### AGENDA JOINT MEETING OCTOBER 16, 2023

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- 1. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER.
- 2. PRESENTATION OF DRAFT COUNTYLINE MERGER TRANSITION PLAN BY DR. ANDREW BRYAN, EDGECOMBE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT AND DR. STEVE ELLIS, NASH COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUPERINTENDENT.
- 3. OPEN DISCUSSION.
- 4. ADJOURN MEETING.

# Memorandum

To:

**Board of Commissioners** 

From:

Eric Evans, County Manager &

Date:

10/10/23

Re:

Draft Countyline Merger Transition Plan



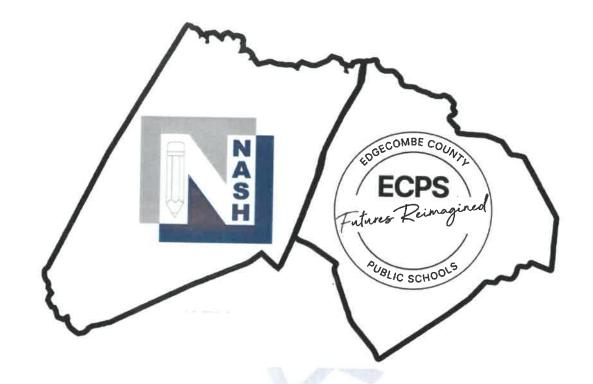
Attached for your review is the Countyline Merger Transition Plan, which is due for submission to the NC State Board of Education on November 15, 2023. You will see that the plan is in two parts detailing the respective sides of the merger for each school system.

You will hear a presentation of the plan from Dr. Andrew Bryan, ECPS Superintendent, and Dr. Steve Ellis, NCPS Superintendent at our joint meeting. You will also have the opportunity to give feedback and to ask questions.

To give you adequate time to process the proposed plan, we will not ask you to adopt the plan at this meeting. All four Boards are asked to consider adopting a resolution to approve the plan at your regularly scheduled meeting in November.

# Countyline Merger Transition Plan - Draft

# Part I Edgecombe County Schools



# **SB 248 PLAN OF TRANSFER**

# **EDGECOMBE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

November 15, 2023

# Plan of Transfer Edgecombe County Public Schools

Draft as of 10/10/23

### Presented to:

Edgecombe County Board of Education Edgecombe County County Commissioners Nash County Board of Education Nash County Board of Commissioners

#### Presented by:

Edgecombe County Board of Education Edgecombe County County Commissioners Nash County Board of Education Nash County Board of Commissioners

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#### **Plan of Transfer Overview**

#### Requirements of NC Senate Bill 248

Edgecombe County Public Schools (ECPS) serves the needs of over 5,400 students in grades Pre-K through 13. Effective July 1, 2024, ECPS will welcome all students who reside in Edgecombe County but currently attend Nash County Public Schools (NCPS).

The goal of this Plan of Transfer is to provide a written plan and response to General Assembly of North Carolina Senate Bill 248, requiring that the boundaries of the NCPS shall be identical to the boundaries of Nash County and further stating that any territory that was previously part of NCPS that is located outside of the boundaries of Nash County shall be annexed to the school administrative unit of the county in which the territory is located.

The ECPS Plan of Transfer coalesces with the NCPS Plan of Transfer, and the joint plans were submitted concurrently to the school boards and county commissions of Nash and Edgecombe Counties by both superintendents on or before November 15, 2023.

## **ECPS Transition Planning Team Leadership**

The superintendents of ECPS and NCPS have formed a joint Merger Transition Team composed of leaders from both the Edgecombe and Nash County Public School systems. The ECPS Transition Team leaders are as follows:

# Dr. Andy Bryan, Superintendent of Edgecombe County Public Schools

Superintendent Dr. Andy Bryan serves as the transition leader for ECPS during and following the merger. He collaborates with the ECPS Board of Education to set the vision for the merger process and ensures that all merger-related activities are researched, identified, disseminated, assigned and completed.

# Ronnie Sharpe, Executive Director for Transition and Redesign

Mr. Ronnie Sharpe serves as Executive Director for Transition and Redesign for ECPS. He is charged with collaborating with the superintendent and stakeholders to develop a vision and action plan for successfully transitioning NCPS students living in Edgecombe County into ECPS. Mr. Sharpe works with members of the ECPS and NCPS transition teams to implement strategies designed to elevate and accelerate academic achievement, enhance social and emotional growth, and spread a culture of strategic risk-taking and innovation throughout the ECPS and Edgecombe County community by establishing trust through transparency, information sharing, stakeholder participation, and a comprehensive communications effort.

# Dr. Charlene Pittman, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resource Services

Dr. Charlene Pittman manages all transition-related efforts related to personnel and child nutrition. In her role with ECPS, Dr. Pittman oversees employment benefits, teacher support, classified staff support, licensure, employee benefits, worker's compensation, substitutes, volunteers, recruitment and hiring, and performance management programs. Dr. Pittman and



her counterparts in NCPS are working together to create a positive and supportive work transition and recruitment process, and concurrently develop an environment that fosters the professional growth of all incoming ECPS employees.

Erin Swanson, Assistant Superintendent for Innovation and Strategic Planning
Ms. Erin Swanson collaborates with the ECPS transition team to develop a comprehensive
merger strategy that aligns with the current ECPS Graduate Aims and strategic plan. She
supports the team to work in collaboration with the community to determine the optimal
configuration of schools and to design school models that align with student needs and
community interests.

Dr. Michael A. Myrick, Deputy Superintendent and Chief Academic Officer

Dr. Michael A. Myrick works in collaboration with the ECPS and NCPS Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support Services teams to manage all transition-related activities in ECPS.

#### Dena R. Howell, Finance Officer

Ms. Dena R. Howell serves as the senior-level administrator responsible for managing all financial aspects of the ECPS district operations. Throughout the transition, Ms. Howell and her team work collaboratively with the NCPS finance team to identify, clarify and transition NCPS's investments, debt obligations, and related matters. The ECPS finance department ensures ECPS's compliance with district, state, and federal regulations, maintaining the financial health and integrity of the school system.

# Jessica Parker, Jeanes Fellow & Susan Hoke, Communications Coordinator Co-Leads, Communications and Transportation

The ECPS merger communications team, led by Ms. Jessica Parker and Mrs. Susan Hoke, in collaboration with their counterparts in NCPS, has developed two-way communication strategies designed to address the specific needs and concerns of each respective East Rocky Mount and Edgecombe County stakeholder group. This team has evaluated and is seeking to utilize the most efficient and effective communication channels available in order to reach the multitude of community constituents who are impacted by the merger. Communication strategies include, but are not limited to: community outreach information sessions, newsletters, student mailings, welcome packets, empathy interviews, in-person meetings, ECPS and NCPS school district website postings, social media, email updates, and mobile apps. Ms. Parker and Mrs. Hoke are also working collaboratively with Ms. Rhonda Wainwright, ECPS Transportation Director, to manage all merger-related efforts related to student transportation.

#### **Transition Planning Team Members**

The ECPS Transition Leadership Team has formed internal subcommittees to work on specific elements of the plan. ECPS has also convened and consulted with a Community Design Team that represents a diverse group of constituents and supports ongoing merger efforts. Both the ECPS Board of Education and the Edgecombe County Commissioners have been consulted throughout the merger planning process. In addition, the North Carolina Department of Public



Instruction (NCDPI) has been an integral part of the planning process. NCDPI staff members will continue to serve as consultants to staff members in both counties throughout the merger process.

### **ECPS Internal Subcommittee Members**

- Dr. Andy Bryan Superintendent
- England Alston Administrative Assistant
- Dr. Chanda Battle Waters Director of Student Support Services
- Nai Barnes District PowerSchool Manager/Testing
- Dr. Robert Batts Director of Secondary Education
- Dr. Lutashia Dove Director PreK and Elementary Education
- Arlane Gordon-Bray Director of Development, ECPS Educational Foundation
- Joseph Hayes Director of Technology
- Susan Hoke Communications Coordinator
- Thomas Holland Executive Director of Testing, Accountability, and Data Analysis
- Dena Howell Director of Finance
- Ruth McDowell Director of Child Nutrition
- Dr. Michael Myrick Deputy Superintendent Academic Officer
- Jessica Parker Jeanes Fellow
- Army Pearce Director of Federal Programs
- Carlton Perkins Director of Maintenance
- Dr. Charlene Pittman Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Services
- Ronnie Sharpe Executive District Director Transition and Redesign
- Erin Swanson Assistant Superintendent of Innovation and Strategic Planning
- Meagan Sykes Director of Exceptional Programs
- Rhonda Wainright Transportation Supervisor

### **Rocky Mount Community Design Team**

- Dorean Nunery Rocky Mount Citizen
- Dr. Kelsey Ballard Principal, West Edgecombe Middle School
- Erin Brewer Barnhill Contracting Company
- Josie Davis Former Principal, ECPS
- Tomah Dozier East Rocky Mount Parent
- Eric Evans County Manager, Edgecombe County
- Yolanda Ray-Henderson Counselor, West Edgecombe Middle School
- Rev. Richard Joyner Rocky Mount City Council
- Dr. Gregory McLeod President, Edgecombe Community College
- Tia Lucas Community Stakeholder
- Lisa Meadows Former Educator, ECPS
- Tiffany Mercer Assistant Principal, Stocks Elementary School
- Millicent Ruffin Corning Inc.
- Khira Young Edgecombe County Parent
- Stacey Young Edgecombe County Parent



- Rev. Thomas L. Walker, Jr. Rocky Mount City Council
- Lashonda Washington Chair, Nash County Board of Education
- Dr. Evelyn Wilson Chair, Edgecombe County Board of Education

#### **Legal Support**

- Tharrington Smith Law Firm, LLC
- Lawrence Armstrong, Armstrong Law PLLC

#### **Edgecombe County Board of Education**

- Dr. Evelyn Shaw Wilson District 1, Chair
- Mrs. Lillie Worsley District 2
- Dr. Evelyn Johnson District 3
- Mr. William Ellis District 4, Vice-Chair
- Mrs. Ann R. Kent District 5
- Rev. Raymond Privott District 6
- Mrs. Jewel Calhoun District 7

#### **Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners**

- Leonard Wiggins District 3, Chair
- Evelyn Powell District 1
- Viola Harris District 2
- George Thorne District 4
- Ralph Webb District 5
- Donald C. Boswell District 6
- Rev. Wayne Hines District 7

### **Employment of Personnel**

ECPS is working in collaboration with NCPS to review the existing contracts and employment agreements of the personnel in the four schools being acquired by ECPS on July 1, 2024: Baskerville Elementary, D. S. Johnson Elementary, Fairview Elementary and Parker Middle School. ECPS will host a series of ECPS/NCPS recruitment events for encouraging and determining personnel interested in employment with ECPS. ECPS will share an understanding of the terms and conditions of employment, including any provisions related to transfers or changes in employment status, beginning September 27, 2023.

