



Buncombe County Board of Commissioners

Request for Board Action

Meeting Date: 5/4/2021

Consent Agenda

Department: Strategic Partnerships **Presenter(s):** Rachael Nygaard

Contact(s): Rachael Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director

Subject: Pre-K Facility at Avery's Creek Elementary School

Brief Summary:

Buncombe County's Early Childhood Education and Development Committee has provided funding recommendations for FY2022 investments in early care and education projects.

The funding recommendations include \$100,000 for Buncombe County Schools to install a pre-k facility on the site of Avery's Creek Elementary School (ACES).

In order to have the facility complete and the new classroom open for the 2021-2022 school year, there is a need to approve the project in May rather than waiting for July when agreements are typically established (the start of the new fiscal year).

The proposed interlocal agreement specifies that Buncombe County will pay up to \$100,000 for installation expenses (e.g. site prep, power hookup, concrete, ramps, fencing, playground, inspections) to be financed by the FY2022 Early Childhood Education and Development Fund. Buncombe County Schools has a method for covering the costs of procuring the modular classroom facility. Buncombe County Schools is working with Community Action Opportunities to operate a Head Start classroom in the facility. Community Action Opportunities will be responsible for equipment, furnishings, playground and licensure.

Community Action Opportunities currently operates Head Start classrooms at 14 out of the 23 Buncombe County elementary schools, and ACES will become the 15th. ACES is located in Arden in the Roberson District. This Title I school has approximately 600 students in Kindergarten through 4th grade. About 13% of students are Black and 32% are Hispanic, and the school provides Dual Language classes in every grade level.

Recommended Motion & Requested Action:

Vote to approve the partnership and authorize the County Manager to sign the interlocal agreement with Buncombe County Schools

County Manager's comments and Recommendation:

County Manager recommends approval