



## ACS Preschool Realignment and Assignment

The Mission of Asheville City Schools is to create learning environments that ensure excellence with equity for all students. By realigning our Preschool programming to our mission, we are striving to expand our Preschool program, enhance universal PreK in our district, and strengthen readiness outcomes.

An ACS strategic goal was to expand access to district programs and ensure our Preschool students meet district achievement goals by 2020. Our target was to have 80% proficiency for all children in the 6 domains of early childhood development (social-emotional, cognitive, motor, language, literacy, and math).

ACS has an obligation to serve the students in our district, an obligation to prepare these students and families for school, with an intensive focus on our Black and Brown students. Removing barriers to Preschool for Black and Brown families will minimize that specific opportunity gap and improve Kindergarten readiness.

The ACS Preschool Realignment and Expansion plan will:

- Increase the number of overall PreK slots for ACS students.
- Increase the number and % of Black and Brown students in ACS Preschools.
- Improve the quality of programming to ensure all ACS PreK students are ready for Kindergarten.

### Increase Equity in Enrollment

- Address the decline in enrollment of Black and Brown children in Preschool over the past three years.
- Increase the number of students residing in public housing enrolling in ACS Preschool – these are the students who will benefit most from a strong early education foundation.
- Focus on increasing the number of ACS students in ACS Preschools.

### Eliminate Barriers to Preschool

- Expand the number of Preschool classrooms in the community and elementary schools.
- Provide transportation to all sites, including Ira B. Jones Elementary..
- Increase hours of operation (8–4:30 for school-based sites and 8–5:30 for community-based sites).

| ACS Preschool Classrooms  |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Prior to COVID-19</b></p> <p>Asheville Primary Campus (7)<br/>Hall Fletcher Elementary (2)<br/>Ira B. Jones Elementary (1)<br/>Isaac Dickson Elementary (1)</p> | <p><b>2021-2022</b></p> <p>Hall Fletcher Elementary (3)<br/>Ira B. Jones Elementary (2)<br/>Isaac Dickson Elementary (1)<br/>Lucy S. Herring Elementary (2)<br/>Maplecrest (1)<br/>Lonnie D. Burton (3)</p> |
| Total Capacity = 212  | Total Capacity = 233  |



### **Focus on Kindergarten Readiness**

- Score at or above level for all ACS PreK students on Teaching Strategies Gold.
- Address the multi-year gap between our subgroups on the Brigance Universal Screener of literacy.
- Review data for developmental and academic skills multiple times each year.

### **Prioritize Family Engagement**

- Build long-term relationships with families and school communities.
- Increase community engagement by placement of Preschool classes in neighborhoods.



## ACS Preschool Realignment and Expansion

The Mission of Asheville City Schools is to create learning environments that ensure excellence with equity for all students. By realigning our Preschool programming to our mission, we are striving to expand our Preschool program sites, enhance universal PreK in our district, and strengthen readiness outcomes.

An ACS strategic goal was to expand access to district programs and ensure our Preschool students meet district achievement goals by 2020. Our target was to have 80% proficiency for all children in the 6 domains of early childhood development (social-emotional, cognitive, motor, language, literacy, and math). In February of 2020, 86% of Preschool students met or exceeded proficiency.

ACS has an obligation to serve the students in our district, an obligation to prepare these students and families for school, with an intensive focus on our Black and Brown students. Removing barriers to Preschool for Black and Brown families will minimize that specific opportunity gap and improve Kindergarten readiness.

The ACS Preschool Realignment and Expansion plan will potentially:

- Increase the number of overall PreK slots for ACS students.
- Increase the number and % of Black and Brown students in ACS Preschools.
- Improve the quality of programming to ensure all ACS PreK students meet Kindergarten readiness standards.

### Increase Equity in Enrollment

- Address the decline in enrollment of Black and Brown children in ACS Preschool over the past three years.

| ACS Preschool Enrollment |                   |                |
|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| School year              | Students of color | Black students |
| 2020-2021                | 27%               | 21%            |
| 2019-2020                | 37%               | 27%            |
| 2018-2019                | 44%               | 27%            |
| 2017-2018                | 58%               | 30%            |

- Increase the number of ACS Preschool students who reside in public housing – these are the students who will benefit most from a strong early education foundation.

### Eliminate Barriers to Preschool

- Expand the number of ACS Preschool classrooms in the community and elementary schools.
- Provide transportation to all sites, including Ira B. Jones Elementary.
- Increase hours of operation (8–4:30 for school-based sites and 8–5:30 for community-based sites).

### Focus on Kindergarten Readiness

- ACS Preschool students meet or exceed expectations using Teaching Strategies Gold Formative Assessment.
- Plan for instruction based on Kindergarten readiness standards.
- Continue to review data for developmental and academic skills multiple times each year.

### Prioritize Family Engagement

- Build long-term relationships with families and school communities.
- Increase community engagement by placement of Preschool classes in accessible community sites.

| ACS Traditional Preschool Classrooms 2019–2020 |            |            |  |
|--|------------|------------|--|
| School   | Classrooms | Capacity   | Details                                |
| Asheville Primary                              | 7          | 126        | Does not include Montessori Classrooms |
| Hall Fletcher                                  | 2          | 36         |  |
| Ira B. Jones                                   | 1          | 18         |  |
| Isaac Dickson                                  | 1          | 18         |  |
| <b>Totals</b>                                  | <b>11</b>  | <b>198</b> |  |

| ACS Traditional Preschool Classrooms 2020–2021 |            |  |  |
|--|------------|--|--|
| School   | Classrooms | Capacity<br><i>Reduced due to COVID-19</i> | Details                                |
| Asheville Primary                              | 5          | 60   | Does not include Montessori Classrooms |
| Hall Fletcher                                  | 1          | 12   |  |
| Ira B. Jones                                   | 1          | 12   |  |
| Isaac Dickson                                  | 1          | 12   |  |
| <b>Totals</b>                                  | <b>8</b>   | <b>96</b>                                  |  |

| ACS Traditional Preschool Planned Classrooms for 2021–22 |            |            |   |
|--|------------|------------|---|
| School   | Classrooms | Capacity   | Details   |
| Hall Fletcher  | 1          | 18         | Does not include Montessori Classrooms            |
| Ira B. Jones   | 2          | 36         | Expanded PreK site,<br>Includes Developmental Day |
| Isaac Dickson  | 1          | 18         |   |
| Lucy S. Herring  | 2          | 36         | Relocated PreK site                               |
| Maplecrest   | 1          | 18         | Relocated PreK site                               |
| Lonnie D. Burton   | 4          | 72         | Relocated PreK site                               |
| TBD  | 1          | 18         | TBD based on enrollment                           |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>12</b>  | <b>216</b> |   |