#### **Assessing Staffing Needs**

ECPS will evaluate the staffing needs of the newly acquired NCPS sites that will be
merging and transitioning into ECPS. The ECPS Human Resources department will
determine staff positions that are essential and identify any redundancies or gaps. This
internal assessment will help guide the decision-making processes for personnel
employment. ECPS will conduct a meticulous examination of the staffing requirements at



our newly acquired transition school sites of Baskerville Elementary, D.S. Johnson Elementary, Fairview Elementary, and Parker Middle schools. Additionally, ECPS will implement the configuration model chosen by the ECBOE and the East Rocky Mount community as we concurrently merge approximately 120 current eighth graders (future 2024 incoming freshmen high school students who attend a variety of NCPS sites) into ECPS. ECPS will adhere to our internal efficiency/effectiveness model based on student enrollment, building capacity inherent with ECPS's needs-based methodologies, and its Mission, Vision, and Values. These remedies include but are not limited to identifying the number of administrators, teachers (student/teacher ratios), support staff, specialists, and other personnel needed to accommodate our incoming Edgecombe County students currently served by NCPS.

• ECPS will collaborate with NCPS to obtain an updated listing of the number of students who are currently assigned to the aforementioned schools and other students who currently reside in Edgecombe County and are attending NCPS. The NCPS Human Resources department will collaborate with ECPS to identify and share additional provisions required for the development of an efficient and effective implementation of the plan through joint Transition Team planning efforts beginning September 27, 2023 and throughout the transition process.

#### **Reviewing Existing Contracts**

NCPS will provide a list of staff currently assigned to schools with personnel information such as names, employee's current positions/titles, contract terms, etc. according to § 160A-168. NCPS will also provide a list of students attending Baskerville Elementary, D.S. Johnson Elementary, Fairview Elementary, and Parker Middle School who currently qualify for special programming such as Exceptional Children, Academically & Intellectually Gifted, English Learners, etc. by October 30, 2023.

#### **Transfer and Placement**

- ECPS/NCPS will share the reapplication process for teachers and staff members beginning on September 27, 2023, and extending throughout the merger process.
- The ECPS Human Resources department will collaborate with their counterparts in NCPS to obtain the necessary information to support the communication with staff who may be interested in remaining at their current school of assignment.
- The ECPS Human Resources department will demonstrate transparency with regards to the elements which constitute the ECPS transition plan for recruitment, hiring and onboarding, beginning on September 27, 2023 and throughout the transition process.

#### **Qualifications and Certifications**

ECPS will ensure that the transferred personnel meet the qualifications and certifications required by the state of North Carolina for both classified and certified staff. This may involve verifying credentials and providing necessary guidance, training, or support.



#### **Contracts and Agreements**

New contracts and/or agreements may need to be negotiated, beginning November 15, 2023.

#### **Benefits and Compensation**

ECPS will consider the impact of the merger on benefits and compensation for newly-hired personnel across all departments. ECPS will assess the difference in pay scales for all roles by November 30, 2023, aiming to enhance our competitive recruitment efforts. This assessment will involve ensuring a seamless transition and continuation of benefits, pending the advice of legal counsel.

#### **Training and Support**

ECPS will provide ongoing training and support to personnel during and preceding the transition period, beginning on or before July 1, 2024. These processes may include but are not limited to: orientation/onboarding sessions, professional development opportunities, and mentoring programs. ECPS will provide assistance and support for newly hired personnel with regard to understanding and learning the various aspects of ECPS policies, procedures, goals and objectives, and expectations. All training will be in collaboration with the Curriculum, Instruction and Student Support Services Team.

# Preparation of Budgets & Funds, Contracts, Obligations, Assets, Liabilities

After November 15, 2023, ongoing discussions will continue to occur regarding additional local budgetary considerations.

### **Edgecombe County's Funding Commitment for County-Line Merger**

- Edgecombe County will pay current expense funds to Nash County Schools for Edgecombe residents remaining in Nash County Schools in an amount equal to Edgecombe County's per pupil allocation to Edgecombe County Schools multiplied by the number of Edgecombe students in Nash County Schools. The total amount appropriated will decrease as each remaining class graduates.
- Edgecombe County will not pay any difference in the per pupil allocation between Edgecombe and Nash counties, also known as the current expense gap.
- Edgecombe County will no longer appropriate funds to Nash County for debt service.
- Edgecombe County will no longer appropriate annual capital funds to Nash County Schools.
- Nash County Schools will not charge tuition for those students from Edgecombe County who remain in Nash County high schools through school year 2026-2027.

#### **Budget Transfer Process**



- ECPS will identify and address all legal and regulatory requirements and framework governing the transfer of assets and budgets between the two school districts. ECPS will ensure compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, and contractual obligations.
- ECPS will collaborate with NCPS and create a timeline and action steps for merging the
  respective budgets and transferring all assets from the NCPS to ECPS by July 1, 2024.
- ECPS will align accounting systems using standardized financial processes, and will allocate resources based on the needs of the ECPS school district.

#### **Transfer and Acquisition of Assets**

- As of October 9, 2023, ECPS and NCPS are working in collaboration with the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and the US Department of Education (USDOE) to determine the reasonable fair market value of the assets and how ECPS will acquire selected assets. Several approaches to acquiring these assets are actively being pursued.
- The aforementioned assets include the transfer of the real property from the four NCPS schools (Baskerville Elementary, D. S. Johnson Elementary, Fairview Elementary and Parker Middle), the Teacher Resource Center, and the Child Nutrition Center to the ECPS school district by July 1, 2024, or sooner, as determined by the ECPS and NCPS superintendents. Specifically, these assets include real property, furnishings and improvements, encumbered and unencumbered property, equipment, buses, band and sports equipment, textbooks, other instructional materials, and library resources, computers, and supplies, funds, contracts, obligations, assets, and liabilities, and other tangible or appropriate assets, subject or function relevant to the area to be transferred.

#### **Legal and Contractual Obligations**

ECPS and NCPS superintendents, finance officers, attorneys, and Boards of Education will review all contracts, agreements, and legal obligations associated with the transferring schools and determine the necessary steps to transfer or terminate these contracts, ensuring compliance with legal requirements.

#### **Staff Training**

ECPS will provide training and support to staff members involved in financial management and asset transfer processes to ensure they are familiar with the new budgeting systems and understand their roles and responsibilities during the merger transition process.

#### Monitoring and Evaluating

ECPS and NCPS have established a joint collaborative monitoring and evaluation system to track the financial aspects of the merger and identify any issues, barriers, questions or concerns, and potential challenges. The Transition Team will regularly review the effectiveness of financial reports, asset utilization, and stakeholder feedback during our bi-weekly Transition Team Meetings in order to make any necessary adjustments.

#### **Closeout Process**



Once the merger has been successfully completed and implemented, ECPS and NCPS will finalize all financial transactions, close out accounts, and ensure all outstanding obligations are settled by July 1, 2024 or sooner, as determined by the ECPS and NCPS superintendents and respective Boards of Education.

ECPS and NCPS will conduct a final audit to ensure accuracy and compliance by July 1, 2024.

# **School Configuration & Student Assignment**

#### **Student Assignment**

- Students living in Edgecombe County who are eligible for NC Pre-K during the 2024-2025 school year will have the opportunity to apply for a Pre-K seat in ECPS.
   Pre-K seats will be determined by student eligibility and the availability of space that meets state NC-Pre-K regulations.
- Students living in Edgecombe County but currently attending NCPS, and assigned by NCPS to grades Kindergarten through 9th for the 2024-2025 school year, will attend school in the ECPS public school district beginning in August of 2024. These students will remain in the ECPS school district for the remainder of their PK-13 educational experience unless withdrawn via the ECPS withdrawal process.
- Students living in Edgecombe County but currently attending NCPS, and assigned by NCPS to grades 10, 11, 12, and 13 for the 2024-2025 school year, will have the opportunity to attend their respective Legacy School placement in the NCPS for the 2024-2025 school year and for the remainder of their PK-13 educational experience, unless withdrawn via the NCPS withdrawal process. Students in grades 10, 11, and 12 who elect to enroll in an ECPS school will be assigned to North Edgecombe High School.
- Rising PK-9th grade students living in Edgecombe County but currently attending NCPS, and assigned by NCPS to alternative placements for the 2023-2024 school year, will be assessed and placed in the appropriate setting by the ECPS Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support Services team during the summer of 2024.
- Students with unique circumstances will be handled on a case-by-case basis by both school districts.

