

Gaston County Schools
Board of Education
Monday, May 1, 2023
Meeting 8:30 a.m.

MINUTES

The Gaston County Board of Education met in a work session on Monday, May 1, 2023 at 8:30 a.m. in the Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Josh Crisp, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Tod Kinlaw, Robbie Lovelace, Brent Moore (arrived after meeting was in progress) and A.M. Stephens III.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Melissa Balknight and Gary Hoskins, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Technology Officer Aaron Slutsky and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Ramsey called the meeting to order at 8:32 a.m. and welcomed everyone.

Agenda Adoption - Action

The Board considered Agenda Adoption – Action

Motion to adopt the Agenda as presented was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp; motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

Federal Programs Budget 2023-2024 – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Cynthia Reynolds who presented a PowerPoint on Federal Programs Budget 2023-2024.

(View PowerPoint)

Agency Contracts – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Stacy Huffman who presented a PowerPoint on Agency Contracts. Discussion occurred.

(View PowerPoint)

K-12 Reading Adoption – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Shannon Hullett, Bobbie Mills and Kathleen D’Avria who presented a PowerPoint on Academic Services K-12 Reading Adoption. Discussion occurred.

(View PowerPoint)

Academic Services Resources and Contract Services - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Stacy Huffman who presented a PowerPoint on Academic Services Resources and Contract Services. Discussion occurred.

(View PowerPoint)

District Guidelines - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight and Executive Directors who discussed district guidelines. Some of the topics discussed included the following – Student Code of Conduct, language, dress code and cell phones. Discussion occurred.

Human Resources Update – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Kecia Coln who gave an update on Human Resources (HR). Last week, approximately 240 certified vacancies were posted, 140 classified vacancies were posted. Recruitment efforts have included in-person and virtual job fairs throughout the spring. The HR team has interviewed 50 Educational Partners International (EPI) candidates in April and have extended offers to 33 candidates. Discussion occurred.

Cherryville Elementary School — City Gymnasium Request - Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who reported the Cherryville City Manager has requested that Gaston County Schools (GCS) allow Gaston County to build a gymnasium on GCS property adjacent to Cherryville Elementary School. The purpose of the City's proposal is to provide additional space to support local youth team practices during the week and games on weekends. Discussion occurred.

Upcoming Capital and Facility Projects – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Dr. Morgen Houchard who reported facilities is preparing for capital and facility projects that will be completed during the summer. Details for each project will be on the Consent Agenda at the May 15, 2023 Board of Education Meeting.

Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment – Information

Chairman Ramsey recognized Mr. Todd Hagans who explained the process to be used to select the Gaston College Board of Trustees Appointment. The term of this appointment will run from July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2027. Mr. Steve Huffstetler is completing his current term and is interested in serving another four-year term.

Superintendent Search – Information/Action

Chairman Ramsey reported that in August 2013, we used the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) to help with our Superintendent Search. A NCSBA associate attended a Board Meeting, presented a PowerPoint presentation and gave us options on the superintendent search process. Vice-Chairman Cherry has reached out to NCSBA to see if they would be available to attend our May 15, 2023 Board Meeting and give us information on the superintendent search process.

Motion

Motion was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace that the Board approve:

**North Carolina School Boards Association Attending the May 15, 2023 BOE Meeting and
Providing Information for our Superintendent Search**

A vote was taken and motion to approve the item as presented carried unanimously. (9-0)

Closed Session

Chairman Ramsey asked the Board to consider going into Closed Session under, N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(6) Personnel and N.C.G.S. §143-318.11(a)(3) Consultation with Attorney.

Motion to go into Closed Session was made by Ms. Dot Cherry; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp; motion carried unanimously. (9-0)

The Board went into Closed Session at 11:03 a.m.

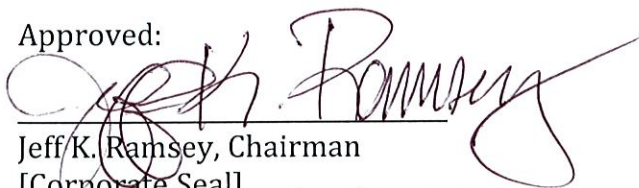
The Board returned to Open Session at 11:49 a.m.

