BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR TOMORROW

Rob Jackson, Ed.D., Superintendent

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Memo

To: Dr. Rob Jackson, Superintendent
From: Robin Paine, Director of Federal Programs
Date: May 27, 2026
Subject: 2026–2027 Federal Programs Plan Approval
CC: Dr. Jennifer Reed, Associate Superintendent

Each year, Buncombe County Schools must submit an application to state program directors for Title I (Parts A, C, and D), Title II, Title III, and Title IV programs. Prior to submission of the Consolidated Continuous Improvement Plan (CCIP), the Board of Education is asked to review and approve the proposed plan for federal programs and associated budgets.

At this time, most federal funding allocations have been released, with the exception of Title I, Part C. However, planning has begun for all programs. I would like to share the information currently available for your review while we await the release of the final remaining funding allocation.

I respectfully request that the 2026–2027 Proposed Federal Programs Plan be submitted for consent at the June 4, 2026, Buncombe County Board of Education meeting.

Recommendation: Approval of the 2026–2027 Federal Programs Plan for Title I (Parts A, C, and D), Title II, Title III, and Title IV, with budget pending final allocation for Title I, Part C.

Buncombe County Schools
2026-2027 Proposed Federal Programs Plan

Title I, Part A	**26-27 Planning Allocation: $7,493,844.00** **25-26 Planning Allocation: $7,587,887.00** **Decrease: 94,043.00**
The Title I program is operated as part of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) and serves 27 Buncombe County Schools. Next year, the instructional program will continue as an in-class model serving students in grades K-5 at primary/elementary schools and in grades 5-6 at intermediate schools. Each eligible Title I school will have at least one Title I Reading Specialist, along with additional Title I funded staff such as Instructional Coaches, Assistants, and Tutors based on the school's allocation and student needs. <u>Projected 2026-2027 Title I Schools:</u> Avery's Creek Elementary Barnardsville Elementary Black Mountain Elementary Black Mountain Primary BCS Virtual Academy Candler Elementary Charles C. Bell Elementary Charles T. Koontz Intermediate Emma Elementary Enka Intermediate Fairview Elementary Haw Creek Elementary Hominy Valley Elementary Joe P. Eblen Intermediate Johnston Elementary Leicester Elementary North Buncombe Elementary North Windy Ridge Intermediate Oakley Elementary Pisgah Elementary Sand Hill-Venable Elementary W. D. Williams Elementary Weaverville Elementary Weaverville Primary West Buncombe Elementary William W. Estes Elementary Woodfin Elementary	The planning allocation for Title I, Part A (PRC 050) is $7,493,844.00. We are required to keep up to a maximum of 12% in administrative costs which include salaries and operating expenses. However, we have historically retained 10% or less, thus allocating more to the school level. We have reviewed the proposed 2026-2027 district set-asides with Title I Principals, Curriculum Department Leadership and the Finance team. Buncombe County Schools district set-asides support a range of services and initiatives, including: ● High-quality professional development ● District-level literacy coaches ● The Bookmobile ● Homeless liaison services ● Foster care transportation ● Private School proportionate share ● Neglected agency support - Eliada and Black Mountain Home for Children (Part D) ● District administration of the Title I program ● Family engagement opportunities The law also requires funds to be distributed to schools by allocation made on a per-pupil formula tied to the number of students from low-income families. Schools use Title I, Part A funds to support comprehensive school improvement efforts such as: ● Hiring additional highly qualified staff ● Purchasing supplemental instructional materials ● Providing sustained professional development to ensure teachers remain highly effective ● Allocating at least 1% of the school Title I budget for family engagement activities For 2026-2027, there are no private schools requesting Title I, Part A funding or services.