#### **Recommended School Configuration**

After seeking input from a variety of stakeholders, the ECPS Board of Education has
determined the following school configuration for the 2024-2025 school year. This is the
school configuration in place for the 2023-24 school year.

**Rocky Mount Merger Schools** 

**Rocky Mount Merger Schools** 



Feeder Pattern A	Feeder Pattern B	
Fairview Elementary School: Grades PK-2	Baskerville Elementary School: Grades K-5	
D.S. Johnson Elementary School: Grades 3-5	(Pre-K pending)	
Parker Middle School: Grades 6-8	Parker Middle School: Grades 6-8	
9th Grade Student Center: Grade 9	9th Grade Student Center: Grade 9	

- Students will be assigned to schools using the attendance boundaries set by NCPS during the 2023-24 school year.
- Edgecombe County students who attended other NCPS schools in 2023-24 will be assigned to either Feeder Pattern A or B, as determined by the ECPS student services, accountability, and transportation departments.

#### **Student Records Transfers**

- PowerSchool Enrollment will support NCPS to transfer relevant student records directly to ECPS no later than June 30, 2024.
- Physical cumulative student records for current NCPS students transferring to ECPS will remain in schools where they are housed as of June 30, 2024, to be managed by ECPS.
- Incomplete Read-to-Achieve portfolios for students transferring to ECPS in the fall of 2024 will be clearly marked and left in the principals' office of each acquired school on June 30, 2024, to be managed by ECPS.

#### **Child Nutrition**

#### **Meal Service Assessment**

Parker Middle School serves approximately 147 lunches per day. Fairview serves approximately 236 lunches daily, Baskerville typically serves approximately 253 lunches daily and D.S. Johnson serves approximately 298 meals daily.

#### **Equipment Needs & Transfers**

- ECPS Child Nutrition Department (ECND) collaborated with the NCPS Child Nutrition Department (NCND) to discuss the current equipment condition and children participating in meal service. The ECPS Child Nutrition Director visited the schools to assess the existing equipment. Some equipment will need to be repaired or replaced.
- ECND will collaborate with NCND to assess the amount of equipment transferred and the amount of equipment needed based on projected school enrollment by December 30, 2023.
- ECND will collaborate with NCND and ECPS Maintenance to transfer physical



equipment to the school sites by August 1, 2024.

#### **Facilities**

- ECND will determine the capacity for Parker Middle School to service all projected enrolled students with their alley kitchen by December 30, 2023.
- ECND will collaborate with NCND to finalize other facilities-related needs by December 30, 2023.

#### **Personnel Considerations**

- ECND will collaborate with NCND to determine the number of staff interested in employment in ECND by December 30, 2023,
- ECND will determine the number of staff needed at each school site based on projected student enrollment in order to begin recruitment no later than December 30, 2023.
- ECND will collaborate with the ECPS Deputy Superintendent to determine if ECND office staff will move to the Rocky Mount office by December 30, 2023.

#### **Transportation**

#### **Acquisition of Buses**

- The successful transfer of transportation assets is vital for the success of the merger. Currently, NCPS operates a fleet primarily consisting of 72-passenger buses, and several 65-passenger buses that may require replacement before the beginning of the 2025-2026 school year. The existing ECPS bus storage and maintenance facility is designed to accommodate 65-passenger buses. Taking into consideration the expected enrollment of approximately 1400 students in the school district and the size of the maintenance facility, ECPS plans to acquire the number of 65-passenger buses and EC buses which equals the number of buses required to serve the projected number of bus riders living in Edgecombe County, as determined by the ECPS Transportation Department. This number could range from 5 20 (plus) buses.
- The ECPS and NCPS transportation directors are working with the North Carolina
  Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) to transfer approximately 20 72-passenger
  buses from NCPS to another local Public School Unit (PSU). This local PSU will then
  transfer the appropriate number of 65-passenger buses to ECPS.
- ECPS and NCPS transportation directors will collaborate to define the necessary procedures for taking possession of the vehicles and equipment by July 1, 2024.

#### **Daily Operations**

 NCPS currently stores buses at a separate location outside of regular weekday driving hours and on weekends. This location is outside of Edgecombe County.



- ECPS will require a satellite facility in Rocky Mount for bus storage and routine
  maintenance to promptly respond to emergency and mechanical issues. The potential
  options for this location include Baskerville Elementary, DS Johnson Elementary, the
  Child Nutrition Warehouse, or the Rocky Mount Incubator site. The selected location for
  bus storage will need improvements, such as lighting, security cameras, fencing, and
  essential mechanical equipment to ensure the protection and maintenance of
  transportation assets before July 1, 2024.
- ECPS Transportation Services will collaborate with NCPS and ECPS's PowerSchool
  Director to receive all student names, grades, school sites, AM/PM stop addresses and
  their "car, bus, or walker" status for all K-12 students living in Edgecombe County
  attending NCPS by Nov. 1, 2023. ECPS will use this information to begin creating bus
  routes for the attendance zones including students who have not previously attended
  one of the four schools transferring to ECPS.

#### **Bus Maintenance**

The ECPS transportation department collaborated with NCPS and agreed that NCPS will share a copy of all paperwork, Monthly Inspections (MI), Preventative Maintenance (PM), damage repairs, etc. for each bus being transferred for ECPS' file documentation & history by December 30, 2023.

#### **Personnel Considerations**

Due to a significant increase in district enrollment combined with an expanded land area, ECPS plans to undergo an organizational shift in the transportation department by hiring additional staff during the 2023-2024 school year, and into the summer of 2024. Hiring before the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year will allow time for bus driver training, mechanic shadowing, and obtaining of certifications that are essential to meeting the transportation demands of the transition.

#### Potential Roles Added in Organizational Shift:

- 2 additional Mechanics
  - (NCDPI suggests 1 mechanic per 20 buses. This number includes the current vacant mechanic position and anticipated mechanic vacancy due to the merger)
- 5 to 10 additional Bus Drivers (Class A & B)
  - (The exact number of drivers needed will depend on the number of busses at each school and if there are staggered start times, allowing some drivers to cover multiple school routes)
- 1 Bus Routing Assistant
- 1 Cost Clerk
- 1 Satellite Bus storage and maintenance facility, with the requisite equipment
- 4 Bus Coordinators, one for each feeder pattern (North, Tarboro, South, Rocky Mount)



#### **Budgetary Concerns**

- ECPS will collaborate with NCPS to assess the difference in pay scales for mechanics and bus drivers, aiming to enhance our competitive recruitment efforts by November 30, 2023.
- The ECPS transportation department will work alongside the ECPS finance department and NCDPI to confirm the necessary increase in the transportation budget, to bridge the gap in yearly funding, which is based on the prior year's enrollment figures. This process will be completed by December 1, 2023.
- By November 30, 2023, ECPS transportation services will determine the number of Class A licenses required, and the associated costs for all newly hired Wrecker and Fuel Truck drivers. Currently, ECPS maintains four certified mechanics holding Class A licenses.
- ECPS transportation services will engage in discussions with the ECPS budget and finance teams in order to determine the potential need for additional transportation maintenance equipment, should none be transferred from NCPS, by October 30, 2023.
- ECPS transportation services will engage in discussions with the ECPS and Edgecombe
  County finance departments to determine fiscal availability of funding to encourage
  driver recruitment and attainment by increasing salaries by \$2.50 per hour for teacher
  assistants, custodians, and child nutrition specialists who hold a CDL or have an
  assigned bus route by November 30, 2023...

#### **Facilities**

#### **Needs Assessment**

- A determination will be made on a budget amount available to maintenance personnel for the transition of each school (contracted labor for moving/assembling, purchasing custodial/maintenance equipment and supplies, landfill cost, rekeying school, etc.).
- A determination will be made regarding the number of additional maintenance employees needed for hire, as well as a projected hiring timeline.
- A determination will be made on a budget amount available to maintenance for the transition of each custodian from NCPS to ECPS contingent on how much ECPS's annual maintenance and custodial budget may increase.
- ECPS will determine which contracts to continue and which will be terminated by NCPS by December 30, 2023.
- ECPS will continue to assess needs to accommodate the transferred facilities and schools.

#### **Facilities Transition Plan**

ECPS will create a comprehensive plan outlining the steps, milestones, and a timeline for the transfer of facilities and schools identifying specific tasks required for the transfer of property and assets, such as logistics, legal considerations, and communication strategies after



conferring with the ECPS school board attorney and the ECBOE by January 31, 2024.

#### Legal and Administrative Considerations

ECPS will review and update any facilities-related legal agreements or contracts related to the transfer, and coordinate with relevant governmental agencies and relevant departments including NCDPI to ensure compliance with regulations.

#### **Facility Transfer and Renovations**

- ECPS will connect, collaborate and communicate with the ECBOE and its board attorneys in order to execute the receipt of all NCPS facilities located in Edgecombe County, and initiate any necessary renovations or upgrades.
- ECPS will develop a detailed plan for physically transferring equipment, furniture, and
  resources from the Nash County Public School system to the Edgecombe County Public
  School system by March 28, 2024, coordinating with moving companies and logistics
  providers in order to ensure a smooth transition. ECPS will begin any necessary
  renovations or upgrades to accommodate the transferred facilities by July 1, 2024.