Adjournment

All business having been conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Lee Dedmon; seconded by Mr. Josh Crisp motion carried unanimously. (8-0)

The Board Meeting adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

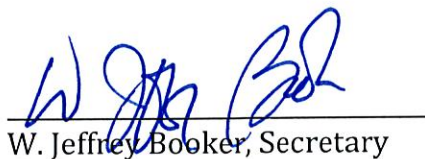
Approved:



Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman

[Corporate Seal]

Date Approved: 10-12-23



W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary



Federal Programs Budget 2023-2024

Board of Education Work Session
May 1, 2023

Title I Budget 2023-2024

23/24 Title I Funding

Eligibility (or Threshold)

- Elementary School
 - $\geq 40\%$ Economically Disadvantaged
- Middle School
 - $\geq 75\%$ Economically Disadvantaged

23/24 Title I Funding

School Identification

- Student Enrollment
- Free & reduced lunch percentage

23/24 Title I Funding

Equity

Title I is part of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB). NCLB was a version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). No Child Left Behind was replaced by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015.

23/24 Title I Funding

Equity

Schools receiving Title I money to support a school-wide program may use the funds to improve student achievement throughout the entire school; therefore, every child benefits from the added services and programs, not just the students identified as eligible to participate.

2023/2024

Schools Served

30

School Added: W.A. Bess Elementary

Title I Projected Allotment
2023-2024

Title I Planning Allotment
\$7,783,308

Carryover

\$1,200,000

Total

\$8,983,308

District Set Asides 2023-2024

| | | |
|----------------------------------|------|-----------|
| District Administration | 8.5% | \$778,330 |
| District Administration Salaries | | |
| Workshop Expense | | |
| Travel | | |
| Supplies and Materials | | |
| Indirect Cost | | |
| | | |

District Set Asides 2023-2024

| District Set Asides | Amount | Description |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| Parent Involvement | \$89,833 | School and District |
| Private Schools Per Share | \$62,547 | |
| Pre-K | \$414,000 | |
| School Improvement Interventions | \$1,260,987 | Incentives for Core Teacher's @ 10 Highest Poverty Schools |
| Professional Development | \$1,667,984 | Academic Facilitators |
| Districtwide Instructional Initiative | \$1,715,447 | 26 Elem Class Reduction Teachers |
| | \$260,000 | 4 Middle School Coaches |
| Homeless | \$60,000 | |
| Total | \$5,530,798 | |

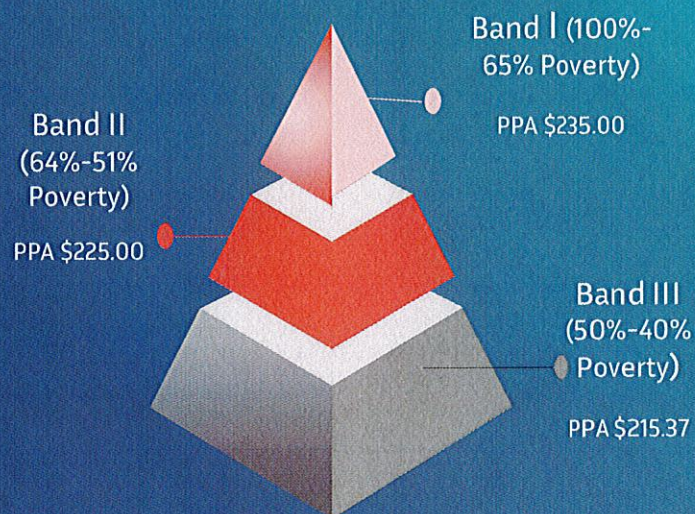
District Set Asides 2023-2024

10 Highest Poverty Schools

Woodhill
Lingerfeldt
HH Beam
Sadler
Bessemer City Central
Bessemer City Primary

York Chester Middle
Grier Middle
Southwest Middle
Bessemer City Middle

Projected 2023-2024



Title II Budget 2023-2024

Title II Projected Allotment

\$1,178,620

- Professional Development
- Salaries
 - Curriculum Directors
 - Curriculum Facilitators
 - Human Resources Specialists

