FY2023 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

Organization Name:	Buncombe County Schools	
Project Name:	Commitment to Early Childhood Education	
Reporting Quarter: (Check one)		Quarter 1 (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022)
		Quarter 2 (October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)
		Quarter 3 (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023)
	X	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023)

Narrative summary of grant related activities

Please provide a brief summary (no more than <u>1500 characters</u>). You may attach supplemental documents if needed.

Quarter 1	As of September 30, 202, the early childhood education grant can report the following progress, aligned to the work outlined in the grant. A director, Betsie Stockslager, was hired in early August and began working on August 8, 2022. Two teaching assistants were immediately hired to fill open slots within the program and the director met with lead teachers during the required work days. Since the start of the school year, Betsie has visited each site at least once a week to greet parents, support teachers and build relationships with students. Additionally, Betsie met with district leadership to support the current ECE grant, as well as create a committee to review and determine next steps for growth in Buncombe County Schools. This team consists of the following members: K-5 curriculum director, 6-12 curriculum director, assistant superintendent, the district's Chief Financial officer, head of maintenance and CTE director. This group will meet monthly and it is the intention that members of this group will determine what the tuition costs for the upcoming school year need to be, if the other 2 high school campuses can host child care centers through the CTE program and the overall vision for early childhood education opportunities for county residents.
Quarter 2	Teachers received Heggarty kits and 3/4 are trained. Staff will utilize Jan 25 workday to review curriculum & create a pacing guide for the remainder of the year. Teachers all have access to Teaching Strategies Gold but need to learn how to use the platform on the workday as well. A major roadblock to objectives in this quarter was how often the director was pulled to cover for staff (to maintain ratio). Even using BPFC to support teacher coverage, Betsie spent 80% of the quarter subbing in the classroom. The direct and obvious impact of the amount of time spent in the classroom versus working on grant objectives is that teachers are not getting the training they need and administrative duties are not completed. Highlights of the quarter include that all sites are now able to receive child care subsidies. Additionally, all checking accounts were moved from the school sites to a central account with director oversight. This will allow for more intentional and evenly monitored spending within the overall program. Also, the program now offers an online payment option through a platform that will monitor tuition, and in the future allow all enrollment documents to be uploaded and digitally accessible.

Quarter 3	This quarter all students were given the Heggerty baseline assessment and started the work of the modified pacing for the remainder of the year. The teachers attended a staff training session (the first one ever for all preK teachers to attend together) as well as attended follow up sessions during the district's half-day PD days. We created a PLC by using student data to inform discussions. 70% of the rising students are K ready according to Heggerty expectations. Teachers will continue the work for the remainder of the year and collect end of year data in June. Additionally, students who return next year will have longitudinal data that covers 1.5 years with Heggerty. The district's ECE advisory committee continued to meet. Renaming the 4 classes was proposed but it was determined to not be the best time to make such changes. Additionally, the district budget will be shared with the community in the upcoming month and that budget, along with what amount is provided by the commissioner grant will determine the need to adjust tuition for the 23/24 school year.Currently, the superintendent has not proposed an increase to tuition for the upcoming year. Work continued to monitor site-based spending, as well as determine maintenance/fixed asset needs to utilize the stabilization funds prior to their spend out date in September 2023. TCR preK received new flooring and sun shade and the fence at Erwin preK will be adjusted in order to fence in the outdoor space to the classroom exit. Enrollment for the upcoming year is underway and families will utilize the online management software, iCare, to enroll their children and upload all required documentation. This will assist the program tremendously at the start of
Quarter 4	The director spent most of Q4 serving as a substitute for one of the sites. A staff member had emergency surgery and as there are no substitutes available, the director spent 3-4 hours daily providing coverage for state ratios and staff breaks. This is a huge issue and even with the high school interns who meet requirements serving in ratio, pulling the administrator in this capacity had ripple impacts on the program as a whole. We had licensing visits at all 4 sites and overall, fared well. There were enough combined infractions that part of the remediation plan is that the director will meet with the licensing consultants to review the correct processes and procedures to avoid infractions in the future. Additionally, one site had to be temporarily closed (1/2 day) due to the spread of a communicable disease. Enrollment for the upcoming school year is 95% complete and all but 1 site is fully enrolled. The director also wrote and received a Dogwood Health Trust grant and the program will bring on a workforce coordinator in the upcoming school year. Finally, the director and coordinator have reached out to the commissioners and staff to offer collaboration and support of the county's ECE committees.