#### **Communication and Community Engagement**

 ECPS will communicate the merger to stakeholders and engage the community by continuing the implementation and improvement of its existing comprehensive communication plan to inform parents, students, teachers, staff members, and the wider East Rocky Mount and Edgecombe/Nash community about the facilities involved in the merger.

#### **Technology: Security**

#### **Security Cameras & Other Security Equipment**

On July 1, 2024, ECPS will acquire security equipment at the NCPS facilities being acquired by ECPS.

# **Technology: Infrastructure and Equipment**

#### Infrastructure

- NCPS will seek to transfer licenses from the four (4) Cisco Meraki Core Routers currently located in each NCPS school, along with access points and switches, that will be acquired by ECPS as of July 1, 2024.
- NCPS will leave all networking equipment in the location where it is housed as of June 30, 2024. ECPS will take possession of this equipment via license transfers as of July 1, 2024.



#### **Fiber**

ECPS will contract with Brightspeed, the current internet provider, to service the four new schools. If Brightspeed does not have fiber in this area, ECPS will contract with Conterra for these schools. New contract will be in place by June 30, 2024.

#### **Phones**

- ECPS will reach out to ENCORE, current VOIP provider, to determine cost for adding lines.
- All Yealink phones located in the four new schools on November 15, 2023 will be left in place and acquired by ECPS. ECPS will develop a Yealink phone refresh plan and budget for all sites, as they are approaching end of life.
- NCPS will cancel all POT/Fax Lines no later than June 30, 2024.

#### **Devices**

- On July 1, 2024, devices purchased with state and local funds as of November 15, 2023 will transfer to ECPS with the new schools. These devices include:
  - o Teacher Devices
  - Student Devices
  - o Interactive Boards
  - Projectors
  - Administrator Devices (phones, laptops, iPads, etc.)
  - o STEM/Robotic Equipment
- NCPS will provide the ECPS Technology Department with a list of all devices purchased with Federal funds. ECPS will determine which of these devices we wish to acquire. These devices include:
  - Teacher Devices
  - Student Devices (will not be supported by Google past 2027)
  - Interactive Boards
  - Projectors
  - o Administrator Devices (phones, laptops, iPads, etc.)
  - STEM/Robotic Equipment

#### **Copy Machines**

- ECPS is under Toshiba contract and will add copiers to the acquired schools for the 2024-2025 school year.
- NCPS is under Canon contract; Canon has agreed to renegotiate the contract not to include copiers at the 4 schools acquired by ECPS for the 2024-2025 school year.

### **Professional Development Center Equipment**

NCPS will provide the ECPS Technology Department with a list of all devices to be transferred.



# Curriculum, Instruction, and Student Support Services

#### **Transition Planning**

The ECPS & NCPS Curriculum and Instruction Teams will meet regularly to ensure a smooth transition, such that the action items detailed below will be completed on or before June 30, 2024.

#### **Calendars**

ECPS will attempt to align calendars for the 2024-25 Academic Year through the 2026-2027 Academic Year, including start / end dates and winter / spring breaks.

#### **Federal/State Grants**

- ECPS will collaborate with NCPS to gather CEP information and determine CEP eligibility, which will drive TItle 1 eligibility.
- Once school configurations are finalized, ECPS will work with NCDPI to determine state and Federal designations, and applicable fiscal impacts. ECPS will meet with NCDPI to determine qualifications to apply based on school designation.
  - Innovative Partnership Grant (IPG)
  - Comprehensive Support & Improvement (CSI)
  - o Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT)
  - Restart
- ECPS will work with NCDPI to determine the CTE allocation.
- ECPS and NCPS will work with NCDPI and the USDOE to determine whether existing CSI and IPG funds and instructionally-related purchases stay with the schools (Federal School Allotted funds) or revert to NCPS.

#### Curriculum/Curricular Resources & Grading

- ECPS will review the current NCPS curriculum and resources to determine alignment.
  - Supplemental
  - Core
  - Subscriptions
- ECPS will determine which curriculum and resources to continue, and identify the funding sources used to purchase the materials.
- ECPS will work with NCPS to review NCPS media resources (subscriptions, books, technology, etc.).
- ECPS will work with NCPS to review NCPS current grading practices.
- ECPS will work with NCPS to review Professional Development Resources.
- Career and Technical Education (CTE) leaders in ECPS will collaborate with NCPS leaders to discuss CTE programming at the middle school level including number of teachers, certifications, equipment, and any curriculum contracts. Joint leaders will collaborate and discuss all relevant issues to ensure efficient and effective programming can continue following the official implementation of the merger on July 1, 2024.



Exceptional Children and Academically and Intellectually Gifted Programs and Services ECPS/NCPS are currently assessing the special education and academically and intellectually gifted (AIG) programs and services in each school, and collaborating to develop a plan to ensure continuity of services and support for students with special needs during the merger process.

### **English Language Learner Support**

ECPS will evaluate the English language learner support programs in each school and collaborate with NCPS to develop a plan to provide appropriate support and resources for English language learners during the merger.

#### **Student Support Services**

ECPS will collaborate with NCPS to evaluate student support services including counseling and social work in each school, in order to develop a plan to ensure continuity of support services for students during the merger.

#### **Extracurricular Programs**

- ECPS will work with NCPS to review Arts equipment (band, chorus, art, theater arts).
- ECPS will work with NCPS to review athletic equipment (middle school & JV for 9th graders).

#### **Summer Programming**

- ECPS will work with NCDPI & NCPS to determine the responsible district for Read-to-Achieve Camp.
- ECPS will work with NCDPI to determine the timing and amount of funding allocation for the following PRCs:
  - o 016 Read-to-Achieve
  - o 085 Literacy Intervention (includes twice retained funding)
- ECPS will work with NCDPI & NCPS to determine the responsible district for summer remediation & retesting (ECPS holds this session in June).
- ECPS will work with NCDPI & NCPS in spring 2024 to determine who can participate in CTE programming (determine funding amount).



#### Conclusion

By following this detailed Written Plan of Transfer that includes specific action steps and a flexible timeline, ECPS and NCPS will address the mandated components contained in SB 248 and its requirement for submission of a joint Written Plan of Transfer to all four Boards for approval by November 15, 2023.

Effective communication and collaboration between NCPS and ECPS are crucial in order to ensure a successful transition and transfer of assigned students and families, assets and liabilities, staff, property, equipment, material and supplies. Our respective units will continue to conduct regular meetings, and provide updates regarding our progress to our combined communities. We eagerly await the opportunity to respond to the needs of the East Rocky Mount community, and the entirety of Edgecombe County.



IN WITNESS THEREOF, the parties have duly executed and delivered this Agreement and Written Plan of Transfer as of the date first written above.

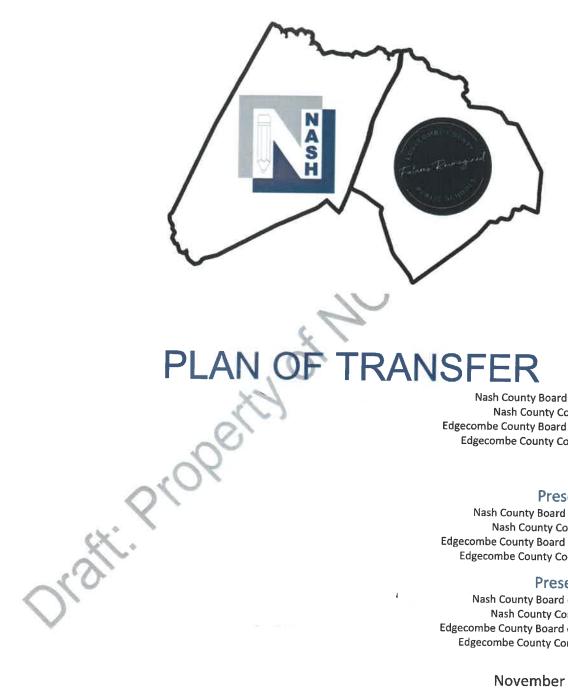
# **EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Name:		
Title:		CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE
Date:		
Signature:		
NASH COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION		
Name:	A.F.	
Title:		
Date:		
Signature:		
EDGECOMBE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIO	NERS	
Name:		
Title:		
Date:		
Signature:		
NASH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS		
Name:		
Title:		
Date:		
Signature:		



# Countyline Merger Transition Plan - Draft

Part II
Nash County Schools



# **TRANSFER**

Nash County Board of Education **Nash County Commissioners Edgecombe County Board of Education Edgecombe County Commissioners** 

#### Presented to:

Nash County Board of Education **Nash County Commissioners Edgecombe County Board of Education Edgecombe County Commissioners** 

#### Presented by:

Nash County Board of Education **Nash County Commissioners** Edgecombe County Board of Education **Edgecombe County Commissioners** 

> November 15, 2023 Submitted on November #, 2023



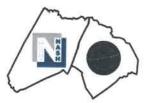
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# **Executive Summary**



This executive summary provides an overview of the comprehensive report detailing Nash County Public Schools' (NCPS) journey from its inception in 1991 to the forthcoming 2024 demerger and transition process. Throughout its history, NCPS has experienced mergers and transformations while maintaining a steadfast commitment to delivering quality education to students from diverse backgrounds and communities:

In 1991, four distinct entities—Tarboro City Schools, Rocky Mount City Schools, Edgecombe County Schools, and Nash County Schools—coexisted. In 1992, Rocky Mount City Schools merged with Nash County Schools, incorporating some Students from Edgecombe County Schools to create Nash-Rocky Mount Schools In 2020, Nash-Rocky Mount Schools rebranded as Nash County Public Schools.

