

United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County
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Abstract

Project Sites: Asheville Middle School (grades 6-8), Enka Middle School (grades 7-8) Erwin Middle School (grades 7-8), Owen Middle School (grades 6-8) Reynolds Middle School (grades 6-8) and North Buncombe Middle School (grades 7-8). All schools are Title 1 eligible, but do not receive Title 1 funds.

Target Population and Community Profile: Buncombe County is home to the largest and most diverse school districts in Western North Carolina. Much of the population in the Enka, Erwin, North Buncombe, Owen and Reynolds districts lives in rural, underserved areas. In Asheville, the country's most populous city, residents struggle with issues more typical of urban poverty. Across Buncombe County, one out of four children live below the poverty line. The FSCS project sites were selected based on academic achievement gaps, high poverty rates, lack of access to resources, school readiness and principal leadership.

Key Project Goals and Expected Outcomes: 41.5% of our middle grade students have a warning or off-track indicator for high school graduation. Our overall goal is to reduce that by 30% by 2024. Our expected outcomes are that: students are prepared for kindergarten; students achieve academically, and students are safe, healthy and supported by engaged parents. Each year, we will serve all 3,698 students through school wide programs at the six FSCS sites. We will target students who have warning or off-track indicators of not graduating for high school. This equates to targeting 1,535 students and their family members through pipeline services with at least 75% receiving services annually.

Summary of Comprehensive Plan and Brief Project Description: Our FSCS consortium, under the leadership of UWABC, will deepen our work in four existing FSCS sites and expand to two additional schools during the grant term. We propose to add two new pipeline services (Kindergarten Readiness, School based Health Services) and expand our work in seven existing pipeline services (Parent Leadership, Parent Teacher Home Visitation, Homework Diners, Behavioral/Mental health, Mentoring and Tutoring, Out of School Time Programming and Transition Supports).

Consortium Partners: Asheville City Schools, Buncombe County Schools, United Way of Asheville and Buncombe County, Access Family Services, Asheville City Schools Foundation/In Real Life Afterschool Program, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Buncombe County Community Engagement Team, Buncombe Partnership for Children, Buncombe County Schools Graduation initiative, Children First/Communities-In Schools, Green Opportunities, Journeymen, Mountain Area Health Education Center, Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club, Open Doors of Asheville, University of North Carolina Asheville, Warren Wilson College, Western Carolina University, YMCA of Western North Carolina.