Impact of Use of Article 39 Funds for Operating Expenses

Dr. Rob Jackson
September 16, 2025

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Elevating
Minds, Voices, & Possibilities

Impact of Use of Article 39 Funds for Operating Expenses

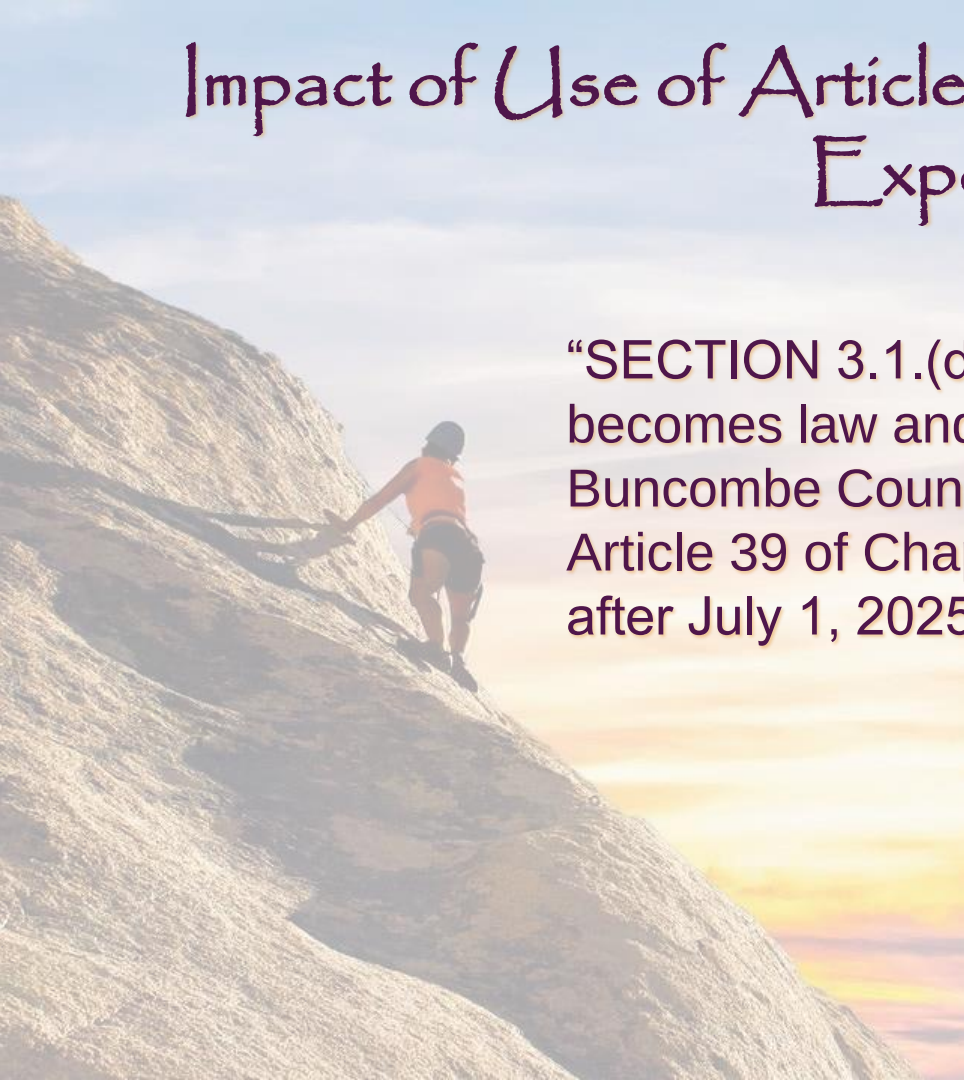
"Buncombe County shall use the net proceeds of the local government sales and use tax revenue collected under Article 39 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes and allocated to Buncombe County under subsection (a) of this section as follows:

1) Fifty percent (50%) for local school administrative unit capital outlay purposes, as defined in G.S. 115C-426(f), or to retire any indebtedness incurred by the County for these purposes, **and for local school administrative unit operating expenses**.[…]
2) Fifty percent (50%) for any public purpose."

