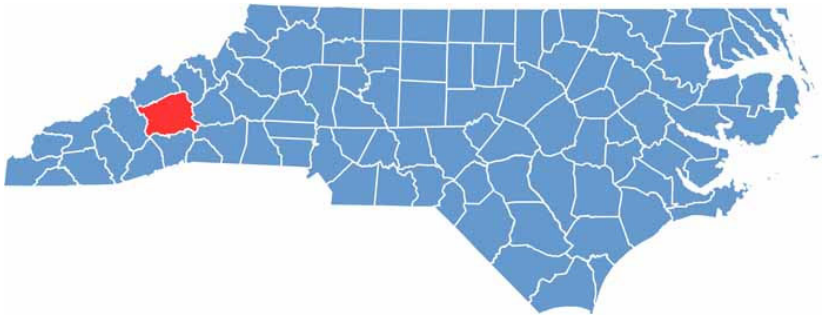
Buncombe County Early Childhood Education and Development Fund



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EARLY CHILDHOOD
POLICY SOLUTIONS

Early Childhood Education and Development Fund

The purpose of the Early Childhood Education and Development Fund is to:

- **Ensure that every child in Buncombe County has an equal opportunity to thrive**
- **during their first 2,000 days [5.5 years],**
- **including access to quality early childhood education.**

Charges from County Commissioners:

- **Collaborate with community leaders and stakeholders for a coordinated system approach.**
- **Increase the availability of high-quality early childhood care and education with an emphasis on Pre-K programs.**
- **Address issues of affordability, both for providers in a sustainable business model and for families in access to care.**
- **Support a robust career track in the field of early education, with development ladders from entry level to highly educated, credentialed, seasoned professionals.**
- **Cultivate a system that responds to the needs of families, such as those impacted by trauma, poverty, and addiction.**

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Do all children in Buncombe County have an equal opportunity to thrive?

a) **What does it mean to thrive?**
b) **What does it mean to have "equal opportunity" to thrive?**
c) **What barriers to thriving exist?**
d) **Is there data available that might assist us in determining which Buncombe County children are least likely to thrive… and the targeted supports these children might need most?**

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Has ECEDF been successful in supporting children across the full 2,000-day age-range?

a) **Do the ECEDF's historic investments address the needs of children across this full 5.5-year range? Focus on some segments more than others?**
b) **What does the science tell us about brain development and return on investment (in terms of both timing and targeting of investment)?**
c) **What does research tell us about returns of investments in high-quality pre-k in terms of school readiness?**

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What is high-quality early childhood education?

a) The charter says “including” early childhood education. What does the inclusion of this word mean to you?
b) How is high-quality currently defined in Buncombe County? Is this definition consistent with national best practices?
c) What are the most impactful investments the group could make to improve the quality of EC services in the county?