Title I, Part A subgrant (School Improvement - 1003(A) funds)	**26-27 Planning Allocation: $322,305.75** **25-26 Planning Allocation: $322,305.75** **Same Amount**
Title I, Part A School Improvement funds are federal grants designed to help Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) raise the achievement of students in the lowest-performing schools. The primary goal is to provide targeted financial assistance to schools that have the greatest academic need. This ensures these schools have the resources to implement comprehensive improvement plans, improve instructional quality, and boost student outcomes. To be eligible for funding, a district must have schools formally identified by the state's Department of Public Instruction or Board of Education under ESSA criteria. The two main categories of identification are: ● **Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI):** Schools performing in the lowest 5% of Title I schools, or those with very low graduation rates. ● **Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI/ATSI):** Schools with consistently underperforming student subgroups (e.g., specific racial/ethnic groups, students with disabilities, or English learners). Schools and districts must spend these funds on evidence-based interventions and strategies that align directly with their formal School Improvement Plan. Allowable uses generally include: ● **Staffing** ● **Academic Interventions** ● **Professional Development** ● **Student/Family Support**	The planning allocation for Title I, Part A School Improvement subgrant funds is $322,305.75. This funding source directly supports schools designated as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI/ATSI). CSI schools - Community High School and Johnston Elementary School are allocated a specific amount of grant funding. They use funds for: ● A full-time counselor ● An instructional assistant ● Tutors ● High-quality professional development ● Enrichment activities for STEM ● Additional supplies and materials for evidence-based interventions and support for core learning programs All schools with designations (CSI/TSI/ATSI) are supported with funding for: ● A full-time EC instructional coach to support all core instructional areas ● A part-time school improvement/principal support coach ● High-quality professional development ● Expanding the development of Common Formative Assessments for Math to grades 3, 4 and 6 ● Time for collaborative planning for core content, EC, and ESL teachers

Title I, Part C (Migrant)	**26-27 Planning Allocation: PENDING, Initial Allotment information not provided** **25-26 Allocation: $210,477.00**
The Migrant Education Program (MEP) is designed to help migrant students achieve academic success by providing targeted instructional support and social services. The MEP staff collaborate closely with schools, families, health & social service agencies, and community partners to identify, recruit, and serve migrant families. Services provided include: ● Initial visit by an outreach specialist to the home to assess the needs of the family and child(ren). ● Home visits to deliver materials and monitor student progress. ● Interpretation support at school conferences. ● One-on-one and small group tutoring during and after school hours. ● Supplemental academic resources and learning materials. ● Referrals and transportation to health care and community service appointments. ● Individual and group parent meetings focused on supporting student success. ● Assistance in transferring records to new schools. ● Summer instructional activities, including summer school, in-home tutoring, field trips, or other related enrichment activities. To ensure comprehensive support, MEP supplemental services are coordinated with the individual student's teachers, school counselors, and any additional programs in which the student may be enrolled (ESL, Homeless, Special Services, etc.).	The Title I, Part C Migrant Education Program (MEP) planning allocation has not yet been received. This DPI award-winning team has worked tirelessly to ensure that children from migrant families were identified promptly and that both student and family needs were met. Our MEP recruiters have gone above and beyond by visiting farms and other MEP-eligible locations, often during evenings and weekends, to connect with and support migrant students and their families. The current number of MEP students is 266, but the program served 300 students during the 2025-2026 school year. Our recruiters will continue working throughout the summer to identify students eligible for this program. Title I, Part C program funding supports the following: ● A full-time program coordinator ● An educational programming specialist ● Two outreach specialists/recruiters ● An outreach specialist/data manager ● Seasonal recruiters and tutors For 2026-2027, there are no private schools requesting Title I, Part C funding or services.

