



Asheville-Buncombe Education Coalition

ASSIGNMENT 2010

APRIL 2005

Why a Coalition? Maggie Smith, Executive Director

Four years ago, local youth-serving agencies decided to work with our schools to close the achievement gaps and improve the graduation rates. **Each agency had different strengths, constituents and service delivery models; yet all knew we had to coordinate our efforts to see lasting change.** Our strength lies in our ability to reduce the duplication of services, standardize "best practices" for tutoring and mentoring and to support the member agencies and schools.

But I'm just the executive director of the Education Coalition – **I'll let the member agencies tell you, in their own words, why this Coalition works:**

- **We – this community – are doing the things we've always said we needed to do.** This Coalition is giving the community a tool with which to address the issues we've all said were important. *Robin Myer, Big Brothers Big Sisters*
- **We are able to reach more children.** *Robbie Williams, One Youth at a Time*
- **This Coalition is developing systemic change.** We are changing the environment of service delivery and organizational relationships – over time this changes how things work and how we respond to problems. **With 12 years experience in this area I'd say there's a real difference in trust and communication between the community and our schools.** *Kathi Ballard, Asheville City Schools Foundation*
- **Our relationship with the schools is better because of the relationships that the coalition has built.** *Shirley Whitesides, Delta House Life Development Program*

Join the movement – make a difference!

Join Our Celebration

Students ● Families
Tutors ● Mentors
Teachers ● Friends

Tuesday

May 3rd

5:30-7:00

Stephens Lee

Save Your Spot
call 252-5936

You could win a great
prize if you reserve your
space and come to the
event!

In their own words...



Kids

- Mr. Jim isn't just my tutor, he's my friend. - *age 10*
- I'm not scared to bring my report card home now. - *age 14*
- I know that sometimes we act like we don't like you but

we know that we need you. - *age 13*

Families

- I've worked with my granddaughter on her reading skills for a while and I've seen a big difference since she has

had a tutor.

Tutors/Mentors

- My favorite moment was when my student took a test and got 100%. He jumped up and hugged me. I'll never forget it.

School Staff

- The Education Coalition has been an answer to our prayers. They serve the kids who are falling through the cracks.

How does the Education Coalition work?

When staff or members of the Board of Directors speak to people about how the ABEC works, people are continuously impressed by the innovative design of our collaboration.



Direct Services

- **Accept student referrals** from City and County public schools.
- **Recruit, screen, train tutors and mentors** from our community.
- **Match students and tutor/mentors** with member agencies.
- **Maintain regular contact** with each agency and school liaisons.
- **Perform assessments** with each agency to assure that standards are met and offer support where needed.
- **Contract a third party evaluation** of ABEC, member agencies, and student performance.

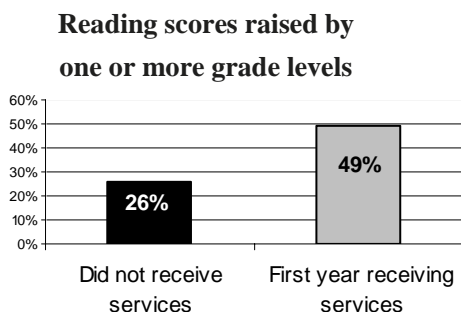
Indirect Services

- The Education Coalition's 18 member agencies and 14 community leaders on the Board of Directors strive to:
- **Build Community awareness** of the issues that students face and the work of the coalition.
 - **Develop a team identity** among our community, families, schools, and agencies to ensure success.
 - **Share and develop best practices** around issues such as volunteer management and family involvement.
 - **Build a diverse financial base of support.** Funds are used to train volunteers, provide reading materials, and to make allocations to member agencies.

What difference does the Education Coalition make?

Our programs and student progress are evaluated yearly.

Recommendations are made to improve services and we adjust work plans accordingly. **This graph illustrates student performance with and without a tutor or mentor:**

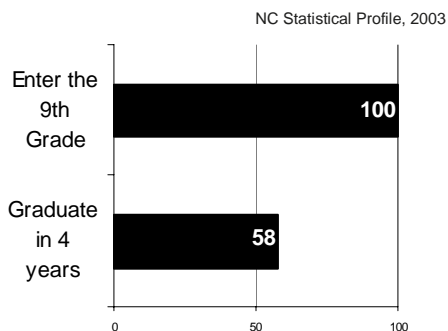


What Can You Do?

- Contribute to sponsor a child
- Become a Mentor or a Tutor
- Encourage your employees to join
- Introduce us to the people and groups that you know

Why does this matter? The cost of dropping out is great; to the child and to our community:

What Happens to 9th Graders across NC?



Nationally, what is the economic impact of dropping out?