- SL 2025-32, June 30, 2025

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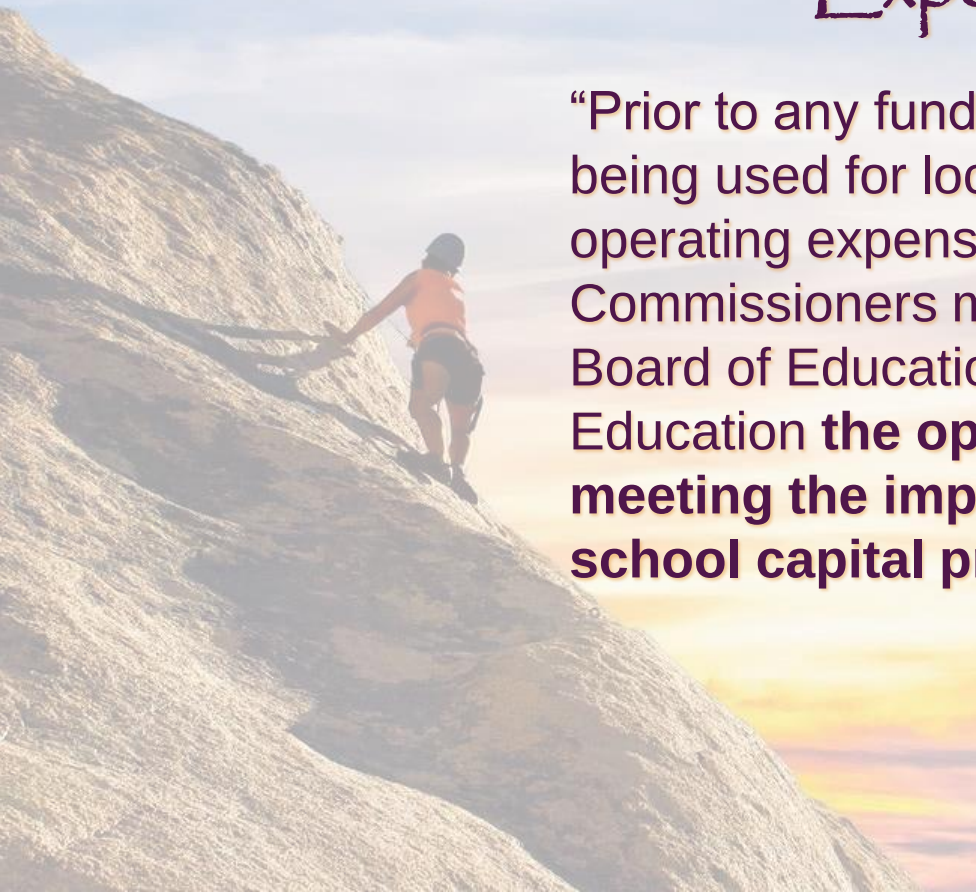


"SECTION 3.1.(d) This section is effective when it becomes law and applies to net proceeds distributed to Buncombe County by the Secretary of Revenue under Article 39 of Chapter 105 of the General Statutes on or after July 1, 2025, and expires on June 30, 2027."

