

**Brunswick County
Schools**

Federal Programs Annual Report

February, 2024



*Mr. Dale Cole
Superintendent*

Board of Education

Steven P. Barger, Chairman

Robin A. Moffitt, Vice-Chair

Harry E. Lemon, Jr.

David M. Robinson

Steve Gainey

Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)

On December 10, 2015 President Obama signed the largest federal aid program for our nation's schools into law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). This act reauthorizes the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 (ESEA) and replaces No Child Left Behind (NCLB). This education law represents our nation's commitment to equal opportunity for all students.

- (1) This law continues to focus on accountability and student-level assessments for all students in reading and mathematics in grades 3-8, science assessments at least once in the elementary grades and at least once in the middle grades, college and career readiness in the high school grades, and being accountable for all student subgroups.
- (2) The design is to ensure accountability and the guarantee that when students fall behind steps are taken to help all students and their schools improve, with a particular focus on the very lowest-performing schools, high schools with high dropout rates, and schools where subgroups are falling behind.
- (3) The emphasis shall be on continuing to ensure that parents and educators have annual assessment information and pertinent data about student progress, while supporting states and districts in reducing unnecessary, burdensome and redundant testing.
- (4) State and local decision-makers are empowered to develop their own strong systems for school and system improvement.
- (5) State Education Agencies (SEA) and Local Education Agencies (LEA) must continue to improve teacher effectiveness and equitable distribution of teachers to ensure that at-risk students are not being taught at disproportionate rates by ineffective, inexperienced and out of field teachers.

Title I, Part A

The purpose of Title I, Part A includes providing all children significant opportunities to receive a fair, equitable, and high quality education and to close education achievement gaps.

Brunswick County Schools received \$4,060,093 from the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) as the planning allotment for the 2023-2024 school year. The Title 1 allotment is being utilized to provide additional regular education teachers, teacher assistants, parent facilitators, literacy teachers, instructional coaches, curriculum specialist, PD Coordinator and additional supplies for district-wide initiatives related to supporting at-risk students.

TITLE 1, PART C

The goal of the Migrant Education Program is to ensure all migratory students reach challenging academic standards and graduate with a high school diploma that prepares them for responsible citizenship, further learning, and productive employment. The Title I-C funding provided is used to address

the special educational needs of migratory students and youth by meeting high academic challenges and working to overcome obstacles created by frequent moves, educational disruptions, cultural and language differences, health-related problems and other barriers. Priority for services is given to students who are failing or at risk of failing. Brunswick County Schools received \$367,889 as the allotment to support this program for the 2023-2024 school year.

TITLE III

The Language Acquisition Program is funded through Title III. The purpose of the Language Acquisition Program is to meet the needs of children for whom English is a second language and to be a bridge of communication and understanding between parents and the school system. Brunswick County Schools received \$102,522 to support this program for the 2023-2024 school year. The purpose of this funding is to ensure that students with limited English proficiency are provided challenging and quality instruction in the areas of listening, speaking, reading and writing in addition to preparation for all students to be college and career ready.

TITLE VII

McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act of 2001

Homeless children and youth means children and youth who are otherwise legally entitled to or eligible for a free public education, including preschool, and lack a fixed, regular and adequate nighttime residence, due to:

- Sharing housing due to loss of housing
- Economic hardship
- Living in motels, hotels, camping grounds, emergency shelters or in abandoned places
- Children or youth living in places not designed for regular sleeping accommodations
- Migratory children and youth who are living in a situation described above.

Specific Protections for students in Foster Care are included in The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) approved on December 10, 2015.

Children in foster care are some of the country's most educationally disadvantaged students. Studies show that students in foster care experience school suspensions and expulsions at higher rates than their peers not in foster care, lower standardized test scores in reading and math, high levels of grade retention and drop-out, and far lower high school and college graduation rates. The Public School Unit (PSU) and the Child Welfare Agency (CWA) must work in partnership in the best interest of all Foster Care Students to collaborate and agree regarding the terms of enrollment and transportation procedures that are in the best interest of the students.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

Career and Technical Education (CTE) is a federally funded program through the Carl Perkins Act. Approximately \$240,490 is currently budgeted for CTE. This allows for class equipment, supplies and materials, staff development, computer software, hardware, and a small amount of administrative cost. In Brunswick County, CTE offers students hands-on experience in seven different program areas: (1) Agricultural Education, (2) Business, Finance, and Marketing Education (3) Family & Consumer Sciences Education, (4) Health Science Education, (5) Career Development Education (6) Computer Science, IT, and Technology Education and (7) Trade, and Industrial Education. Brunswick County Schools offers a variety of CTE courses to its students in grades 6-12. Courses are offered in Career Pathways to help students become "Career and College Ready." By combining "real world" experience such as job shadowing, internships, and pre-apprenticeships with basic skills such as reading and math, CTE prepares students to become world-class workers in today's International workplace. Many CTE students enter the workforce directly from high school, while others continue to college. More than 95% of CTE concentrators graduated "on time" in the 2022-2023 school year.

