between African-American and Hispanic students, at the lower end of the performance scale, and their non-Hispanic white peers, and the similar academic disparity between students from low-income families and those who are better off.



Racial Achievement Gap



Beyond the Achievement Gap

- Achievement gaps are about more than only black and white
e.g. white vs. minority students, economically advantaged vs. non-economically advantaged
- Academic achievement is about more than only standard tests
e.g. coursework, growth, graduation rates
- Student success is about more than only academics
e.g. attendance, behavior, whole-child factors such as health, safety & social-emotional development



Why Now?

- While overall high school graduation rates have risen over the years, disparities are worsening
- Not all students are prepared with the skills and experience for postsecondary education and/or living wage jobs (college/career ready)
- COVID-19 pandemic has exposed long-standing inequities in education
- Buncombe 2025 strategic plan calls for action



Collective Action

Bringing people together

Students, parents, community members, organizations, institutions, funders, faith leaders, business community...

& Organizing around a common objective

How can we achieve an educated & capable community where all students succeed?



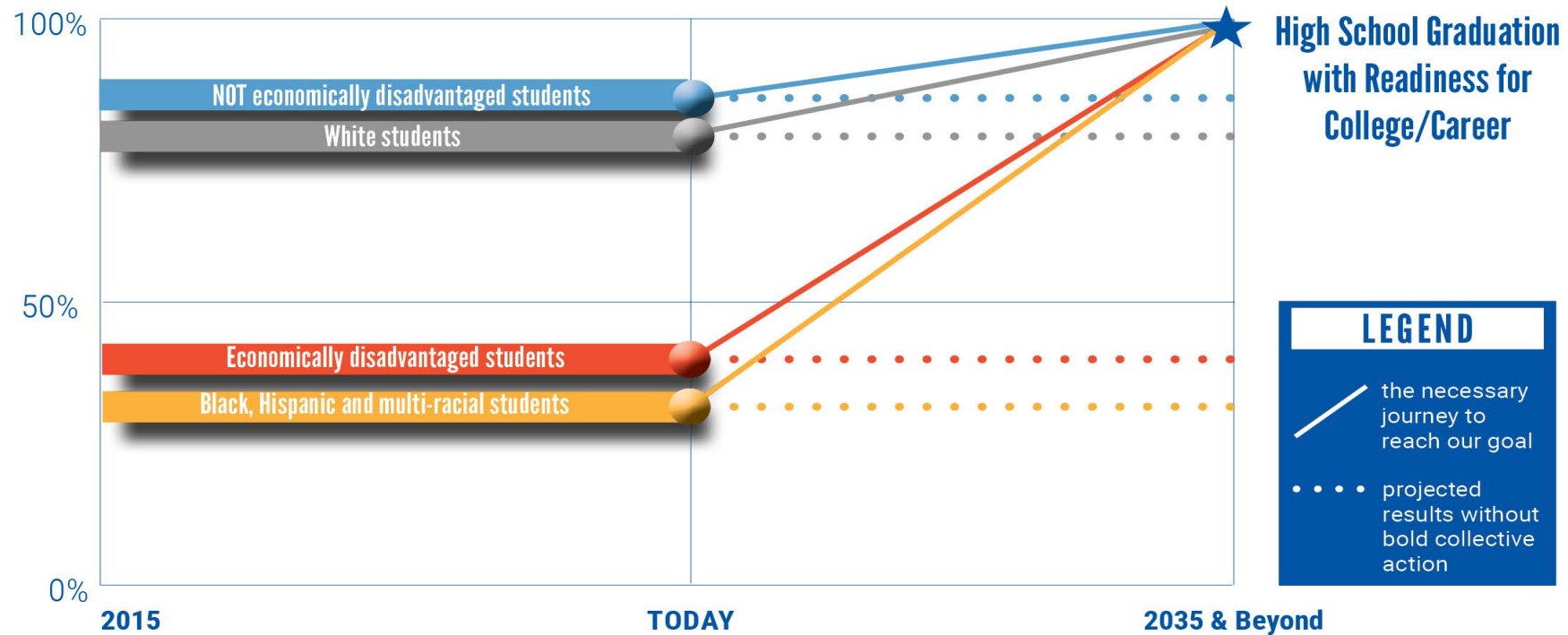
Asheville-Buncombe United for Youth Network

- Multigenerational, cross-sector, cradle to career partnership built on the foundational principle that **equity and educational excellence are inseparable**
- **Vision:** All children and youth learn, grow and thrive in a vibrant, healthy and connected community
- **Mission:** To actively identify and remove barriers to opportunity and co-create solutions that support student success



A Bold Community Goal

By 2035, all Asheville City and Buncombe County students graduate from high school ready and fully prepared to pursue their goals and dreams



Measuring Our Success

Social-determinant / Whole-child indicators:	Education Pathway / Cradle-to-Career indicators:	Early Warning and Response System dashboard:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Safety-Nutrition and food security-Housing stability-Family economic security-Physical, mental and behavioral health-Social-emotional development	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Kindergarten readiness-Grade-level reading and math-On-time high school graduation-Workforce ready-College ready-College completion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Attendance-Behavior-Core course grades-Academic assessments, including-EOGs-Social-emotional learning survey results



Alignment to Other Initiatives

- myFutureNC
- AVL. Greater.
- Buncombe 2025
- City of Asheville Strategic Priorities and Vision 2036
- North Carolina Board of Education 2025 Strategic Plan
- NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading
- North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan
- Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)



United for Youth Network

Theory of Action & Change:

- By committing to working more boldly as individual organizations and by aligning and leveraging community resources as a network, we will improve systems for equitable student learning and educational excellence.
- By committing to a results-based accountability framework, we will support one another and hold one another accountable through continuous learning and course corrections along our path towards our shared vision, mission and bold community goal.



Network Partners

- **Backbone organization:** United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County (convene/facilitate/coordinate)
- **Partners:** AB Tech - Asheville Area Chamber of Commerce - Asheville City - Asheville City Schools - Asheville City Schools Foundation - Big Brothers Big Sisters - Buncombe County Schools - Buncombe Partnership for Children - Children First / Communities in Schools - My Daddy Taught Me That - MAHEC - Mountain Child Advocacy Center - Our VOICE - United Way ABC - UNC Asheville - Western Carolina Rescue Mission - YMCA - YWCA



Partner Commitments

- Youth, parent, family and community leadership
- High-quality, student-centered, rigorous learning and teaching experiences
- Shared learning & professional development
- Results-Based Accountability data/evaluation practices
- Shared public policy agenda
- Early Warning and Response System



Evidence-Based Best Practices

Integrated student supports	Authentic & active family and community engagement	Expanded & enriched learning opportunities	Collaborative cross sector leadership
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School Based Health Centers• Mental and behavioral health counseling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homework diners• Parent leadership program	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentoring, tutoring & work experiences• Out-of-school time programming	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• School based resource teams• Youth and family leadership



Initial County Commitments

- Participate in Cross Sector Leadership Team
- Participate in School and Community Partners Network
- Participate in Results-Based Accountability work
- Align County education initiatives with network goals
- Deliver & coordinate public services that support a vibrant, healthy and connected community (e.g. human services, housing, safety)
- Provide funding for education (early learning, k-12, community college, educational support)



Request for Board Action

- Vote to join the partnership and authorize the County Manager to sign the United for Youth Network Partnership Agreement

