

FY2021 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Buncombe County Schools	
Project Name:	Increasing Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education at Emma Elementary	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Overall project updates:	Buncombe County Schools (BCS) and Verner continue to make progress toward the construction of our new early learning center. Verner continues to work toward identifying the remaining necessary funding, as well as a financing entity, so that we may move forward with the construction of the modular building. Site prep is nearing completion and should be finished by the end of January 2021. Much of our activity in this quarter has been focused on closing our funding gap and determining financing options. We have made solid progress in both areas.
COVID-19 impacts:	Both Verner and BCS continue to be significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. We consistently have to make difficult decisions which balance the health and safety of everyone in our communities with the needs of our students and families for child care and in-person learning and interaction. At the same time, our work on this project has not been hindered by the pandemic. As of now, COVID-19 has not impacted our timeline. In our last report, we mentioned a partnership with BCS Nutrition Services to provide Rainbow In My Tummy® (RIMT) meals to the new center out of the kitchen at Emma Elementary School. However, that partnership is no longer feasible at this time; BCS Nutrition Services has had to make many changes to how they provide meals to students during the pandemic. Since the pandemic is ongoing with no real timeline, they do not currently have the capacity to commit to this new partnership. Verner is appreciative of their time and partnership in attempting to make this plan work.
Activities related to increasing equity, diversity and inclusion:	Verner and BCS share the values of developing equitable learning environments and improving student outcomes and resilience by using a continuum of social-emotional and behavioral health supports, including restorative practices that improve equity in school discipline and behavioral supports. Verner had several trainings with the Equity Literacy Institute this quarter, including one that included all staff and faculty. Verner is also co-hosting, with the Buncombe Partnership for Children, a session of the two-day Phase 1 training from the Racial Equity Institute specifically geared to early education professionals in our community. With the opening of this new early learning center, we hope to achieve the goal of being a model of inclusion in early childhood education. We are building organizational structures and policies of inclusive and equity in hiring, enrollment, and learning across all Verner centers and programming. To that end, we are working with a marketing firm to develop appropriate strategies to recruit diverse candidates for the staff and educator positions that will be created when the new center opens. BCS continues to participate in the NC Social Emotional Equity Project while creating a district wide implementation plan. A district-level team is in place and is currently participating in the trainings.
Activities related to increasing operational excellence:	With the change in plans for how we can provide nutritious meals to the children at this new center, Verner is now exploring how we can upgrade the kitchen at our existing center in East Asheville to be able to provide RIMT meals and snacks for all Verner sites. Verner is also actively working on marketing strategies to ensure that the center is fully enrolled as soon as it opens and that we are able to hire a diverse staff and faculty team. As we continue to develop our balanced operating budget, we are pursuing additional funding sources that would allow us to achieve true and complete inclusion in each of the new center's 10 classrooms.

FY2021 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	#REF!		
Project Name:	#REF!		
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020)	
	X	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)	
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021)	
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021)	

Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Final Design- Mobile Modular	0					
All Permits Received for Construction	0					
Ground Breaking Event-August 3, 2020	0					
DOT Approved Access Road	0					
Site Preparation and Fencing	100%	40.89%	51.94%			92.83%
Modular Building Installation	0					
Connection of Utilities for Modular Building	0					
Sitework Finishing	0					
Final Inspections/Closeout	0					
Target Date for Opening	05/01/2021					

Comments:



FY2021 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	#REF!		
Project Name:	#REF!		
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2020 - September 30, 2020)	
	X	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020)	
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2021 - March 31, 2021)	
		Quarter 4 (April 1, 2021 - June 30, 2021)	

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/Site Prep	\$ 1	\$ 0	\$ 1			\$ 0
Building Maintenance/Repair						\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space						\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage						\$ -
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						\$ -
Other (please list)						\$ -
Total	\$ 1	\$ 0	\$ 1	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 0

Comments:

The total budget allocated from Buncombe County is \$500,00.00 (19-20) + \$450,000.00 (20-21) = \$950,000.00. In 19-20, \$53,617.00 was expended on site preparation. In 20-21, \$832,100.90 has been expended for site prep/materials/supplies. The remaining and encumbered balance is \$64,282.10 of the \$950,000.00 total allocation.