- American business currently spends more than \$60 billion a year on training, much of that on remedial reading, writing, and math.
- According to a 1985 statistic: Each year's class of dropouts will cost the country over \$200 billion during their lifetimes in lost earnings and unrealized tax revenue.
- 82% of America's prisoners are high school dropouts.
- A 1% increase in high school graduation rates would save approximately \$1.4 billion in costs associated with incarceration.

We can change the outcome, but valuing education means we must make commitments. Every child deserves and needs our support as they first learn to read, and with each small step they take toward graduation. Join us.

Call 252-5936 Today to Mentor or Tutor



Update: Board of Directors

We are committed to strengthening bonds with our two public school systems. Thus the schools now have 8 positions on our board. **New members are in bold.**

Buncombe County Schools:

Barbara Parker, Director Secondary Education

Maxine Cleveland, Assistant Principal

TBA, Teacher

Richard Greene, BCS Board of Education

Asheville City Schools:

Allen Johnson, Associate Superintendent

Cynthia Sellinger, Principal

Paula Church, Teacher

TBA, ACS Board of Education

Other Board News

We thank **John Legerton** for his 8 years on the **Asheville City Schools Board of Education** and four years as an **ABEC board member**. While John's term with the Board of Education has ended, he will continue to work with ABEC as an At-Large board member. Thanks John!

Jean Riederer is the new **YMCA** representative to our board. Thank you to former YM representative **John Mikos** for staying on as a committee member. **Thank you to the YMCA for your commitment to our collaboration!**

Member Agency Highlight



THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA
ASHEVILLE

Where do we start?
UNC Asheville supports the Education Coalition in so many ways.

At this time over 60 UNCA students tutor

through the Education Coalition. The number of participating college students is impressive and the quality of their service deserves praise.

UNCA staff members **Kim Kessar** and **Brenda Hopper** have done an excellent job of managing this fleet of tutors since the Coalition began. Because their students are interested in the field of education, **they have developed excellent supportive practices that improve the skills of these prospective teachers which in turn improves the services that Education Coalition students receive.**

It's not just the students that are involved

Dr. Sandra Byrd, a founding board member, has been instrumental in the development of our work. Many faculty and staff, including outgoing Chancellor, **James Mullen**, continue to act as mentors to Education Coalition students. And during their most recent **Holiday party, staff and faculty donated several hundred books** to the effort.

New Staff: Welcome



Donna Pierce
Development Director

After years on the PTO and as a former development consultant with Sims & Steele Consulting, I feel

fortunate to be in a position that merges my interests and skills. I love our community and the diverse group of organizations and volunteers who work to make it a better, more equitable place in which to live. As the Development Director, I look forward to helping our community to find ways to support the powerful and exciting efforts of the Education Coalition.



Mark Your Calendar

October 6th from 3-6 pm
Blue Ridge Motion Pictures

The Asheville Buncombe
Education Coalition Presents the

First Annual

Playground Classic
A Special Event like no other!

**Your chance to
BE A KID FOR A KID**

More Information Coming Soon!

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Asheville Buncombe Education Coalition
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Change a child's life. Become a Mentor. Become a Tutor. Call 252-5936 to get involved.

Our Mission

The Education Coalition is a community-wide collaboration to provide mentoring, tutoring, and support services that will eliminate achievement gaps and help all Asheville City and Buncombe County public school students graduate.

Our Board of Directors

Virgil Smith, Chair—At-Large Board Member

Kim McGuire, Vice Chair—At-Large Board Member

David Bailey, Secretary—At-Large Board Member

Kathi Ballard, Treasurer—Asheville City Schools Foundation

Lillian Butler, Hillcrest Enrichment

Dr. Sandra Byrd, University of NC Asheville

Tammy Capps, Children First

Eric Cardella, Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club of Buncombe County

Paula Church, Teacher/Asheville City Schools

Maxine Cleveland, Principal/Buncombe County Schools

Isaac Coleman, At-Large Board Member

Anderson Davis, Partners Unlimited

Helen Edington, Links, Inc.

Charlie Glazener, At-Large Board Member

Richard Greene, Buncombe County School Board

Michelle Grant, Sycamore Temple Education Program (S.T.E.P.)

Allen Johnson, Administration/ Asheville City Schools

Adelaide Daniels Key, At-Large Board Member

John Legerton, At-Large Board Member

Deb Morris, Mars Hill College

Robin Myer, Big Brother Big Sister of WNC

Bettie O'Brien, Administration/ Buncombe County Child Care Services

Barbara Parker, Administration/ Buncombe County Schools

Amy Rickman, Asheville Parks and Recreation

Jean Riederer, YMCA of WNC

Cynthia Sellinger, Principal/Asheville City Schools

Carolyn Wallace, Warren Wilson College

Bob Washel, Buncombe County Schools Foundation

Shirley Whitesides, Delta House Life Development of Asheville, Inc.

Laura Williams, YWCA of Asheville

Robbie Williams, One Youth At A Time

TBA, Teacher/Buncombe County Schools

TBA, Asheville City School Board