- SL 2025-32

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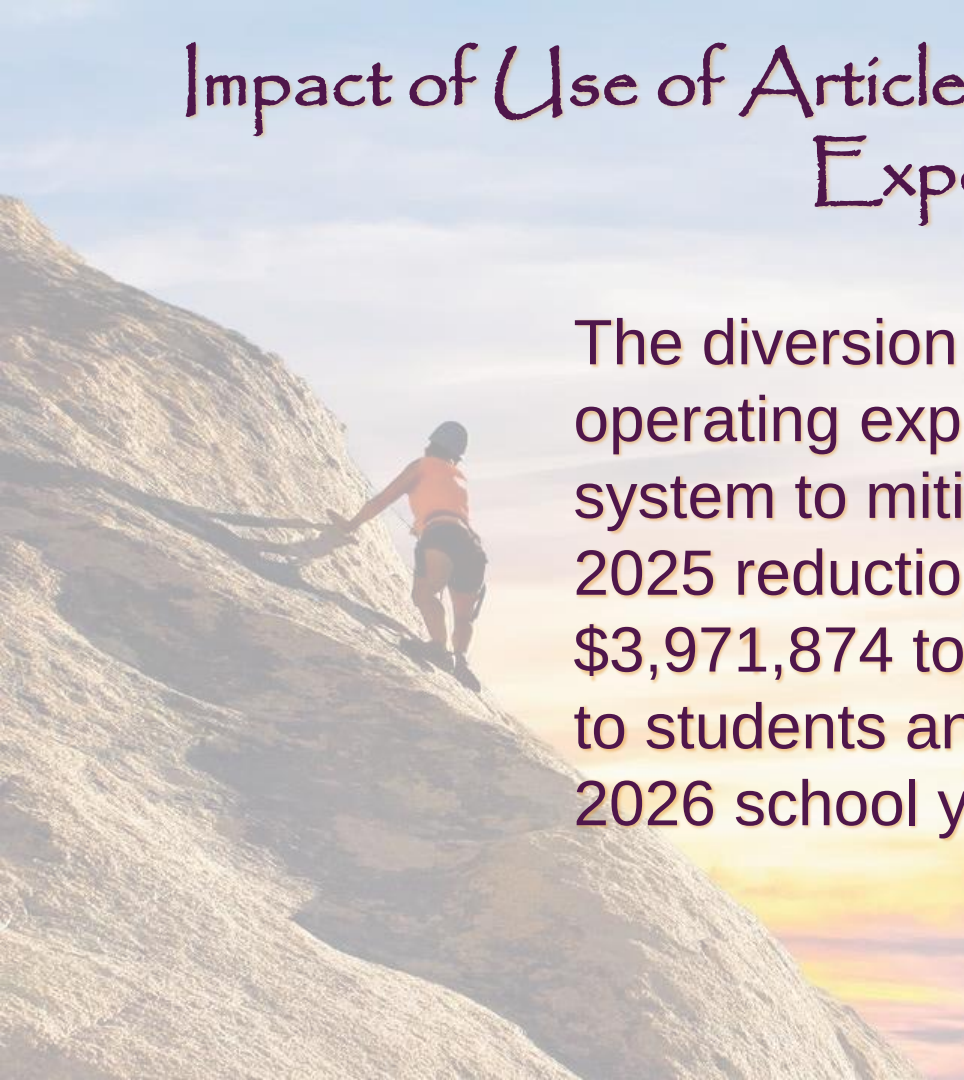


"Prior to any funds allocated under this subdivision being used for local school administrative unit operating expenses, the Buncombe County Board of Commissioners must provide the Buncombe County Board of Education and the Asheville City Board of Education **the opportunity to present at a public meeting the impacts of not using those funds on school capital projects**."

- SL 2025-32

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The diversion of the Article 39 funds into operating expenses has allowed the school system to mitigate the impact of the January 2025 reduction of County Appropriation of $3,971,874 to maintain our level of services to students and families during the 2025-2026 school year.

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The 91.4% Cohort Graduation Rate is the second-highest in BCS history and exceeds the state rate