Title IV Budget 2023-2024

Title IV Projected Allotment

\$1,066,376

- Coordinator of Health Services
- Technology
 - Programs/Resources
 - Workshops/Training
- Salaries
 - Curriculum Facilitators



Federal Programs Budget 2023-2024

Board Of Education Work Session
May 1, 2023



Academic Services

Resources and Services

Board of Education Work Session
May 1, 2023

Contract Services

- Currently in Request for Proposal (RFP) Process
 - Board Certified Behavior Analyst
 - Speech Language Pathologists
 - Occupational Therapists
 - Physical Therapist
 - Visually Impaired Teachers
 - Hearing Impaired Teachers
 - Mental Health Clinicians
 - School Psychologists
 - School Nurses



Contract Services

- Registered Behavior Technician
- Sign Language Interpreters
- Teacher Assistants
- Security Associates
- Special Education Teachers
- Spoken Language Facilitators
- Student Specific Nurses
 - Provide direct medical support to meet specific medical needs



Contract Services

- Vendors selected and contracts shared for consent at next board meeting



Academic Services

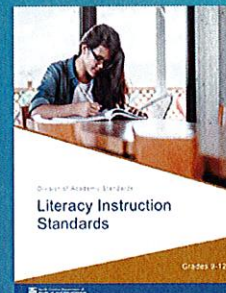
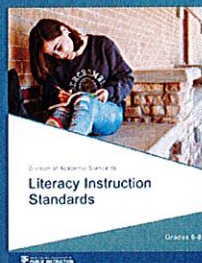
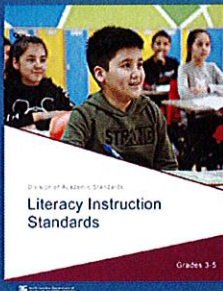
K-12 Reading Adoption



Why

Part V: Literacy Curriculum and Instruction Aligned to RtA

5(a) **Each local school administrative unit shall evaluate its literacy curriculum and instruction methods and shall modify as necessary to adhere to the standards developed by the State Board and align with the model literacy implementation plan provided by the Department. No later than December 15, 2022, and in a form prescribed by the State Board, each local school administrative unit shall submit to the State Board a concise explanation of its literacy curriculum and instruction, as aligned with the standards and model literacy implementation plan.**



K-12 Priorities

- Standards aligned/Literacy Instructional Standards aligned
- Supports a structured literacy framework
- Comprehensive
- Culturally responsive topics
- Lesson planning support
- Support for differentiation including subgroups
- Professional development
- Technology compatibility
- Digital and print materials
- Hard copies of decodable and complex text
- Variety of standard aligned assessments
- EdReports

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The Process: Spring 2023



Create & Share RFP
January 2023

Literacy Summit
March 7, 2023

Vendor Showcases by Level
March 2023

Stakeholder Review Period and Voting
March 13 - April 6, 2023

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Vendors

| Vendor | K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 |
|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|------|
| Benchmark Advance | ✓ | | |
| Savvas: myView & MyPerspectives | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |
| HMH: Into Reading & Into Literature | ✓ | ✓ | ✓ |

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Voting Results

| Vendor | K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Benchmark | 206 | — | — |
| HMH | 230 | 41 | 44 |
| Savvas | 134 | 65 | 14 |
| Total that Voted | 570 80% participation | 106 79% participation | 58 73% participation |
| Total Invited to Vote | 712 | 135 | 79 |

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HMH Key Features

- Class set of hardcover student textbooks
- Hardcover teacher edition of textbook with NC standard focused planning and pacing guides
- Teacher Guide with supports for remediation and enrichment
- Digital Platform that corresponds with the student text for a blended learning environment
- Diagnostic/Progress Monitoring Assessments

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HMH Professional Development

Three Year Professional Development Support Includes:

- Initial “Getting Started” training
- Blended Coaching Support
- Access to Coaches Studio - an online collaborative space for teachers and coaches
- Access to Teacher’s Corner for on-demand videos