The report outlines the significant responsibilities of various NCPS departments, including the Office of the Superintendent, Student Support Services, Academics and Accountability, Finance, Human Resources, and others, in ensuring a smooth transition process. Effective communication and community engagement, represented by the "Growing Forward Together" campaign, play a pivotal role in the demerger preparations.

A detailed timeline for student transfers, records management, safety and security, transportation, and technology considerations has been established to ensure a seamless transition. As NCPS embraces change and fosters an inclusive learning environment, the district remains committed to providing the best educational experience for all students. This report underscores NCPS's dedication to excellence as it moves forward with the demerger plan, aiming for a successful future for both Nash County Public Schools and Edgecombe County Public Schools.



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# **Forward Statements**

This Agreement and Plan of Transfer (including all exhibits, hereinafter referred to as this "Agreement") is made and entered into as of November 15, 2023 by and among the Nash and Edgecombe County Boards of Education and the Nash and Edgecombe County Commissioners.

The plan underscores the fundamental responsibilities of key support areas throughout the district, including the Office of the Superintendent, Assistant Superintendents, Communication, Planning and Engagement Department; Academic Services and Accountability; Student Support Services & Operations Department; Transportation; Finance; Human Resources; Facilities; and Technology Department. These areas are pivotal for achieving success. Furthermore, this plan is complemented by a project schedule of tasks designed to facilitate a smooth transition over approximately twelve (12) months.

It is important to regard this transition plan and the accompanying checklist of detailed tasks as dynamic documents that undergo regular review and updates in response to newly-identified responsibilities arising during the schools' transfer and merger process. Subsequent to this process, there will be an opportunity to reflect on lessons learned in pursuit of continuous improvement.



# **Core Responsibilities**

#### Office of the Superintendent:

The Office of the Superintendent holds the responsibility for spearheading the turnaround strategy and overseeing transition efforts. Furthermore, the office is tasked with developing and executing a comprehensive communication and engagement plan that delineates how information regarding the transitions will be disseminated to students, parents, and the community. An additional critical duty of the team is to facilitate the community involvement process, which entails seeking input from a diverse range of both internal and external stakeholders. This endeavor has already commenced and is poised to gain greater significance as NCPS progresses with the execution of the Demerger Plan.

# Student Support Services & Operations Department

The Student Support Services & Operations Department (S&S) will closely collaborate to provide support to school principals throughout the transition process, ensuring the continuity of effective instruction and learning during the school transfers. Within this department and the Academic Services and Accountability (A&A), various units, such as Career and Technical Education (CTE), Special Education, Student Supports, Student Placement & Discipline, Title I, and others, will work in conjunction to address instructional requirements for students moving to Edgecombe County Public Schools (ECPS) and those remaining with Nash County Public Schools (NCPS).

# Academic Services and Accountability (A&A):

The Academic Services and Accountability (A&A) teams will collaborate with school principals and district leadership to decide on course offerings, programs, work together on the master schedule, secure instructional resources, and offer essential academic support to students in combined and new schools. At the school level, the Assistant Superintendent and principals of merged and new schools will supervise the responsibilities related to school transfers, transitions, and reassignments. With assistance from district leadership, principals will create a relocation work plan to maximize instructional time while ensuring the prompt packing and transfer of materials and supplies.

# Finance:

The Finance department will identify funding sources to cover the costs associated with executing the transitions. Additionally, it will manage account close-out responsibilities for each affected school to ensure an accurate inventory of fixed assets in closing schools and the appropriate transfer and inventory of fixed assets to be relocated to receiving schools. An audit of each property, categorized based on funds received, source, and enhancement projects, will need to be conducted before November 15, 2023. Abiding by the law for the deed transfer



purposes per GS 115.

#### Human Resources (HR):

HR will facilitate employee transitions for staff impacted by school changes. A staff town half meeting will be held, including working group sessions to explain the plans, upcoming job fairs, and opportunities for reassignment within the district. This planning process will commence in Quarter two (2). HR will collaborate closely with the Communication, Planning, and Engagement (CPE) Department to activate a marketing campaign for this process. HR will also provide staffing support and guidance to the Assistant Superintendents and principals of affected schools throughout the transition, including attending school faculty meetings, sharing employment guidance, executing the abolishment plan for impacted staff; and assisting principals in staff recruitment to ensure all positions are filled for the start of the school year.

## Communication, Planning, and Engagement (CPE):

CPE will provide project management oversight and serve as the primary point of contact between departments. The communications team within CPE will function as a project manager, coordinating with the head of the transition and assisting in cross-functional collaboration and planning. This team will document the progress of the project team, monitor the project schedule to ensure tasks remain on track for timely completion, identify potential challenges, and devise solutions with a cross-functional team. Additionally, the communications team will provide project management expertise and assist in managing internal stakeholder communications regarding the project's status.

#### Technology:

The Technology department will collaborate with school leadership and relevant departments to coordinate all technology-related tasks associated with school transfers. This includes verifying all technology assets and their funding sources, creating a master list of technology assets with depreciated values, implementing an IT transfer control process for successful migrations, scheduling meetings to determine ECPS infrastructure needs, renegotiating contracts with impacted vendors, purging obsolete hardware equipment before the move, conducting functionality testing of instructional technology, and developing a plan with A&A and S&S to ensure the transition of student data to ECPS.

#### Facilities:

The Facilities department will primarily oversee all move coordination and building maintenance activities, including physical moves and redistribution of building assets as needed. Various teams within facilities services will engage at different stages of the school transition process.

#### Transportation:

The Transportation department will assess the needs and options for bus transportation to serve Nash County residents of reassigned students, as well as the transfer of activity and



school buses to ECPS. The team will plan bus routes, stops, and schedules for the newly created school attendance zone boundary map resulting from the demerger. Determinations regarding the number of buses moving to ECPS and the criteria for such a move will be established.

# **Transition Planning Teams**

One of the first steps in the process of the demerger is to convene transition planning teams to guide the work of the district and the community. The following groups will be in place to manage the process.

#### Cabinet Members:

- Michael Baier, Executive Director of Transportation
- Melissa Dancy-Smith, Assistant Superintendent of Academic Services and Accountability
- Dr. Steve Ellis, Superintendent of Nash County Public Schools
- Dr. Leondus Farrow, Jr., Assistant Superintendent of Student Services & Operations
- Heather Louise Finch, Executive Director of Communication, Planning, and Engagement
- Christy Grant, Executive Director of Student Support Services
- Doug Hale, Executive Director of School Pinance
- Monique Hargrove-Jones, Executive Director of Elementary Education
- Tremain McQueen, Executive Director of Technology
- Angela Miller, Executive Director of School Nutrition & Athletics Facilities & Maintenance
- Chad Thompson, Executive Director of Secondary Education & CTE
- Sheila Wallace, Executive Director of Human Resources & Federal Programs
- Victor Ward, Sr., Transition and Safety Director

#### Sub Committees:

- Lead: Melissa Dancy-Smith Academic Services and Accountability
- Tremain McQueen Technology
- Lead: Dr. Leon Farrow Student Assignment, Transportation
- Lead: Heather Louise Finch Combating Misinformation, Communication campaigns,
   facilitating community events.
- Lead: Doug Hale Budget
- Lead: Angie Miller Property (real, encumbered, unencumbered & buses), Furnishings & Improvements Equipment (sports, instructional, library/media, technology & supplies)
- Lead: Shelia Wallace Employment of Personnel



### Research and Development Committee:

- Dr. Steven Ellis
- Heather Louise Finch
- · Victor Ward, Sr.
- Sheila Wallace

# Community and Organization Facilitator Committee:

- Dr. Steven Ellis
- Heather Louise Finch
- · Victor Ward, Sr.

#### Legal Support:

- C. Boyd Sturges, III Attorney at Law Davis, Sturges & Tomlinson, PLLC
- Jason Weber Education Law Tharrington Smith, LLP

## Nash County Board of Education:

- Chris Bissette District 4
- Evelyn Bulluck District 10
- Sharonda Thomas Bulluck District 11.
- Dr. Doneva Chavis District 1
- Lank Dunton, Vice-Chair District 6
- Dean Edwards District 2<sup>§</sup>
- Zacques "Zack" Gray District 8
- Richard Jenkins District 7
- Franklin Lamm District 3
- William (Bill) Sharpe District 5
- Dr. LaShawnda Washington, Chair District 9

# Nash County Board of Commissioners:

- Marvin C. Arrington District 1
- Frêd Belfield, Jr. District 2
- Dan Cone District 3
- Robbie B. Davis, Chairman District 7
- Sue Leggett District 4
- J. Wayne Outlaw, Vice Chairman District 5
- Gwen Wilkins District 6



# **Overall Impact Data**

\*\*Notes: While there are four schools located in Edgecombe county (see below), Benvenue Elementary, Coopers Elementary, Englewood Elementary, Williford Elementary, Edwards Middle, Nash Central Middle, Red Oak Middle, Rocky Mount Middle, Nash Central High, Northern Nash High, Nash-Rocky Mount Early College High, Rocky Mount High, CITI High and Tar River Academy all have enrolled students who live in Edgecombe County. In some cases, these students are there on reassignment for special programming and in other cases the current attendance zones for these schools' span into Edgecombe County and as a result redistricting will need to occur.

Enrollment	Current # of Students	# of Students Domiciled in Edgecombe County	Post Demerger # of Students
Elementary Enrollment	6,389	816	5,573
Middle Enrollment	3,489	395	3,094
High Enrollment	4,711	451	4,260
Total NCPS Enrollment	14,590	1,662	12,928

Exhibit 1: Student Impact via Enrollment

<sup>\*\*</sup> The current numbers are reflective as of 3.21.21 — The up-to-date numbers will be pulled and be reflective of the up-to-date enrollment of 11.15.23 when this plan is submitted.



