



School Consolidation Feasibility Study

Presented by

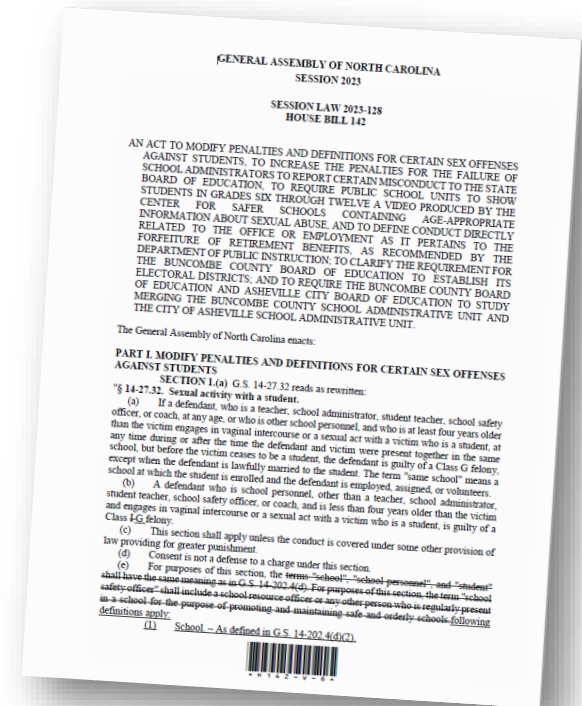
Rachael Sawyer Nygaard, Strategic Partnerships Director

October 17, 2023



Overview

- North Carolina General Assembly has passed legislation that mandates that the Asheville City and Buncombe County school systems jointly study the feasibility of a merger (House Bill 142)
- Asheville City Board of Education & Buncombe County Board of Education have voted to designate Buncombe County Government as the lead entity for the project
- Requested board action = Accept the role of lead entity to manage the School Consolidation Feasibility Study project and direct staff to solicit a firm to complete the study





Asheville City Schools (ACS)

9 schools

3,990 students

\$79.3M Budget

- State: \$31.9M
- Local: \$30.1M (\$14.2M supplemental)
- Fed: \$9.2M
- Other: \$8.1M



BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS

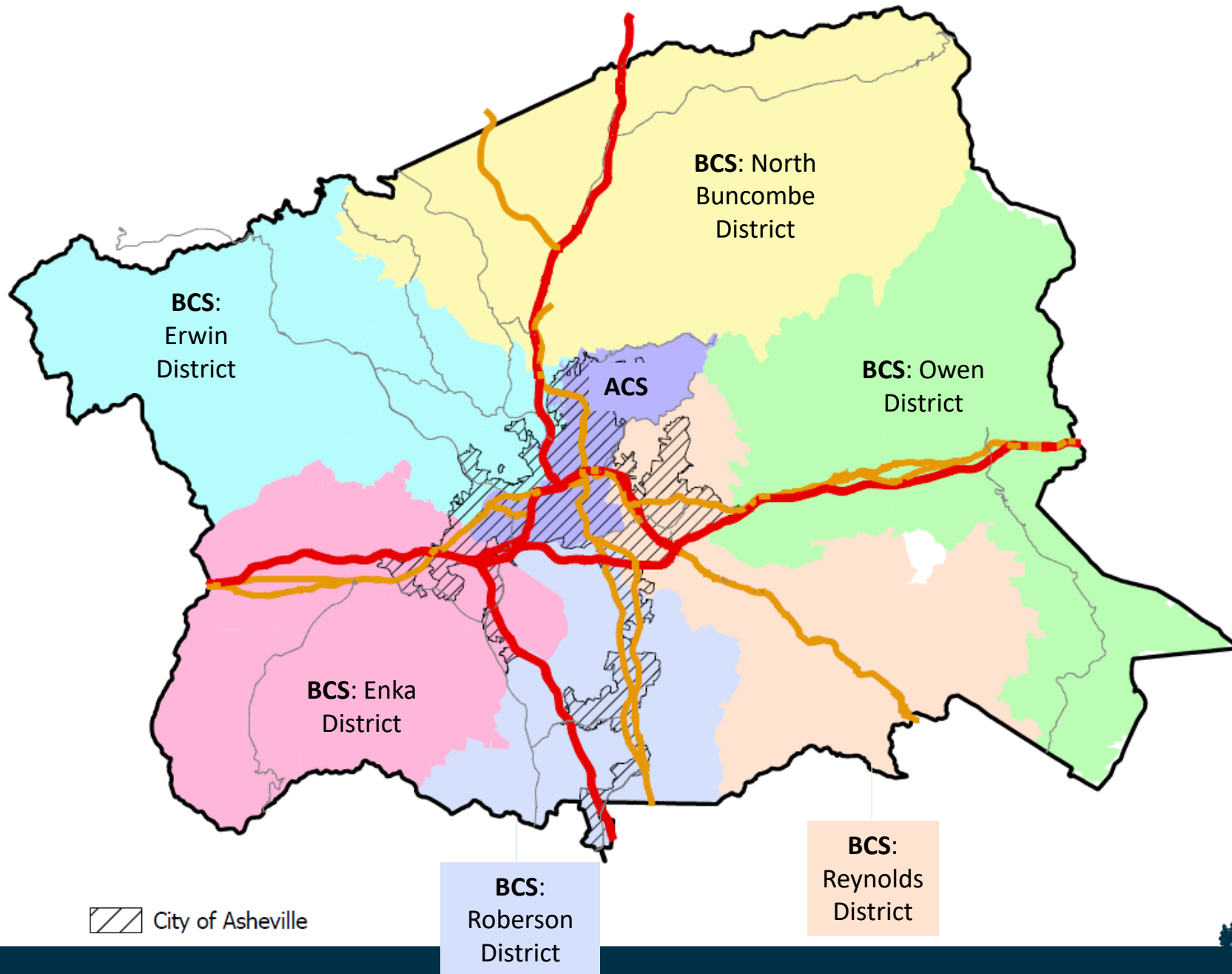
Buncombe County Schools (BCS)