Students earned 3,111 Career and Technical Education (CTE) credentials

93% of elementary and intermediate schools met or exceeded growth in reading

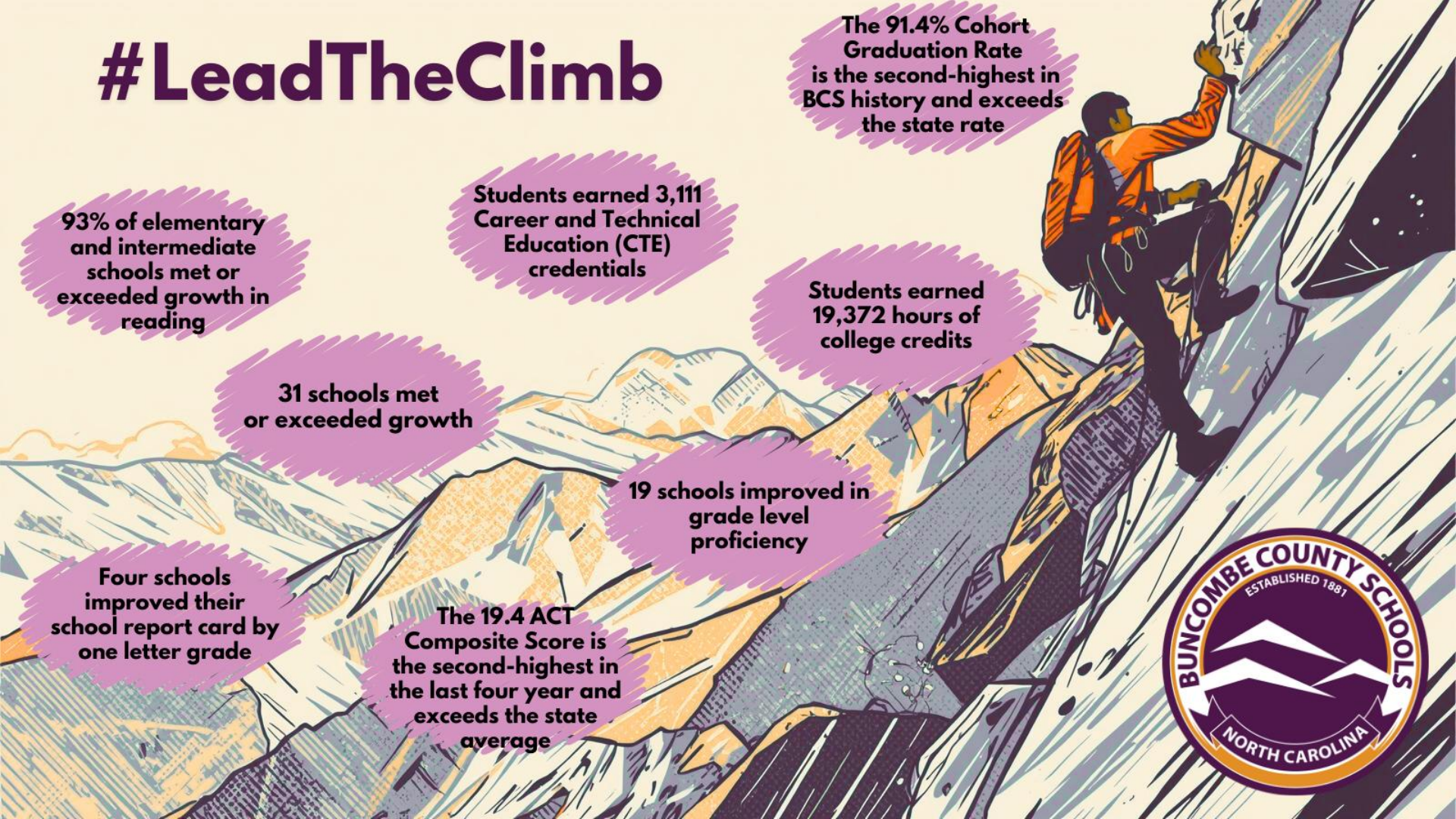
Students earned 19,372 hours of college credits

31 schools met or exceeded growth

19 schools improved in grade level proficiency

Four schools improved their school report card by one letter grade

The 19.4 ACT Composite Score is the second-highest in the last four year and exceeds the state average



AGE OF SCHOOLS

School	Year Built	Age
Enka Intermediate	2016	9
Nesbitt Discovery Academy	2013	12
Charles T. Koontz Intermediate	2012	13
Joe P. Eblen Intermediate	2012	13
North Windy Ridge Intermediate	2003	22
Cane Creek Middle	1998	27
Hominy Valley Elementary	1998	27
Avery's Creek Elementary	1994	31
Black Mtn. Elementary	1994	31
North Buncombe Elementary	1989	36
Sand Hill-Venable Elementary	1989	36
Valley Springs Middle	1989	36
Charles D. Owen High	1988	37
Fairview Elementary	1988	37
Enka High	1987	38
North Buncombe High	1987	38
West Buncombe Elementary	1983	42
Black Mtn. Primary	1981	44
William W. Estes Elementary	1980	45
W.D. Williams Elementary	1979	46

School	Year Built	Age
Haw Creek Elementary	1977	48
Clyde A. Erwin High	1976	49
A.C. Reynolds High	1975	50
Glen Arden Elementary	1971	54
Weaverville Elementary	1964	61
T.C. Roberson	1962	63
Charles C. Bell Elementary	1960	65
Johnston Elementary	1960	65
Weaverville Primary	1957	68
A.C. Reynolds Middle	1955	70
Charles D. Owen Middle	1955	70
Clyde A. Erwin Middle	1955	70
Enka Middle	1955	70
North Buncombe Middle	1954	71
Candler Elementary	1951	74
Pisgah Elementary	1951	74
Leicester Elementary	1939	86
Emma Elementary	1936	89
Barnardsville Elementary	1927	98
Community High	1926	99
Woodfin Elementary	1924	101
Oakley Elementary	**1920**	**105**

