BUNCOMBE COUNTY SCHOOLS
PREPARING STUDENTS FOR THEIR TOMORROW

Rob Jackson, Ed. D., Superintendent

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May 18, 2026

BCS Board Members and Dr. Jackson:

Career and Technical Education programs must adhere to all Federal Perkins V requirements. Perkins V requires Buncombe County Schools to submit a local application every two years to NCDPI for the State School Board to approve. Before submitting this application Career and Technical Education Local Application, the local Board of Education is asked to review and approve Career and Technical Education's Local Application Plan and budget prior to each school year.

2026-2027 *Preliminary* Allocated Budget:

PRC 013	Months of Employment	992
PRC 014	State CTE Funding (Program Support Funds)	$339,173.00
PRC 017	Federal Funding (Program Development, Coordination, Implementation, or Improvement	$410,166.00

CTE Local Application Highlights based on our Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment:

- Upgrading our Engineering curriculum at NDA and refreshing the PLTW Gateway offerings at our middle schools and research different curriculum platforms beside PLTW.
- Convert former photography room at ACRMS to a dedicated culinary lab space.
- Explore adding Turfgrass Management at Erwin High School as a local course option based on data.
- Add Culinary II at Erwin High School.
- Add Nursing Fundamentals to AC Reynolds High School.
- Explore adding Automotive at NBHS, Owen HS and Erwin HS.
- Enhance and modernize 6–12 CTE instructional spaces and equipment to ensure direct alignment with high-demand career pathways, specifically focusing on Woodworking and Agriculture.
- Support career awareness through industry tours, WBL, career counseling, field trips, career cafes, lunch n' learns etc.
- Budget and support industry recognized credentials in all program areas for students
- Budget and support professional development, industry visits and SIOP Training for CTE teachers
- Increase opportunities for CTE internships
- Learn and grow opportunities for pre-apprenticeships/apprenticeships

I respectfully request that the 2026-2027 CTE Local Application Plan be submitted for consent at the June 4, 2026 Buncombe County School Board of Education meeting.

The plan in its entirety can be found at: https://ccip.schools.nc.gov/

Sincerely,

Michele F. Smith
Director of Career and Technical Education
Buncombe County Schools

2025-2026 LOCAL APPLICATION
FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE)*
STATE/FEDERAL FUNDING
FINAL SUBMISSION FOR OVERALL APPROVAL

All programs, services and activities administered through this local application will be in accord with the CTE assurances listed in Part VI of the local application. The development of this application for state/federal funding for secondary career and technical education was coordinated by the director for career and technical education. This plan and the programs, services and activities offered are in accord with State and Federal guidelines. The information, data, and certifications included are accurate to the best of our knowledge and belief. The Assurances in Part VI will be carried out.

This application, when completed and approved by the local board of education, finance officer, and the superintendent of schools, becomes an agreement between the local board of education and the State Board of Education. This application is a necessary part of the State Board of Education's accountability to the General Assembly of North Carolina and the United States Department of Education.

Buncombe County Schools	110	5/18/2026
Local Education Agency	**LEA Number**	**Date**

APPROVED BY:

Superintendent:

Name

Signature

Board of Education Chairperson:

Name of Chairperson

Signature

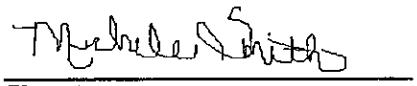
Finance Officer:

Name

Signature

PREPARED BY:
Director, Career and Technical Education

Michele F. Smith
Name



Signature

**Career and Technical Education is the administrative name which encompasses vocational and technical education in North Carolina. For the purposes of this plan, these terms are synonymous.*

Buncombe County Schools
Application for Career and Technical Education (CTE) State/Federal Funding
Fiscal Year 2026-2027

Executive Summary

PURPOSE OF THE APPLICATION: The Career and Technical Education (CTE) Local Application, accessed online in the NC Comprehensive Continuous Improvement Plan (NCCCIP), is the vehicle for strategic planning, managing performance, and assuring accountability for CTE. Part I of the CTE Local Application is a summary of CTE data/indicators of performance and is designed to attain and maintain performance excellence, as defined by the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2018. Districts analyze measurable performance based on trend information; analyze system and subsystem performance based on relevant subcategories crucial to stakeholders and customers; review state determined benchmarks; develop strategies based on the gaps in performance and allocate resources to close performance gaps. Part II is the results of the district's Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and is the foundation of Perkins V implementation at the local level. Through consultation with a wide range of stakeholders, the CLNA includes in-depth analysis of the entire CTE program to identify areas where targeted improvements can lead to increased opportunities for student success. Part III of the CTE Local Application is a system overview and strategic planning tool.

The CTE Local Application incorporates the requirements of all applicable state and federal laws which govern CTE in North Carolina. This application must be submitted to the Department of Public Instruction in order to receive and use state and federal funds for CTE programs and services in grades 6-12 for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The application describes the manner in which we propose to use these funds in accord with the purposes mandated by state and federal legislation.

PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFERED THROUGH THESE FUNDS: Career and Technical Education is conducted in all middle and high schools in Buncombe County Schools. Supporting Buncombe County Schools' strong academic foundation is a diverse career and technical curriculum in which students are provided opportunities to make classroom instruction relevant to real world situations. Buncombe County Schools Career and Technical Education courses provide students with a variety of options to fulfill the requirements for Future-Ready, Occupational Course of Study, and the North Carolina Academic Scholars. Student credentialing and certification opportunities as well as work-based learning opportunities are available in most program areas. Career and Technical Education Student Organizations (CTSO) are an integral part of CTE programs. The ultimate goal of CTE is for our graduates to become successful in a career and contributing members in society. CTE serves students in seven program areas: Agriculture Education; Business, Finance, and Marketing Education; Career Development Education; Computer Science and Information Technology Education; Family and Consumer Science Education; Health Science Education; Trade, Technology, Engineering and Industrial Education. Expanded course offerings are available through AB Technical Community College, which include Career & College Promise additional

courses. Articulation agreements exist between the two institutions that allow certain high school career and technical education courses to also qualify for college credit.

PROJECTED ACTIVITIES AND PRIORITIES: The major thrusts for CTE in Buncombe County Schools include providing appropriate career clusters opportunities; offering credentialing for students and staff; meeting ESEA requirements; providing appropriate CTE courses for high school students from the North Carolina Essential Standards; and supporting high school reform. We will be continuing our commitment to monitor student progress and achievement within our Career and Technical Education programs through our Instructional Management System. We will also be working to improve our performance relative to all state Performance Indicators adopted for Career and Technical Education programs by the NC State Board of Education. We will continue to provide opportunities for professional growth for CTE staff and encourage and support acquisition of professional certifications. Career and Technical Education will continue to support the Buncombe County Schools Strategic Plan in our pursuit of excellence. Activities and priorities will support the mission of CTE which is to help empower students for effective participation in an international economy as world-class workers and citizens.

All programs, services, and activities administered through this local plan will be in accord with the assurances listed in Part VI, Assurances and Certification, of this application.

The plan in its entirety can be found at: https://ccip.schools.nc.gov/