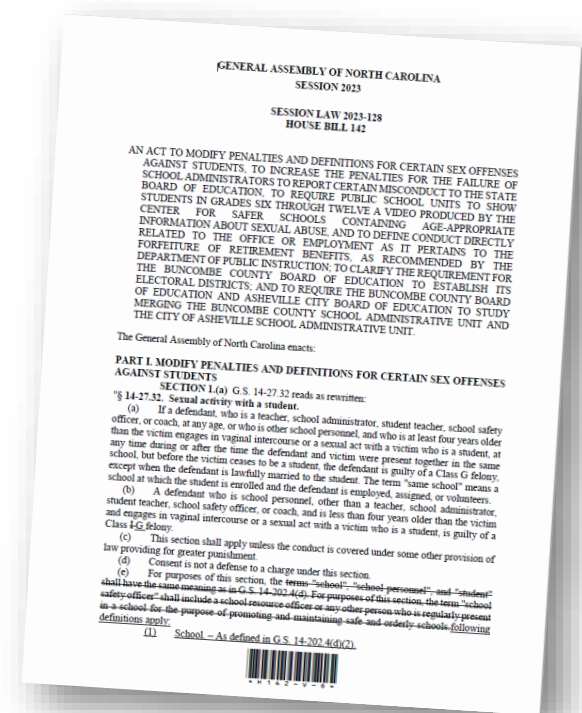


Project Background

- North Carolina General Assembly mandated that the Asheville City and Buncombe County school systems jointly study the feasibility of a merger
- House Bill 142 / SL 2023-128 was signed by the Governor on September 29, 2023
- Asheville City Board of Education & Buncombe County Board of Education voted to designate Buncombe County Government as the lead entity for the project
- Buncombe County Commissioners accepted lead role on October 17, 2023



Legislative Mandate

“The **Buncombe County Board of Education and the Asheville City Board of Education shall jointly study the feasibility of the merger** of the Buncombe County School Administrative Unit and the City of Asheville School Administrative Unit, including the potential **economic and educational impact** of merging the school units and any **other relevant information**. The Buncombe County Board of Education and the Asheville City Board of Education shall report **findings and recommendations** to the standing committees of the General Assembly hearing elections matters no later than **February 15, 2025.**”



Project Scope

- In conducting this study, Prismatic will look at all these areas:
 - Student membership
 - Academics
 - Student wellbeing
 - Policy & procedure
 - Operations
 - Facilities
 - Governance
 - Financial
 - Partnerships
 - Geographical
 - Community
 - Historical factors
 - Contextual factors
 - Comparisons to other systems



Vendor Deliverables

Prismatic Services will be expected to provide:

- A comprehensive report including description of research method, summary of activities, findings, risks/benefits of consolidation, recommendations, and implementation considerations as applicable
- A summary of key information from the report in a concise, accessible format
- A slide deck summarizing the report
- Presentation of findings in public meetings, to include both Boards of Education and the Board of Commissioners



Timeline

March 2024:

- County finalizes contract w/ Prismatic Services

April 2024:

- Prismatic Services launches study

December 2024:

- Prismatic Services submits final report

January 2025:

- Commissioners & School Boards discuss findings / recommendations

February 2025:

- Boards of Education report to General Assembly