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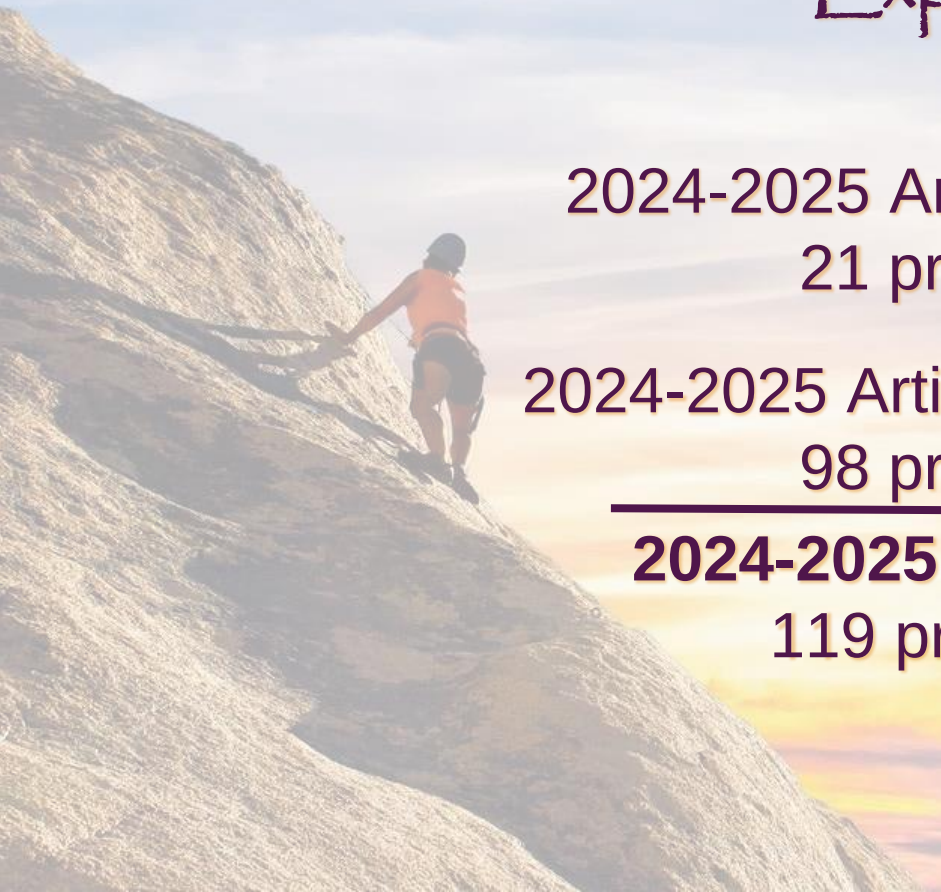
Buncombe County Schools Facilities at a Glance



- ✓ The average age of our buildings on the 47 campuses is 51 years
- ✓ 4.5 Million Square Feet of Brick-and-Mortar Space
- ✓ 4.5 Million Square Feet of Total Roof Area
- ✓ 100 Mobile Classrooms
- ✓ Over 600 Acres of Landscaped Areas
- ✓ Over 200 Acres of Parking Lots
- ✓ Over 10,000 pieces of HVAC Equipment
- ✓ 100,000 Light Fixtures
- ✓ 45 Fire Alarm Systems
- ✓ 52 Elevators
- ✓ 47 Playgrounds
- ✓ 500 Pieces of Child Nutrition Equipment

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2024-2025 Article 39 High Priority Requests
21 projects = $132,245,000