Facility	# of Staff Housed in Facility	Facility Use/Other Impact	
Baskerville Elementary	50	K-5 <sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Elementary School	
D.S. Johnson Elementary	54	<ul> <li>K-5<sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Elementary School</li> <li>The facility houses our NCPS Data Center Ea which will need to be relocated.</li> </ul>	
Fairview Elementary	49	K-2 <sup>nd</sup> Comprehensive Elementary School	
J.W. Parker Elementary	38	6 <sup>th</sup> – 8 <sup>th</sup> Comprehensive Middle School	
Teacher Resource Center	28	This facility houses several district departments which will need to be relocated. This facility has several large meeting spaces used for professional development and meetings. This facility houses Jordan Driving School which will need to be relocated.	
School Nutrition Building	0	Previously housed school nutrition supplies, food, and central services.	

# Exhibit 2: Impact on Facilities and Staffing

<sup>\*\*</sup>Notes: Staffing impact will not be solely limited to those employees physically working in facilities located in Edgecombe County as enrollment decreases will impact several other schools within the current NCPS district. Each of the school facilities houses some students who reside in Nash County and redistricting will need to occur as a result.



# **Fiscal Impact**

Funding Source	Current Budget	Funds that will Revert to Edgecombe County upon Demerger. (estimated)	Post Demerger Budget (estimated)
State Funding	\$0	\$0	\$0
Local Funding	\$25,225,570	\$2,238,419	\$22,287,151
Federal Funding	\$0	\$3,415,098	\$0

Exhibit 3: Impact on Facilities & Staffing

<sup>\*\*</sup>Notes: State and Federal fiscal impact amounts are projected estimates as some funds are tied to Average Daily Membership (enrollment). Federal funding impact is significant due to Federal Grant Funds reconding, awarded to individual schools. Local funding includes Capital Outlay, county appropriation and



PRC	Description	2022-2023	2022-2023 less Edgecombe Students*	Reduction
001	Classroom Teachers	705 Positions	587 Positions	(118 Positions)
003	Non-Instructional Support Personnel - (Includes Custodians) -Finance	\$4,055,159.00	\$3,601.68 5.22	(\$453,474)
005	Principals and A/Ps-Finance	500 Months	432 Months	(68 Months)
007	Instructional Support	71 Positions	62 Positions	(9 Positions)
013	Career Technical Education	68 Positions	62 Positions	(\$448,800) (6 Positions / 60 MOEs)
014	Career Technical Education - Program Support	\$235,295.00	\$214,257.00	(\$21,038)
027	Teacher Assistants	106 Positions	90 Positions	(16 Positions)
029, 032, 063	Exceptional Children	160 positions	139 positions	(\$1,153,019) (21 Positions)
034	Academically Gifted	\$816,503.00	\$723,554.88	(\$176,202.63)
	Classroom Materials/Instructional Supplies and Equipment	\$456,710.00	\$398,432.14	(\$58,278)



# **Staffing Plan**

NCPS' primary objective for the plans is to recruit both instructional and non-instructional personnel, thereby ensuring a smooth transition on the scheduled date of 2024.

School	Certified FT (State)	Certified FT (Local)	Certified FT/PT (Federal)
Baskerville	16.2 (Includes PE, Art, Music) 1 EC	N/A	3.5 (Literacy Coach, 2nd Grade, PT Reading Intervention & PT Instructional Coach & PT Dean of Students) 2 EC Teachers
Baskerville	Classified FT (State) 6 TA's 2 EC TA's 2 Clerical 2.5 Custodians	Classified FT (Local) N/A	Classified FT/PT (Federal)  1 PC TA  1 PT TA  3 FT & 3 PT School Nutrition
D.S. Johnson	Certified FT (State) 18 (Includes PE, Art, Music) 3.4 (Includes Guidance, Media, S. Worker, Nurse, AIG, ML) 2 (Principal & AP)	Certified FT (Local)	Certified FT/PT Federal  1 Literacy Coach  1 Instructional Coach  1 MTSS Facilitator  2 Teachers  2 EC Teachers
D.S. Johnson	Classified FT (State) 3 TA's 1 EC 2 Clerical 2 FT & 2 PT Custodians	Classified FT (Local) N/A	Classified FT/PT (Federal)  1 ISS Coordinator 2 TA's 1 PT Tutor 3 FT & 3 PT School Nutrition
Fairview	Certified FT (State) 17.8 (Includes PE, Art, Music) 1 EC 2.6 (Includes Guidance, Media, S. Worker, Nurse, AIG, ML) 2 (Principal & AP)	Certified FT (Local)  1 EC Teacher	Certified FT/PT Federal 3 Full Release MCL's
Fairview	Classified FT (State) 8 TA's 1 EC 2 Clerical 2 FT & 2 PT Custodians	Classified FT (Local) N/A	Classified FT/PT (Federal)  1 TA  1 Behavior Specialist 3 FT & 2 PT School Nutrition
J.W. Parker	13 (Includes Art, Music & PE) 1 EG 2.85 (Includes Guidance, Media, S. Worker, Nurse, AIG, ML) 2 (Principal & AP)	<u>Classified FT (Local)</u> N/A	Certified FT/PT Federal 2 Teachers 1 Deans of Students 1 MTSS Facilitator 1 EC Teacher
Parker	Classified FT (State) 1 TA 3 Clerical 2 FT & 1 PT Custodian	Classified FT (Local) N/A	Classified FT/PT (Federal)  1 Read 180 Facilitator  2 Reach Associate  1 CIS Support Spec.  1 FT, 2 PT, 2 PT Subs School Nutrition

Exhibit 5: Certified and Classified Full Time and Part Time Staff



# **Funding**

Funding Summary of Federal Assets			
School	Federal (PRC 050,115,105, 117)	ESSER (PRC 163,171,181)	Total per school
Baskerville	\$1,699.82	\$87,057.23	\$88,757.05
<b>DS Johnson</b>	\$158,169.84	\$76,823.29	\$234,993.13
Fairview	\$60,034.76	\$77,820.66	\$137,855.42
Parker	\$173,108.66	\$288,762.41	\$461,871.07
Total	\$393,013.08	\$530,463.59	\$923,476.67

**Exhibit 6:** Funding Summary of Federal Assets

PRC Descriptors		
50	Title I	
	CSI (Comprehensive	
105	School Improvement)	
	IPG (Innovative	
115	Partnership Grant)	
	SIG (School	
117	Improvement Grant)	
163	CARES (ESSER I)	
171	ESSER_II	
181	ESSER III	

Exhibit 7: PRC	Descriptors
Expectancy	0

Year of Life Expect	tancy
2023	1
2022	2
2021	3
2020	4
2019	5
2018	6
2017	7
2016	8

Exhibit 8: Year of Life

Fixed Asset Depreciation Schedule

Federal Equipment/Furniture/Technology Inventory List



# **Communication and Engagement**

In preparation for the impending demerger, significant strides have been taken in the period leading up to July 2023. Collaborations with the Nash County Geography Team and extensive discussions on school board map revisions were pivotal steps in aligning our school districts. The formation of a comprehensive demerger plan, addressing potential impacts on roles programs, and activities, has been a core focus. The CPE department also embarked on branding the demerger as "Growing Forward Together," accompanied by a symbolic logo. Content curation, historical research, and legislative documentation compilation have all contributed to the robust groundwork, complemented by a carefully designed landing page and communication strategy.

Moving into August 2023, efforts continue by actively crafting NPCS board of education presentations, refining timelines, and editing the demerger plan. Cabinet members are closely involved in detailing their timelines, while the creation of demerger related templates facilitates streamlined communications. Collaboration across various departments ensures tailored content for staff, students, guardians, and stakeholders, while the "Growing Forward Together" campaign is gradually unveiled. Furthermore, the career fair landing page is in development, aligning with our commitment to a well-planned demerger process.

As we approach September and beyond, a comprehensive strategy involving vendor meetings, community/advisory council planning, and career fair launch takes shape. Regular engagement with the Demerger Task Force and a steadfast focus on communication strategies ensures a smooth transition for staff, students, and the community. Our multi-faceted approach encompasses IT integration, stakeholder feedback mechanisms, contract reviews, and an ongoing commitment to assessing and enhancing the demerger process. From preparing detailed timelines and fostering stakeholder engagement to evaluating program impacts and fostering a sense of unity through "Growing Forward Together," we remain dedicated to a seamless and successful demerger process.

# Student & Family Engagement:

Community engagement holds a central role in the accomplishment of school transfers, mergers, and launches. In this regard, the district has introduced an all-encompassing community engagement strategy aimed at facilitating the transitions within our schools. A comprehensive community engagement plan has been meticulously developed to ensure a seamless transition process, and community engagement meetings are scheduled to initiate during the week of September 9.

## Our duties include:

- Orchestrating communication and outreach efforts directed at Nash County residents impacted by the impending school transfers, with specific attention to those enrolled in the four schools situated within Edgecombe County.
- 2. Arranging and overseeing student and family forums to collect valuable input and



address any concerns that may arise.

- 3. Collaborating in the formulation of outreach materials tailored for family engagement meetings, especially those involving families of exceptional children (EC) residing in Nash County and attending the four Edgecombe County schools.
- 4. Coordinating the communication outreach endeavors on behalf of Edgecombe County Public Schools, with a focus on residents within Edgecombe County Whose children attend Nash County Public Schools.
- 5. Our commitment to effective community engagement remains fundamental in ensuring the successful transition process for all stakeholders involved.

