

# FY2023 Buncombe County Early Childhood Grant Report

<b>Organization Name:</b>	Buncombe County Schools	
<b>Project Name:</b>	Increasing Access to High-Quality Early Care and Education at Emma Elementary	
<b>Reporting Quarter:</b> (Check one)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 1 (July 1, 2022 - September 30, 2022)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 2 (October 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)
	<input type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 3 (January 1, 2023 - March 31, 2023)
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarter 4 (April 1, 2023 - June 30, 2023)

## Narrative summary of grant related activities

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

<b>Quarter 1</b>	<p>During this quarter, Verner opened 4 additional classrooms at the new building by consolidating Verner Central with our former Verner West location. There are now 8 classrooms operational, with only 1 left to open. One of the classrooms is dedicated as a Home-Based socialization room. This classroom is a great opportunity for an estimated 30-50 children annually participating in Verner's Early Head Start Home-Based program and community partners like PODER Emma to have opportunities to interact together in a schol-like environment, even if they are not enrolled in daily child care outside of the home. Work neared completion on the outdoor learning environments, and we opened one preschool/pre-k classroom. The other pre-k classroom space is currently being used as a therapy space for outside therapists and Verner staff to offer support to children and their parents. The pandemic has significantly increased the developmental and mental health needs we are seeing in our classrooms and this space is necessary to provide high-quality comprehensive services. The development of the therapy space was supported by grant funds from the Biltmore Lake Charitable Fund. Verner is also working to add NC Pre-K slots to our programming at Verner Central, in collaboration with Buncombe Partnership for Children. Due to the way NC Pre-K funds and slots are allocated, we do not yet know if it will be possible to add that programming during the current program year. We will know more by November and will definitely be able to do so no later than the 2023-24 program year.</p>
<b>Quarter 2</b>	<p>Verner Central is now serving 67 children in 8 classrooms via the Early Head Start program, tuition-based slots, and NC Pre-K. Verner is continuing to enroll children with a mxaimum capacity of 72. One of the 10 classrooms is being used a sensory room and mental health/therapy space and the final classroom is being used by our Early Head Start home-based program, which serves up to 77 children and families in Buncombe County. The home-based classroom provides a safe and welcoming environment for home visits when a family does not have a home environment in which visits may be conducted. It also allows children who might be transitioning into a classroom setting from the home-based setting to experience a classroom environment that is less overwhelming, since there are not other children present, to help ease the transition. This classroom serves as a location for some smaller group socializations for home-based families to come together and experience community, and for partner organizations such as Colaborativa La Milpa to host events.</p>

<b>Quarter 3</b>	Verner paid back the Dogwood Health Trust loan that allowed the project to move forward while awaiting disbursements of multi-year grant award payments. Verner has been exploring the possibility of opening at least one additional classroom at Verner Central, but we do not yet have enough teaching staff to do so. Given the current workforce crisis in early care and education, we do not know when it will become feasible to open any additional classrooms. We continue to explore additional funding sources that would allow us to increase salaries and continue Stabilization Grant salary increases that are currently slated to end on 12/31/23. We are also actively involved in advocating for sustained public investment in early education, and we are trying to identify new ways to recruit and retain teachers.
<b>Quarter 4</b>	Verner continues to support advocacy efforts to secure sustained state investment in early care and education in NC. The ongoing workforce crisis in ECE in Buncombe County and beyond will only get worse as Stabilization Grant funding runs out. Verner Central continues to operate 8 classrooms, 7 of which serve children from birth to age three. The 8th classroom serves children ages 3-5, including 5 NC Pre-K slots. The ninth classroom in this center is being used to benefit dozens of children and families each month who participate in our Home-Based program, and the tenth classroom will be opened when we can find the educators to staff it. All grant funds were expended as of the end of last quarter, when Verner paid off our loan and associated interest from Dogwood Health Trust.

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## Progress toward annual goals

Measure	Annual Goal	Actual Results (Enter Data)				Progress
		Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
Please only include new data for the specific quarter						
# of new slots, by student age	68	15	9	0	0	24
- Student age less than 1 yr		3	5	0		8
- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2						0
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3						0
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4		12		0		12
- Student age greater than 4 yrs			4	0		4
# of total slots maintained, by student age	32	48				48
- Student age less than 1 yr		16				16
- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2		16				16
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3		16				16
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4		0				0
- Student age greater than 4 yrs		0				0
# of Child Care Subsidy slots	10	6				6
# of unique students served						0

Enrollment percentage						0%
# of children on wait list, by student age						0
- Student age less than 1 yr						0
- Student age greater than 1 & less than 2						0
- Student age greater than 2 & less than 3						0
- Student age greater than 3 & less than 4						0
- Student age greater than 4 yrs						0
Student attendance rate						0%
Student achievement on school readiness assessment (meet or exceed standards)						0%
Teacher retention						0%
Teacher attendance						0%

**Comments:**

**No new slots were added in Q4.**

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## Student demographics (if applicable)

	Actual Results (Enter Data) Please only include new data for the specific quarter				Student Count
	Quarter 1	Quarter 2	Quarter 3	Quarter 4	
<b>Race/Ethnic Categories</b>					
American Indian or Alaska Native	0		0		0
Asian	0		0		0
Black or African American	4	4	0		8
Hispanic or Latino	9	3	0		12
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0		0		0
White	34	6	0		40
Multi-race	12	1	0		13
<b>Total</b>	59	14	0	0	73

### Comments:

Hispanic/Latino is collected as a separate ethnicity category in our database, so those children may have identified as white, Black, or multi-racial as well. **There is no new information for Q4.**

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## 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						\$ -
Building Maintenance/Repair	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 500,000	\$ -	\$ -
Rent/Occupancy/Utilities						\$ -
Furniture						\$ -
Playground/Outdoor space	\$ 80,000	\$ 75,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -	\$ -
Printing/Marketing/Website/Postage						\$ -
Admin Expenses (Legal, Accounting, Insurance,						\$ -
Design/site prep, financing costs	\$ 212,657	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 212,657	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 792,657</b>	<b>\$ 75,000</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 717,657</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>

**Comments:**

The remainder of the project budget was expended in Q3 to repay Verner's loan from Dogwood Health Trust. The loan was for \$1,150,000, and Dogwood only charged \$23,000 in interest to lend us the funds for a two-year period. All grants funds have now been used.