2024-2025 Article 39 Second Priority Requests
98 projects = $192,118,000

2024-2025 Article 39 Total Requests
119 projects = $324,363,000

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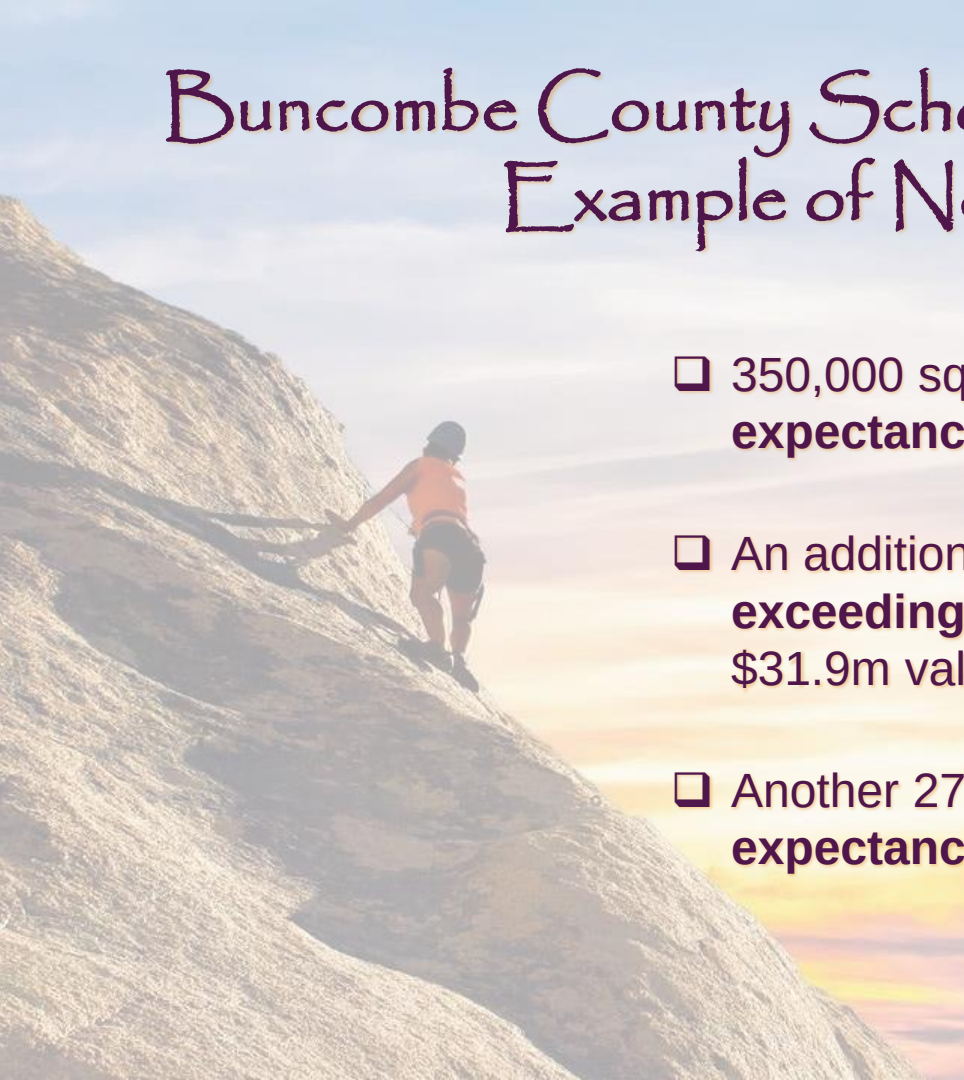
BCS Phased or Postponed Projects



- WD Williams Facility Renovation
- Glen Arden Facility
- Front Office Lobby Reconfiguration
- Guardhouses & Queuing Drives
- WW Estes Facility Renovation
- Roofing
- Mechanical Systems
- Technology Infrastructure Upgrades
- Transportation Facility
- Athletic Facilities – Turf/Track/Tennis/Aquatic Center
- Paving
- School Kitchen Renovations
- LED Lights
- Activity Buses

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Buncombe County Schools Facilities at a Glance
Example of Needs ~ Roofing



- 350,000 square feet of our roofs **exceeding life expectancy** = $12.25m value
- An additional 910,000 square feet of roofs will be **exceeding life expectancy within 5 years** = $31.9m value
- Another 275,000 square feet will be **exceeding life expectancy within 5-10 years** = $9.5m value

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The diversion of the Article 39 funds into operating expenses further delays much-needed capital projects.