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NC Districts - HMH

Into Reading:

| COUNTY | LEVEL |
|----------------|-------|
| Burke | K-5 |
| Carteret | K-5 |
| Clinton City | K-5 |
| Columbus | K-5 |
| Duplin | K-5 |
| Durham | K-5 |
| Granville | K-5 |
| Johnston | K-5 |
| Jones | K-5 |
| Lincoln County | K-2 |
| Orange | K-5 |
| Warren | K-5 |
| Wayne | K-5 |

*Lincoln County K-2 is implementing Fall 2023

Into Literature:

| COUNTY | LEVEL |
|-----------------------|-------|
| Columbus | 6-8 |
| Chatham (2022 pilot) | 6-8 |
| Clinton City | 6-8 |
| Duplin | 6-8 |
| Granville | 6-8 |
| Jones | 6-12 |
| Macon | 6-12 |
| Orange | 6-8 |
| Scotland | 9-12 |
| Wayne | 6-8 |
| Winston-Salem Forsyth | 6-12 |
| Greene | |
| Warren | |

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SAVVAS Key Features

- ◆ Student consumable editions (provided annually)
- ◆ Hardcover teacher edition of textbook with planning and pacing guides
- ◆ Aligned with North Carolina standards
- ◆ Online platform allows for teachers to further differentiate instruction
 - ◆ Performance by standard
 - ◆ Assists with grouping students for remediation

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SAVVAS Professional Learning

- ◆ Four program activation sessions (virtual)
- ◆ Four sessions to start the program this August (in-person)
- ◆ Three training days (per year), for three years, to continually improve implementation (in-person)
- ◆ Two onboarding sessions (for new teachers in 2024-25 and 2025-26) (virtual)
- ◆ Customizable, based on need

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NC Districts - Middle School

- ◆ Cumberland County Schools & Johnston County Schools

| | Gaston | Cumberland | Johnston |
|----------------|--------|------------|----------|
| Middle Schools | 11 | 17 | 12 |
| Black | 24.5% | 45.6% | 17.1% |
| White | 48.0% | 26.5% | 48.1% |
| Hispanic | 19.5% | 15.9% | 28.4% |
| Asian | 1.7% | 2.1% | .85% |
| Two or more | 6% | 9.1% | 5.2% |

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Cost Proposals for Materials*

| Vendor | K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 |
|--|----------------|--------------|--------------|
| Savvas: MyPerspectives (5 year cost proposal) | | \$759,324.64 | |
| HMH: Into Reading & Into Literature (6 year cost proposal) | \$2,544,440.70 | | \$948,287.75 |

* Cost proposals do not include professional development coaching

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Cost Proposals for Professional Learning

| Vendor | K-5 | 6-8 | 9-12 |
|---|-----------|---|-----------|
| Savvas: MyPerspectives (3 year cost proposal) | | \$44,100 activation & implementation essentials + \$3,300 for each future session | |
| HMH: Into Reading & Into Literature (3 year cost proposal) | \$466,700 | | \$258,100 |

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Next Steps: 2023 - 2024


Board Approval

Summer Curriculum Work to Align New Resources

Stakeholder Getting Started Training
Parent Academy

Ongoing Coaching and Support

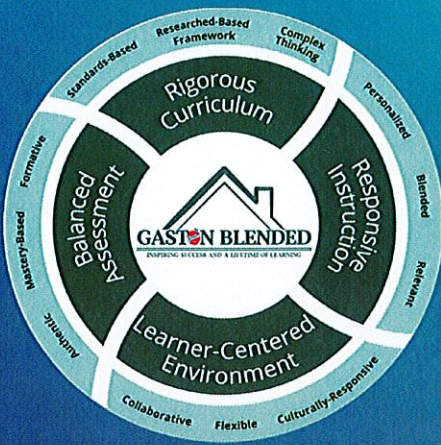
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A circular diagram with four quadrants, each representing a core component of the educational model. The quadrants are: 'Rigorous Curriculum' (top), 'Responsive Instruction' (right), 'Learner-Centered Environment' (bottom), and 'Balanced Assessment' (left). Each quadrant is surrounded by a ring of related terms. The 'Rigorous Curriculum' ring includes 'Research-Based Framework', 'Complex Thinking', 'Personalized', and 'Blended'. The 'Responsive Instruction' ring includes 'Blended', 'Relevant', 'Culturally-Responsive', and 'Flexible'. The 'Learner-Centered Environment' ring includes 'Collaborative', 'Flexible', 'Culturally-Responsive', and 'Authentic'. The 'Balanced Assessment' ring includes 'Authentic', 'Formative', 'Mastery-Based', and 'Standards-Based'.