# **Student Transition**

Our Student Support Services team will ensure that all students receiving student support services are appropriately identified, thus ensuring uninterrupted services for the upcoming school year. Town hall meetings have been specifically designed for this purpose.

For EC/504 students, the Student Services staff will guarantee a seamless transition for those with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan, ensuring the provision of appropriate services at the outset of the school year. The Director of Student Services at NCPS will share a list of students receiving services based on an IEP or 504 Plan with the Student Services and Exceptional Education Directors in ECPS. NCPS will ensure that each plan undergoes a thorough review, with all re-evaluations being up to date prior to the student's transition to ECPS. Parents will receive a copy of each current plan.

Our Student Support Services team will continue to monitor and ensure the appropriate identification of all students receiving these services, with the aim of preventing any disruptions in services for the upcoming school year. Town half meetings have been scheduled specifically to facilitate this process.

For EC/504 students, the Student Services staff will maintain their commitment to a seamless transition for those with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or a Section 504 Plan, ensuring the provision of suitable services at the commencement of the school year. The Director of Student Services at NCPS will collaborate with the Student Services and Exceptional Education Directors in ECPS by sharing a list of students currently receiving services based on an IEP or 504 Plan. NCPS will diligently oversee each plan's review, ensuring that all re-evaluations are current before the student transitions to ECPS. Parents will receive a copy of each updated plan.

**Student Transfer Timeline for Demerger:** 



#### July 2023:

Nash and Edgecombe will determine which grade level of students will be eligible for being legacy to remain enrolled in Nash to present both BOE and County Commissioners for approval. They will also decide whether Nash or Edgecombe County will fund the students locally who remain enrolled in Nash through the legacy process or if those students will have to pay tuition. Furthermore, the expectation of transportation for students who are legacy to remain in Nash will be clarified. Town hall meetings have been scheduled specifically for this process.

### August 2023:

A meeting with the Communications Department is planned to devise a communication plan for families concerning current 9th-12th (rising 10th-13th) grade students who wish to be legacy in and remain enrolled in NCPS for the 2024-2025 school year. Additionally, participation in community meetings with ECPS is scheduled to provide support for any questions that may arise from the community about the tentative legacy and transfer process.

### September and October 2023:

The initiation and continuation of a communications campaign to inform families through media and social media outlets about the transition process for current K-8th (rising 1st-9th) grade students who will attend ECPS during the 2024-2025 school year is planned. The Student Information department will manage a spreadsheet identifying these students by grade level, including student names, PowerSchool Number, school, gender, grade, address, contact number, Custodial, and guardian(s)/parent(s) name(s) for all students living on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount but attending NCPS. This spreadsheet aims to track students who have withdrawn from NCPS and those who have enrolled in NCPS while residing on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount on a month-to-month basis.

## November and December 2023:

The commencement of the communications campaign to inform families about the transfer process for current 9th-12th (rising 10th-13th) grade students who wish to be legacy students is planned for November and December. Additionally, community information meetings will be hosted during these months for the students and their families who meet the requirements for the transfer legacy process. The Student Information department will continue managing the aforementioned spreadsheet to track student data.

## January 2024:

Current 9th-12th (rising 10th-13th) grade students who wish to become legacy students will be part of the student transfer process, set to begin in January 2024. These students must submit a transfer request to be released from Edgecombe County Schools, a process referred to as the



"Opt-in to Stay in NCPS." Meanwhile, students enrolling in ECPS must complete the ECPS enrollment process. A spreadsheet will be created to identify students as "Opt-in to Stay in NCPS" or those transitioning to ECPS. The Student Information department will continue managing the spreadsheet to monitor student status.

## February and March 2024:

The processing of current 9th-12th (rising 10th-13th) grade students who wish to "Opt-in to Stay in NCPS" will continue in February and March. These students must submit a transfer request and be released from Edgecombe County Schools. The Student Information department will maintain the spreadsheet tracking student information.

#### March 2024:

March 22, 2024, will serve as the deadline for current 9th-12th (rising 10th-13th) grade students and their families who wish to "Opt-in to Stay in NCPS" in the student transfer process. This coincides with the timeline for allotment meetings with principals of several schools, including Rocky Mount High School, Nash Rocky Mount Early College, CiTi High School, Northern Nash High School, Tar River Academy, and Nash Central High School. This will aid in obtaining an accurate count of students enrolled in the schools affected by this process. The Student Information department will continue managing the spreadsheet to track student data.

### April 2024:

An official roster of the current 9th-12th (rising 10th-13th) grade students remaining in Nash through the "Opt-in to Stay in NCPS" process will be created, along with a roster of students transitioning to ECPS, to be shared with ECPS. Student Services will send a letter to each student and their family approved for the opt-in process, explaining the rules and regulations. The release form of ECPS 10th-12th Grade Students who will be staying in NCPS will be received. Additionally, all K-8th students residing in Edgecombe County will receive a formal letter about the transfer process to ECPS for the 2024-2025 academic year from the district office. This letter will explain the rules and regulations of the demerger process for the students and their families transitioning to ECPS. The Student Information department will continue managing the spreadsheet to track student data.

#### May 2024:

Ongoing communication with students and their families approved for the "Opt-in to Stay in NCPS" and those transitioning to ECPS will continue in May 2024. This will involve explaining the rules and regulations of the demerger. Releases of students from Edgecombe County Public Schools to remain in Nash County Public Schools will also be received. On May 31, 2024, the Student Information department will finalize the spreadsheet tracking student data for all relevant students.



September 2024:

On September 23, 2024, the 20th day of school, the Student Information Department will identify all students enrolled through the opt-in process and those who have not enrolled through the opt-in process. Nash County Board of Education, Nash County Commissioners, Edgecombe County Board of Education, Edgecombe County Commissioners, will receive an official count of the legacy students enrolled in Nash and those who are not. Edgecombe will also receive a list with student names, UID numbers, and grade levels.

#### **Student Records:**

Nash County Public Schools staff will assist in handling cumulative records to ensure that all pertinent files are intact and readily accessible to Edgecombe County Public Schools. Cumulative records folders for K-8th (rising 1st-9th) grade students living on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount will be identified and grouped with other folders in the records room, beginning in September 2023 and managed throughout the school year. After March 22, 2024, cumulative records for 9th-12th (rising 10th-13th) grade students who choose not to "opt-in" will also be grouped together. The records contacts will review the Student Information department's spreadsheet monthly to track student information. From May 1, 2024, to June 5, 2024, student records for relevant students will be purged according to BOE and State policy and brought to the warehouse, sorted by school and grade, and then transported to ECPS district records contact.

# Safety & Security

All safety and security equipment that is in any school or building that will be transferred to ECPS will remain in the building with the exception of equipment purchased with federal funding. We will follow federal and state guidance for any such equipment to acquisitioned by ECPS.

# **Transportation**

A primary area of focus for Transportation staff will be utilizing residence information for students within the attendance zone boundary NCPS to begin planning: adequate bus driver/operator staffing, optimal bus stop route scheduling, and opportunities to perform practice runs before the start of the new school year.

# Quantity of Busses:

On September 25th, the Transportation Department will generate a report indicating the count of students residing on the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount who utilize bus transportation



services at each school. This report will encompass data from the first 20 days of the school year, and we intend to categorize this information according to grade levels. Currently, our estimate places the required number of buses between 5 and 8. We refrain from specifying a precise number at this juncture, as it is contingent upon the average number of K8 8th grade students currently utilizing bus transportation on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount for the 2023-2024 school year.

### Type of Bus:

All buses utilized for this transition will be 66-passenger Yellow School Buses. It simportant to note that ECPS's bus garage is specifically equipped to accommodate 66-passenger Yellow School Buses. In contrast, the newest and largest buses in the NCPS fleet are 72 passenger Yellow School Buses.

Currently, there are ongoing discussions and processes with the NCDPI Transportation
Department concerning the transfer of buses. This is particularly crucial since all of our 66passenger Yellow School Buses are older models. The Transportation Directors from both ECPS
and NCPS are collaborating to gain further clarity on this matter.

It's important to highlight that no Activity Buses are being transferred as part of this process.

#### **Bus Timeline:**

On August 31, 2023, the Directors of Transportation for NCPS and ECPS will meet to discuss preliminary measures regarding the transfer of buses. These measures will consider various factors, including the number of students currently using buses in grades K-8th, the necessary documentation for bus transfers to ECPS, the scheduled transfer date, and any personnel associated with the process. It's important to note that any equipment, such as cameras purchased with Federal funds, will either remain with NCPS or require ECPS to make a purchase.

On September 25th, the Transportation Department will generate a report detailing the number of students at each school who reside on the Edgecombe side of Rocky Mount and use bus services. This report will cover data from the first 20 days of the school year, categorized by grade level.

Subsequently, the Transportation Department will repeat this process monthly to monitor the number of students living on the Edgecombe County side of Rocky Mount, categorized by grade level. This data will serve as a valuable resource for determining the required number of buses, considering the average student ridership by grade level throughout the 2023-2024 school year.

Furthermore, the Directors of Transportation for both NCPS and ECPS will convene monthly to address any new developments and concerns. They will also collaborate with the NCDPI transportation department throughout this process.



It's essential to mention that the ECPS transportation garage can only accommodate buses up to a 66-passenger capacity or smaller. Consequently, all 66-passenger buses from NCPS will be transferred to ECPS, along with the associated paperwork and documentation.

Notably, no transportation personnel will be transferred from NCPS to ECPS. The official transfer of buses to ECPS is scheduled for July 1, 2024.