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Currently Identified Capital Needs

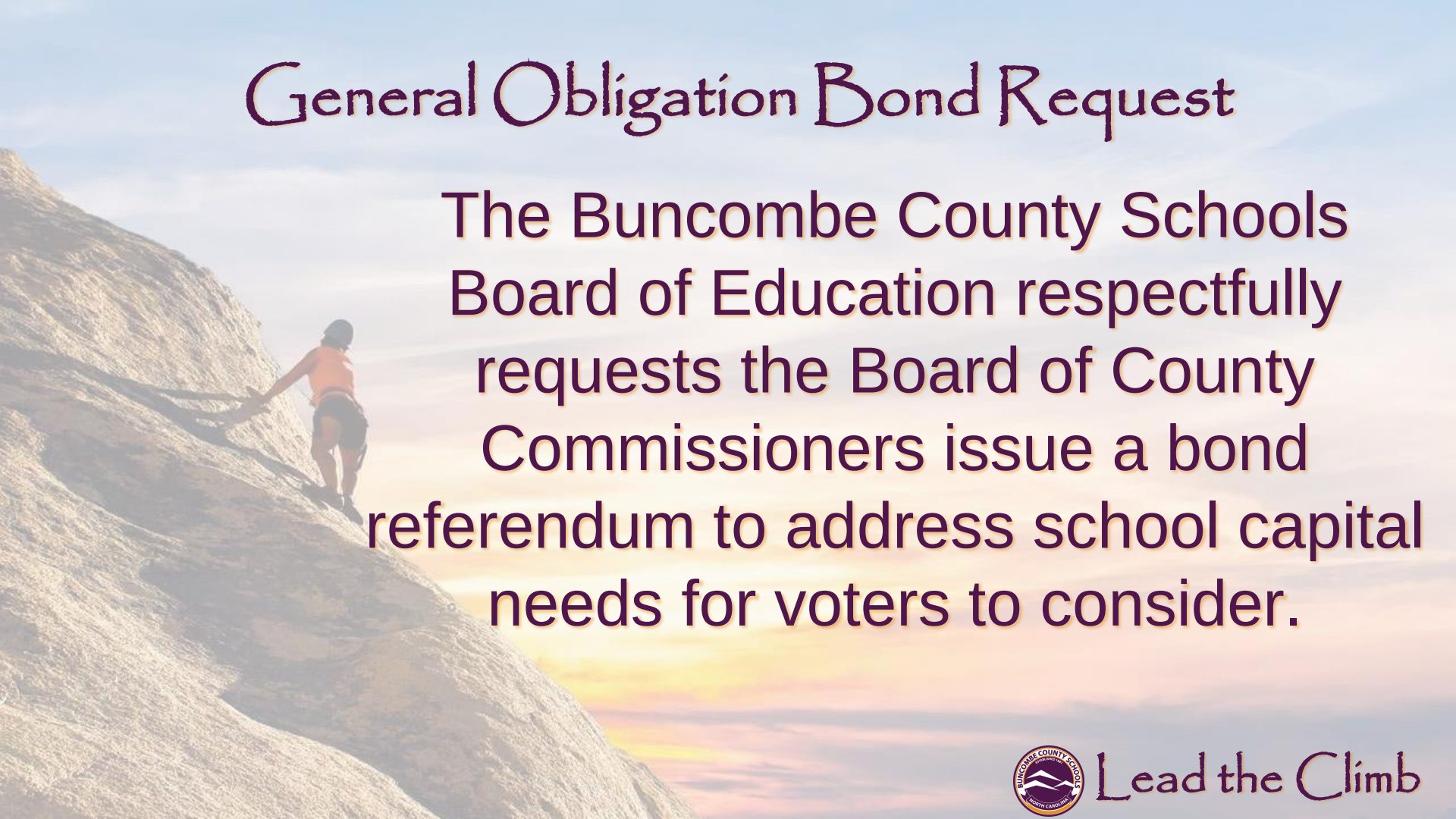


- Roofing: **$53,620,000**
  - 35 sites
- Major Renovations: **$220,000,000**
  - 10 sites – **Glen Arden ES**, WDWES, WWEES, WBES, PEP, Bus Garage Facility, ACRHS, WPS, NBES, NBMS
- Front Office Reconfiguration: **$29,800,000**
  - 28 sites
- Guard House / New Traffic Patterns: **$9,400,000**
  - 7 sites
- Mechanical Upgrades: **$118,000,000**
  - 8 sites
- Electrical Upgrades: **$23,585,000**
  - 46 sites
- Plumbing Upgrades: **$8,975,000**
  - 8 sites
- Athletic Facilities: **$24,550,000**
  - 11 sites