Title I, Part D **(Neglected or Delinquent)**	**26-27 Planning Allocation: $62,623.00** **25-26 Planning Allocation: $36,706.00**
Eliada and Black Mountain Home for Children receive funding as a set-aside from the BCS Title I planning allotment. This is a formula grant based on headcount for each institution that serves neglected or delinquent students. The amount allocated has ranged from $35,000 to $78,000 over the past five years.	The planning allocation for Title I, Part D is $62,623.00. While this amount is an increase for the institutions serving neglected or delinquent students, this amount is pulled directly from the district's Title I, Part A allocation. Each institution submits an annual application to the BCS Title I Department outlining its programmatic needs and aligning the institution's allotment to address identified priorities. The Director of Federal Programs meets individually with each school coordinator to review and support the development of a targeted plan based on current needs.
Title II, Part A **(Supporting Effective Instruction)**	**26-27 Planning Allocation:** $974,579.00 **25-26 Planning Allocation: $**994,316.00 **Decrease: $19,737.00**
The purpose of the Title II, Part A program is to: (1) increase student academic achievement through strategies such as improving teacher and principal quality, increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom and highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools; and (2) hold local educational agencies and schools accountable for improvements in student academic achievement.	The planning allocation for Title II, Part A funds is $974,579.00. BCS will use Title II, Part A funds to support: ● Instructional Coach positions ● Principal development ● Beginning Teachers and Mentors ● High-quality professional development to support core academics in all content areas ● High-quality professional development for English as a Second Language (ESL) and Exceptional Children (EC) teachers and coaches For 2026-2027, there is one private school requesting Title II, Part A funding or services.

Title III, Part A **(English Language Acquisition)**	**26-27 Planning Allocation:** $346,617.00 **25-26 Planning Allocation:** $302,490.00 **Increase:** $44,127.00
Title III, Part A provides federal funding for Buncombe County Schools English as a Second Language (ESL) program. The goal is to support Multilingual Learners or English Learners (ML/EL) in meeting state academic standards. These formula grants are based on the state's proportion of ML/ELs and recently immigrated students. Title III funds must be used to provide high-quality, research-based language instruction and sustained professional development for ESL and classroom teachers. Currently, 38 ESL teachers serve 2,843 identified EL/ML students across 45 schools. In addition, five certified tutors support students in schools with high EL student populations. Note: Title III funds may not be used to pay for regular ESL teacher positions, but they play a critical role in strengthening instructional capacity and program quality.	The planning allotment for Title III, Part A (PRC 104) is $346,617.00. In addition to PRC 104 funds, Buncombe County Schools also received PRC 111 immigrant-only funds last year. This funding is designated for districts experiencing notable increases in immigrant populations. PRC 111 supported the hiring of a Spanish-speaking District Parent Liaison, who has played a vital role in supporting immigrant students, their families, and schools across the district. At this time, the status and amount of PRC 111 funds for 2026-2027 are unknown. Title III, Part A funding supports the following: ● Three ESL coaches who provide school and teacher support across the district ● Professional development for ESL teachers, content-area teachers, and instructional coaches ● Instructional resources and materials for ESL classrooms ● Two certified tutor positions For 2026-2027, there are no private schools requesting Title III, Part A funding or services.

Title IV, Part A (Student Support & Academic Enrichment)	**26-27 Planning Allocation: $571,674.00** **25-26 Planning Allocation: $529,384.00** **Increase: $42,290.00**
Title IV, Part A authorizes activities in three broad areas with examples: **1. Well-Rounded Education** Supports programs that enrich student learning, including: ● College and career counseling ● STEM education ● Arts programs ● Civics education ● International Baccalaureate/ Advanced Placement courses **2. Safe and Healthy Students** Promotes the physical and emotional well-being of students through: ● Comprehensive school-based mental health services ● Drug and violence prevention programs ● Training on trauma-informed practices ● Health and physical education initiatives **3. Effective Use of Technology** Enhances digital learning environments by supporting: ● Professional development for educators ● Blended learning models ● Access to educational technology devices and tools	The planning allocation for Title IV, Part A funds is $571,674.00. BCS will use Title IV, Part A funds to support the three areas: 1. **Well-rounded Education**: ○ Arts Education programs/field trips ○ College and Career SEL Specialist ○ Materials/software/professional development to support SEL/behavioral growth of all students 2. **Safe and Healthy Students**: ○ College and Career SEL Specialist ○ MTSS Specialist ○ Other programs that would support safe and healthy students 3. **Effective use of Technology**: ○ Social/emotional online monitoring tool Title IV, Part A funding also supports Eaglet Academy, Eagle Academy and other alternative programs to meet the needs of all students. For 2026-2027, there are no private schools requesting Title IV, Part A funding or services.