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# **Technology**

The Technology Dept. will work with school leadership and prospective departments to verify all Technology assets, cost and funding sources.

Verify all Technology Assets, Costs, and Funding Sources:

The Technology Department will carry out a comprehensive verification of all technology assets, encompassing hardware, software, and equipment, along with their associated costs and funding sources. School technicians will utilize our inventory asset program, incident IQ, to conduct a walkthrough of each school, confirming assets and funding sources. This process will guarantee the accuracy of information for the allocation and transfer of assets during the demerger.

## **Identify and Meet with Impacted Vendors:**

Several meetings with impacted vendors are required to determine if renegotiating or transferring current contracts are to be considered. See impacted vendors below:

- Conterra (Fiber/Broadband),
- Canon (Copier Services),
- Converged Networks (VOIP Services),
- Cisco/Meraki (Network Licensure),
- HikVision (Security Cameras, Licenses, and Support), and BrightSpeed (Fax/Pot Lines)

# **Determine/Discover Infrastructure Needs and Compatibility:**

The Network Infrastructure is one of the most important necessities to operate a school facility. However, there are differences in hardware preference per district. Because of such, multiple meetings are to be scheduled to determine the best hardware solution along with a budget discussion to accomplish turn key access. ((FCC) 2019) E-Rate consultants will be involved in this process to provide guidance being that most school network infrastructure/hardware is funded by E-Rate.



Facility	(Student Devices, Staff Devices, Cameras, Scanners, Projectors, Interactive Boards, Printers, and Televisions)
Baskerville Elementary	\$87,057.23
D.S. Johnson Elementary	\$116,143.78
Fairview Elementary	\$81,898.01
J.W. Parker Elementary	\$109,669.83
Teacher Resource Center	S N/A
TOTAL	\$394,768.85

Exhibit 7: Impact on Technology

# Examples:

- Student Chromebooks
- Teacher Laptops
- Interactive board



# **Conclusion**

In conclusion, this report provides a comprehensive overview of Nash County Public Schools' journey, spanning from its inception in 1991 to the upcoming demerger and transition process in 2024. Over the years, the district has evolved through mergers and transformations, maintaining a steadfast commitment to providing quality education. As we move forward with the demerger plan, it is crucial to recognize the significant responsibilities undertaken by various departments, such as the Office of the Superintendent, Student Support Services, Academics and Accountability, Finance, Human Resources, and more. Each department plays a pivotal role in ensuring a seamless transition for students, staff, and the community.

Communication and engagement with all departments, have been at the forefront of our preparations, with the "Growing Forward Together" campaign and a well-defined communication strategy aimed at keeping all stakeholders informed and engaged. The support of the community is instrumental in the success of this demenser, and we are committed to addressing concerns, collecting input, and fostering unity throughout the process. The timeline for student transfers, records management, safety and security, transportation, and technology considerations has been meticulously outlined to ensure a smooth transition. We remain dedicated to our mission of providing the best possible educational experience for our students, and this report reflects our commitment to embracing change and nurturing an inclusive learning environment. As we embark on this transformative journey, we look forward to a bright future for Nash County Public Schools and Edgecombe County Public Schools, working together for the benefit of all students.



# **Appendix**

## Fixed Asset Depreciation Schedule

Asset Group: 00 Short Description: User 1: Long Description: User 1: Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: .0

Asset Group: 001 Short Description: LAND Long Description: LAND Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: .0

Asset Group: 020 Short Description: LAND IMP Long Description: LAND IMPROVE

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 15.0

Asset Group: 030 Short Description: BLDG Long Description: Buildings

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: SO.0

Asset Group: 040 Short Description: OTDR REC Long Description: OUTDOOR REC EQ

Salvage Percent: Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 050

Short Description: BLDG IMP Long Description: Building Improv

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 50 G

Asset Group: 100 Short Description: ATH EQ Long Description: ATHLETIC EQUIP

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 150 Short Description: AV EQUIP

Long Description: AV EQUIPMENT

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 160

Short Description: EQUIP-RM Long Description: EQUIPMENT - RM

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 180

Short Description: COMM EQ

Long Description: COMMUN EQUIP Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 200

Short Description: BODKS

Long Description: BOOKS MULTI MED

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 21D

Short Description: STADIUM

Long Description: STADIUM

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 50,0

Asset Group: 215

Short Description: ATHL COM

Long Description: ATHLETIC COMP.

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 50.0

Asset Group: 230

**Short Description: SOFTWARE** 

Long Description: COMP SOFTWARE

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 3.0

Asset Group: 235

Short Description: CONSTR

Long Description: CONSTR IN PROG

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 50.0



Asset Group: 250

Short Description: BUS, MCH Long Description: BUSINESS MACH

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 270

Short Description: COMP EQ

Long Description: COMPUTER EQUIP

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 3.0

Asset Group: 280

Short Description: PLAY EQ.

Long Description: PLAY EQUIP

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 300

Short Description: TOOLS

Long Description: MACH. & TOOLS

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 310

Short Description: MAINT EQ

Long Description: MAINTENANCE EQ

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 400

Short Description: FS EQUIP

Long Description: FOOD SERVICE EQ.

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 410

Short Description: CN VEHIC

Long Description: FOOD SVC VEHICL

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 6.0

Asset Group: 450

Short Description: INSTRMMT

Long Description: INSTRUMENTS

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 470

Short Description: LAW EQ

Long Description: LAW ENFORCE EQ.

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 500

Short Description: LAB/ENG

Long Description: LAB/SCEINCE/ENG

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 550

Short Description: FIRE EQ

Long Description: FIRE EQUIP

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 575

Short Description: UNIFORMS

Long Description: UNIFORMS

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 600

Short Description: FURN

Long Description: FURNITURE

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 10.0

Asset Group: 700

Short Description: STAGE

Long Description: STAGE & AUDIT.

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 750

Short Description: GRNDS EQ

Long Description: GROUNDS EQUIP

Salvage Percent:

Replacement Percent: 100

Asset Life: 5.0



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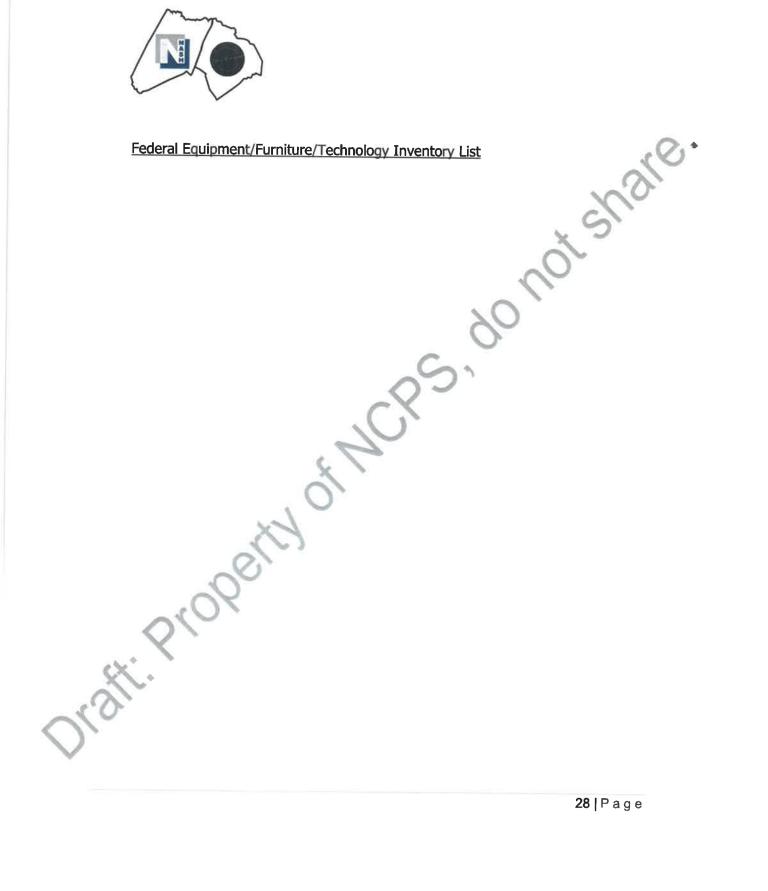
Asset Group: 800 Short Description: VEHICLES Long Description: VEHICLES Salvage Percent: Replacement Percent: 100 Asset Life: 6.0

Asset Group: 825 Short Description: BUSES Long Description: BUSES Salvage Percent: Replacement Percent: 100 Asset Life: 12.0

Asset Group: 850
Short Description: CONST EQ
Long Description: CONSTR EQUIP
Salvage Percent:
Replacement Percent: 100
Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 900 Short Description: FINE ART Long Description: FINE ARTS Salvage Percent: Replacement Percent: 100 Asset Life: 5.0

Asset Group: 999
Short Description: DIPOSE
Long Description: DIPOSAL
Salvage Percent:
Replacement Percent: 100
Asset Life:





# **Sources Cited**

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Jean-public-ex programs/fcc.html https://www2.ed.gov/print/about/inits/ed/non-public-education/other-federal-



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have duly executed and delivered this
Agreement and Plan of Transfer as of the date first written above.

Nash County Public Schools

Property Public Schools

Prope

	Nash County Public Schools
Name:	
Title:	
	Edgecombe County Public Schools
Name:	O.
Title:	C
	00,
Signature:	101
	Nash County Board of Commissioners
Name:	
Title:	0.
Date:	1.0
Signature:	081
. (	<b>Edgecombe County Board of Commissioners</b>
Name: 🔼	
Title:	
Date:	
Signature:	