Academic Services

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Academic Services

21



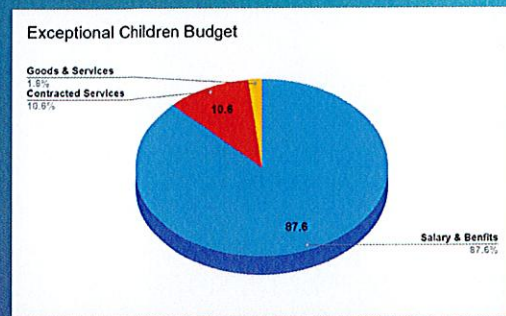
Academic Services

Resources and Services

Board of Education Work Session
May 1, 2023

Exceptional Children Allocation of Funds

- EC Teachers & Assistants
- Related Service Providers
- Interpreters
- Support Staff
- Specialized Classrooms
- EC Pre-K Teachers & Assistants
- Services/Resources



2023-2024 Exceptional Children State & Federal Budget

| | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| State Funding | \$22,264,679 |
| Funding School Age Students | \$7,150,365 |
| Carryover | \$1,000,000 |
| Funding EC Pre-K Students | \$157,928 |
| Carryover | \$10,000 |
| Total Budget | \$30.5 million |

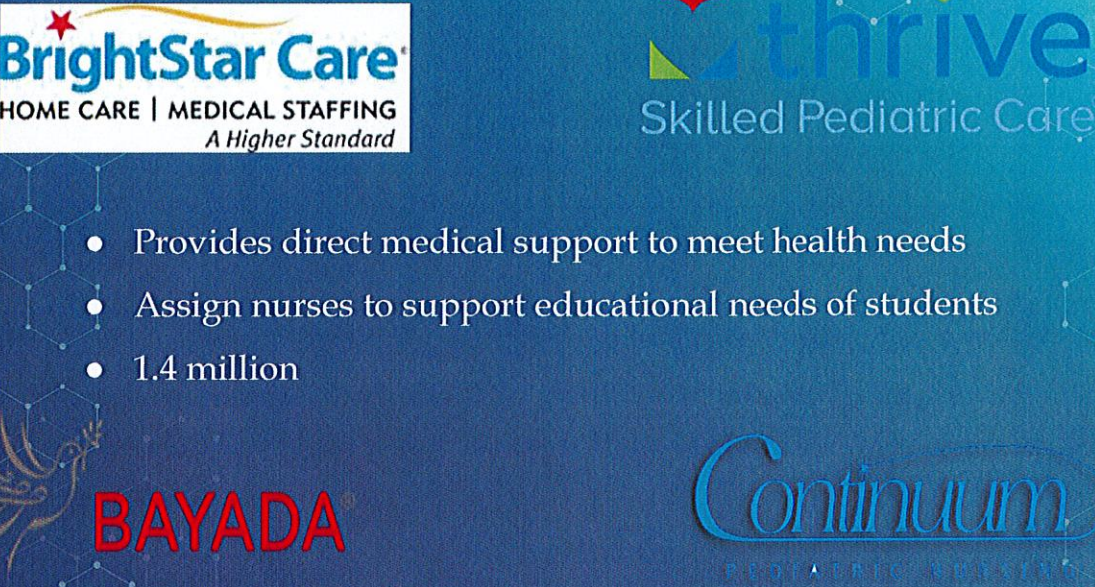
2023-2024 Additional DEC Budgets

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| AIG Budget | \$1,731,909 |
| EL Budget | \$1,619,305 |
| NC Pre-K Budget | \$5,584,721 |



- Provide contracted services for:
 - American Sign Language Interpreters (ASL)
 - Occupational Therapists (OT)
 - Physical Therapists (PT)
 - Speech Language Pathologists (SLPs)
 - \$250,000