CHILD NUTRITION

The National School Lunch Program (NSLP) is a federally assisted meal program. It provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946. The majority of the support provided to schools participating in the National School Lunch Program comes in the form of federal cash reimbursement for each student meal served. Additionally, schools are entitled to receive commodity foods and additional commodities as they are available from surplus agricultural stocks. The United States Department of Agriculture, through its Food and Nutrition Service, administers the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) at the federal level. In North Carolina, the program is further administered by the state education agency (NC Department of Public Instruction), which operates the program through agreements with local school food authorities and school boards.

TEACHER QUALITY TITLE II PART A

Brunswick County Schools is committed to having "highly qualified staff". The purpose of Title II federal funding is to increase student achievement by improving teacher and principal quality through professional learning. Title II funds are allotted to pay for five (5) Instructional Coaches' salaries, one (1) Secondary Curriculum and Instruction Director and 40% of one (1) Professional Development and Elementary Education Executive Director's Salary.

The Instructional support positions provide on-site, job-embedded professional development for teachers and school leaders. Brunswick County Schools received \$532,095 as the planning allotment to support this program for the 2023-2024 school year.

TITLE IV

The purpose of Title IV Part A Subpart 4101 is to support well-rounded education opportunities, provide a safe and healthy environment, and improve the use of technology in academic achievement. The planning allotment amount for Brunswick County Schools for the 2023-2024 school year was \$323,164. This funding is being used to fund additional support positions including an additional school nurse, an additional digital learning specialist, and a school career development coordinator. These positions directly support staff and students in providing a well-rounded educational system. It also provides for STEM activities and additional reading material for all students..

EXCEPTIONAL CHILDREN

The Individuals with Disabilities Education Improvement Act of 2004 (IDEA '04) provides federal funding opportunities for exceptional children's educational programs. The VI-B Grant is a formal grant which is written every year. The LEA receives 75% of their allocation for December 1, 1998 which is the base. The remaining funds are distributed as follows: 85% is allocated based upon the number of children who are enrolled in public and private elementary and secondary schools and 15% is allocated based on the number of children living in poverty (free and reduced lunch). The VI-B Grant also includes an allocation for exceptional children's preschool programs. This formula is based on the December 1, 1996 child count (\$486.19 per child). 85% of the remaining funding is distributed based on the total K-12 enrollment in public and private schools and 15% is based on the number of children living in poverty (free and reduced lunch). In the 2023-2024 school year, Brunswick County received approximately \$3,069,100 from the VI-B Grant. Brunswick County's VI-B grant funds are used to fund exceptional children staff positions. The state allocation for Brunswick County Exceptional Children's program for 2023-2024 is \$9,901,781.

Every Student Succeeds Act Parent Engagement

In accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act of 2015, Title I, Section 1118, Brunswick County Schools will:

- Seek to actively involve parents in their child's educational process.
- Involve parents in the development of the LEA Title I Plan by using active parent participants as members of our School Improvement Planning Team. Each member will have an opportunity to review the plan.
- Provide coordination, technical assistance, and other support from various central office departments to assist schools in planning and implementing parent engagement activities, and workshops designed to improve our students' academic performance.

- Provide support for parent engagement and strategies by providing information to parents concerning community-based programs.
- Ensure that parents are given the opportunity to be involved in the school's activities including being part of each School Improvement Planning Team.
- Have parent representation from each school serve on the Parent Advisory Council for that school. This group will have input into and representation on the Executive Parent Advisory Council.
- Review this policy annually with parents.

COVID Funding

Since March of 2020, the district has received \$44.9 million in federal funds to assist with coronavirus aid and relief. Numerous positions were added to support schools, including additional teachers, nurses, social workers, psychologists, dropout prevention, etc. to meet the needs of our students during the pandemic. HVAC upgrades and improvements are being made to improve air quality in our schools. Other major items include technology devices, additional software for the classroom, and safety supplies and materials in response to COVID 19. The use of these funds are available with various expiration dates through Sept 2024.

Department of Instruction and Accountability Services

*Molly White, Deputy Superintendent
AIG/Advanced Studies, Digital Learning, Elementary,,
Exceptional Children, Federal Programs, Instructional
Coaches, Middle Schools, MTSS, Professional Development,
Student Services*

*Jonathan Paschal, Assistant Superintendent
Accountability, Athletics, CTE, High School, Fine Arts*

*Jennifer Damin, Executive Director,
Elementary and Professional Development*

*Melissa Quinlan, Executive Director
Exceptional Children & Student Support*

*Jeannie Timpkin, Director
Digital Learning and School Library Programs*

*Dawn Hollis, Director
Career and Technical Education*

*Imer Smith RD, LDN, Director
Child Nutrition*

*Amanda Richardson, Director
Testing and Data Management*

*Karen Baker, Director
Title I, Title III, Title I Part C, MTSS*