Total - $487,930,000

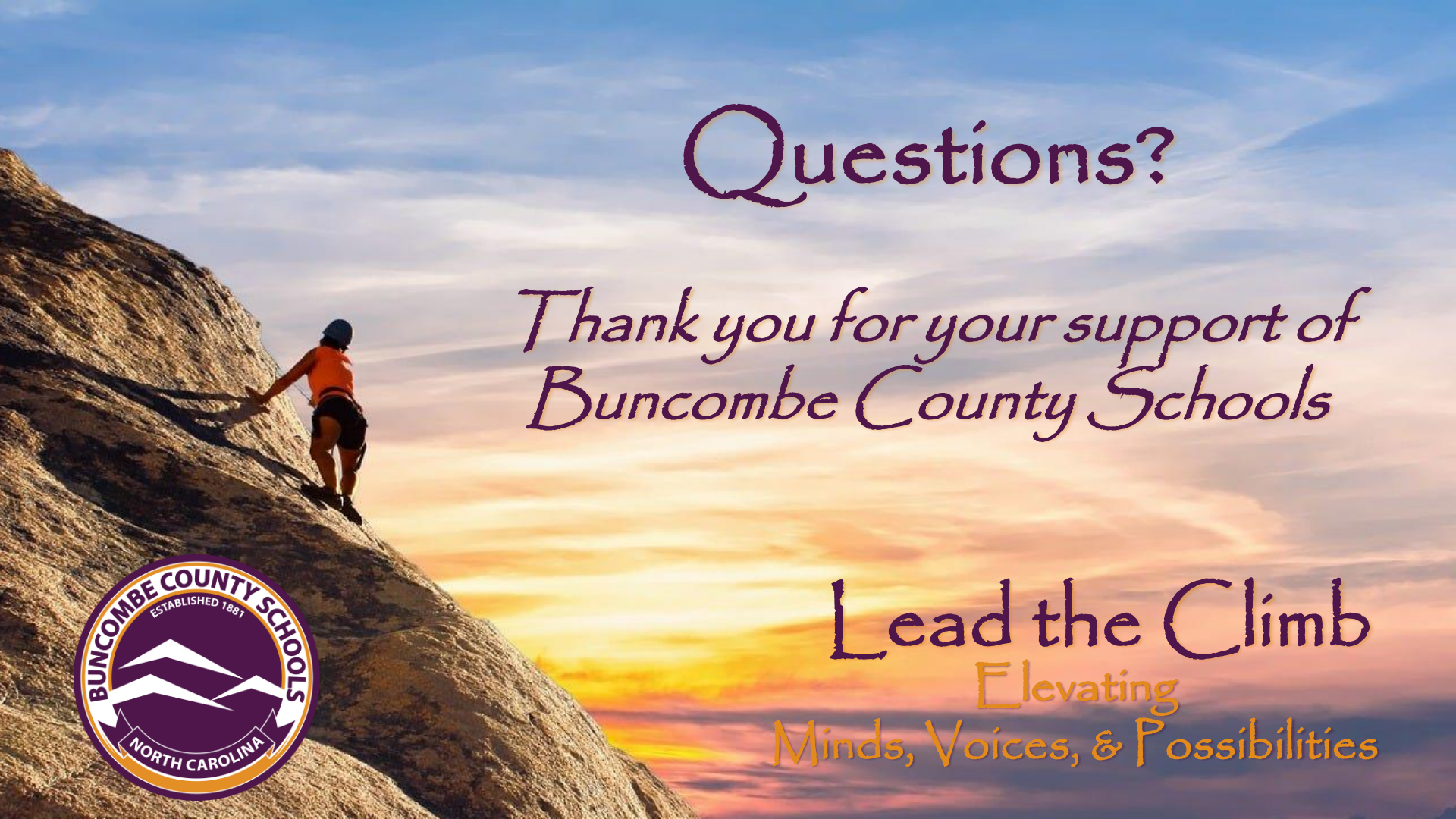
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General Obligation Bond Request



The Buncombe County Schools Board of Education respectfully requests the Board of County Commissioners issue a bond referendum to address school capital needs for voters to consider.

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Questions?
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Buncombe County Schools
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BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS
ESTABLISHED 1887
NORTH CAROLINA