BrightStar Care
HOME CARE | MEDICAL STAFFING
A Higher Standard

thrive
Skilled Pediatric Care®

- Provides direct medical support to meet health needs
- Assign nurses to support educational needs of students
- 1.4 million

BAYADA

Continuum
PEDIATRIC NURSING



DocuSign®

- Allows for electronic signatures for all meetings
- Assist in expediting IEP process and implementation
- \$50,000



- Multilingual Learners Platform
- Hub for Data
- Development and Location of English Learner Plans
- Development and Location Accommodation Plans
- \$60,000

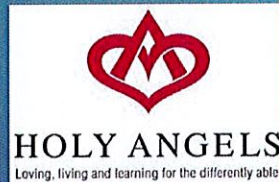


- **What:** Coaching support with K-5 Administrators to support leading standards based learning and grading
- **When:** June-December, 2023
- **How:** In person and virtual coaching sessions, small leadership training sessions

Why: *"Leadership is a journey. And one that shouldn't be walked alone. A skilled coach – someone who understands your context and helps you formulate a path to your goals – can be invaluable in gaining perspective, deepening your learning and understanding of your school community, and improving how you connect with your teachers and students."* Jim Knight



- Evidence-based English Language Curriculum multilingual learners
- Offers Professional Development to teachers and staff
 - Content
 - Platform
 - Coaching
- Assessment Platform
- \$175,000 (3 year contract)



Residential Day Funds

- A partnership with the Department for Public Instruction
- Assist in providing services to children with disabilities who are placed in an approved residential center
- Gaston County Schools partners with Holy Angels
- \$400,000



INVISION SERVICES

- Provide “orientation and mobility” services to visually impaired children including travel skills for safety and independence, how to use canes and how to use electronic travel aids
- Evaluate students for services
- Consult with school staff and parents
- \$30,000

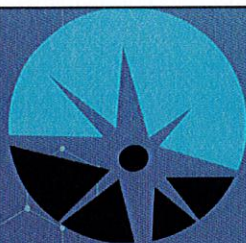
Melmark 

Mission First. Every Individual. Every Day.®

- Provides educational, clinical, and residential services for children and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and other developmental disabilities
- \$100,000



- Focus on critical thinking, communication skills, and attitudes necessary to:
 - Earn a living
 - Be an active citizen
 - Pursue a meaningful life
- Utilization of the Socratic Seminar, support, coaching, and staff development
- Helps develop skills in reading, comprehension and critical thinking
- \$40,000



NAVIANCE

- Learner Profile Platform
- Course Planner
- Career Inventories
- Interest Inventories
- Scholarship hub
- Parent Connections - engaging in student 6 year graduation plan
- \$138,450



NCDHHS


- Provide services to students aged 14 - adulthood
- Provide Pre-Employment Transition Services
- Complete educational, psychological, vocational evaluations
- Connect students to agencies for job placement and supported employment
- Collaborate with Gaston County Schools to hold community resource events
- Provide financial support for eligible clients for work-based needs
- \$60,000




news2you™


- Helps students master state's extended standards
- Allows students to access reading, writing, math, social skills, science, and social/emotional skills in alignment with the extended content standards
- \$250,000 (3 year contract)






pacificinterpreters







- Provide face-to-face interpretation in American Sign Language and spoken languages
- Available on short notice to serve students or to facilitate interpretation at IEP meetings
- \$250,000

PCG | *Education*
Public Focus. Proven Results.™

- Easy IEP/504
 - Case Management
 - Process for completing child count
 - Progress Monitoring
 - Functional Behavior Assessment/ Behavior Intervention Plan
 - Translation of Documents
- Multi-Tiered Systems of Support and Early Warning Detection
 - Early Warning System
 - Core planning
 - Tier plans
 - Intervention logging



- Special Funds Management
 - Medicaid Reimbursement
 - Fee for Service
 - Cost Reporting
 - Risk Pool Funds
 - Special State Reserves
- Threat Assessment Platform
 - Threat to Self
 - Threat to Others
- Total PCG Cost: \$550,000



Riverside Educational Center

- Testing and assessment of students to identify for AIG services
- \$75,000