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Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Number of qualified Early Childhood Education Program Administrators hired	1	1	1	1	1	4
Percent of preschool students screened using the Brigance Screening for Early Childhood by the beginning, middle and end of year screening deadline	100%	*	0%	0%	0%	0%
Percent of preschool staff trained to use the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Pre-Kindergarten program	100%	**	75%	100%	100%	100%
Percent of preschool classrooms implementing the Heggerty Phonemic Awareness Pre-Kindergarten program	100%	**	25%	100%	100%	100%
# of new slots, by student age		0	0	0	0	0
- Student age less than 1 yr		0	0	0	0	0
- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2		0	0	0	0	0
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3		0	0	0	1	1
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4		0	0	0	0	0
- Student age greater than 4 yrs		0	0	0	0	0
# of total slots maintained, by student age						59
- Student age less than 1 yr		0	0	0	0	0

- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2		0	0	0	0	0
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3		2	2	0	2	2
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4		22	19	18	11	11
- Student age greater than 4 yrs		34	37	40	46	46
# of Child Care Subsidy slots		0	0**	0	0	0
# of unique students served						0
Enrollment percentage		98%	98%	98%	98%	98%
# of children on wait list, by student age		143	117***	145		
- Student age less than 1 yr		16	15	9	14	
- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2		30	13	13	12	
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3		40	31	19	25	
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4		26	39	60	29	
- Student age greater than 4 yrs		20	19	44	27	
Student attendance rate		89%	91%	90%	90%	91%
Student achievement on school readiness assessment (meet or exceed standards)						0%
Teacher retention		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Teacher attendance		100%	94%	96%	89%	100%

Comments:

Q2- *NBHS preK filled open spot (no new slot created)**All parents have been informed that child care subsidies will be accepted ***New interest form sent out to capture updated waitlist Q1-*District leadership requested that Brigance be utilized by K teachers for K entry. Program acquired Teaching Strategies Gold through the state & will use it to benchmark development milestones. **Heggarty kits are ordered & district trainers will meet with all lead teachers to train them at the end of October.

As of Q4 reporting- that state allocations of quality & expansion funds will not notify centers until August if they recieved requested funding. This has a huge impact on 23/24 program plans, as the currciulum purchase for all 4 sites may not go through for the upcoming school year

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Student demographics (if applicable)

	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				
	Quarter 1	**Quarter 2**	**Quarter 3**	**Quarter 4**	**Student Count**
Race/Ethnic Categories					
American Indian or Alaska Native					0
Asian					0
Black or African American	5			1	
Hispanic or Latino	1				
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	1				
White	51				
Multi-race					0
Total	58	0	0	1	59

Comments:

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Use of funds to date and any budget considerations

Spending Category	Starting	Total Spending (Enter Data)			
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4
Personnel	$ 200,561	$ 17,786	$ 38,120	$ 81,357	$ 62,390
Travel/Training	$ 1,500		$ 621	$ 783	$ 828
Technology					
Curriculum/Assessments					
Licensing/Dues	$ 2,000	$ 103	$ 242		$ 730
Nutrition					
Transportation					
Supplies/Materials	$ 3,000	$ 76	$ 3,654	$ 257	$ 114
Building Maintenance/Repair					
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities					
Furniture					
Playground/Outdoor space					
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage					
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,					
Other (please list)					
Total	$ 207,061	$ 17,965	$ 42,637	$ 82,396	$ 64,062

Comments:

Amount
$ 909
$ (732)
$ -
$ -
$ 925
$ -
$ -
$ (1,101)
$ -
$ -
$ -
$ -
$ -
$ -
$ -
$ -