45 schools

21,843 students

\$338.3M Budget

- State: \$173.9M
- Local: \$87.0M
- Fed: \$70.2M
- Other: \$7.2M



City of Asheville

BCS:
Roberson
District

BCS:
Reynolds
District



BUNCOMBE COUNTY

Student count = final 2023 Average Daily Membership; Budget = FY2023 year-end



Solicitation

- Competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) to identify a firm to conduct the study, including elements such as:
 - Academic analysis (student enrollment & attributes, educational outcomes)
 - Operational analysis (governance, personnel, facilities, transportation, food service, instructional and programmatic offerings)
 - Financial analysis and review of fiscal effects
 - Community impacts
 - Stakeholder and public engagement
 - Overall findings



Project Team

Buncombe County departments:

- Communications and Public Engagement (CAPE)
- Budget
- Finance
- Intergovernmental Relations
- Strategy & Innovation
- Strategic Partnerships

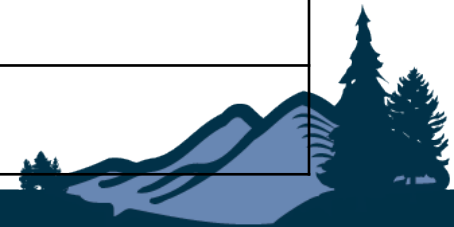
Community partners:

- -Asheville City Schools
- -Buncombe County Schools
- -Community representative(s), e.g. associations of educators, parent organizations, youth-serving organizations

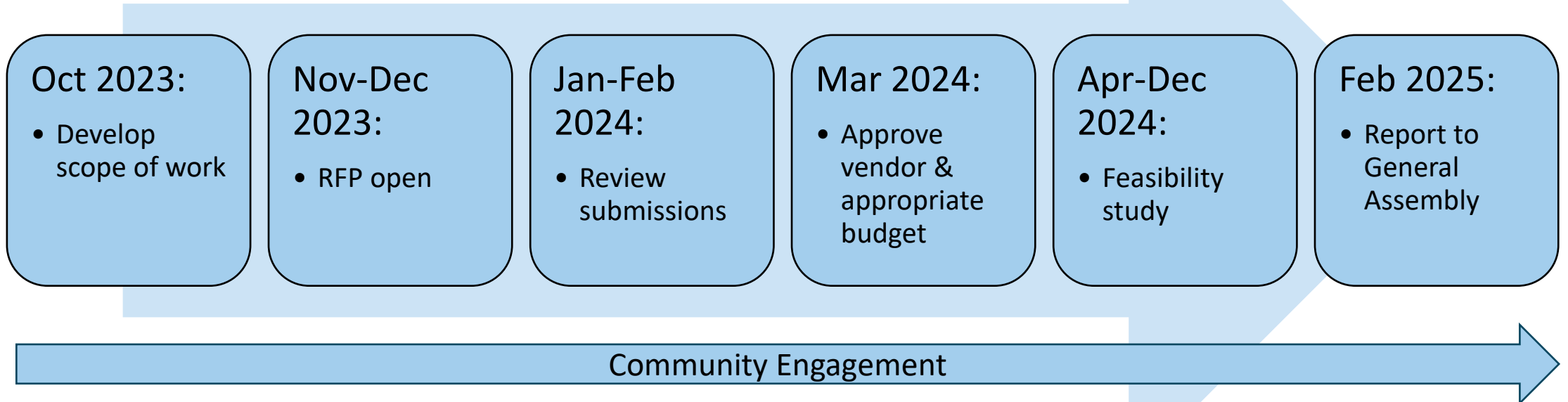


Roles

Project Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Design solicitation and review criteria• Review submissions, recommend vendor
Buncombe County	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Coordinate project• Issue solicitation• Select firm• Identify funding• Issue and oversee contract
School Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jointly contribute to the study, including data & input to inform the study
The Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide input to inform the study



Timeline



“The Buncombe County Board of Education and the Asheville City Board of Education shall **report findings and recommendations** to the standing committees of the General Assembly hearing election matters **no later than February 15, 2025.**”



Request for Board Action

- Accept the role of lead entity to manage the School Consolidation Feasibility Study project and direct staff to solicit a firm to complete the study

