



Presentation to the Joint Legislative Task Force on Education Finance Reform

March 15, 2018

Evergreen Mission Statement

Evergreen Community Charter School is a learning community committed to the pursuit of excellence in the holistic education of mind, body, and spirit.

We prepare students for successful lifelong learning, social responsibility, environmental stewardship, and service.

We value the voice of every member of our community.



Evergreen at a Glance

- Buncombe County (Asheville)
- Kindergarten-8th grade
- 444 students
- Title I School
- EL Education
 - Academic Rigor
 - Character Development
- 91% White; 4% Hispanic; 5% Minority
- 13% Exceptional Children; 14% AIG
- Lottery (2016) 729 applicants for 25 spots

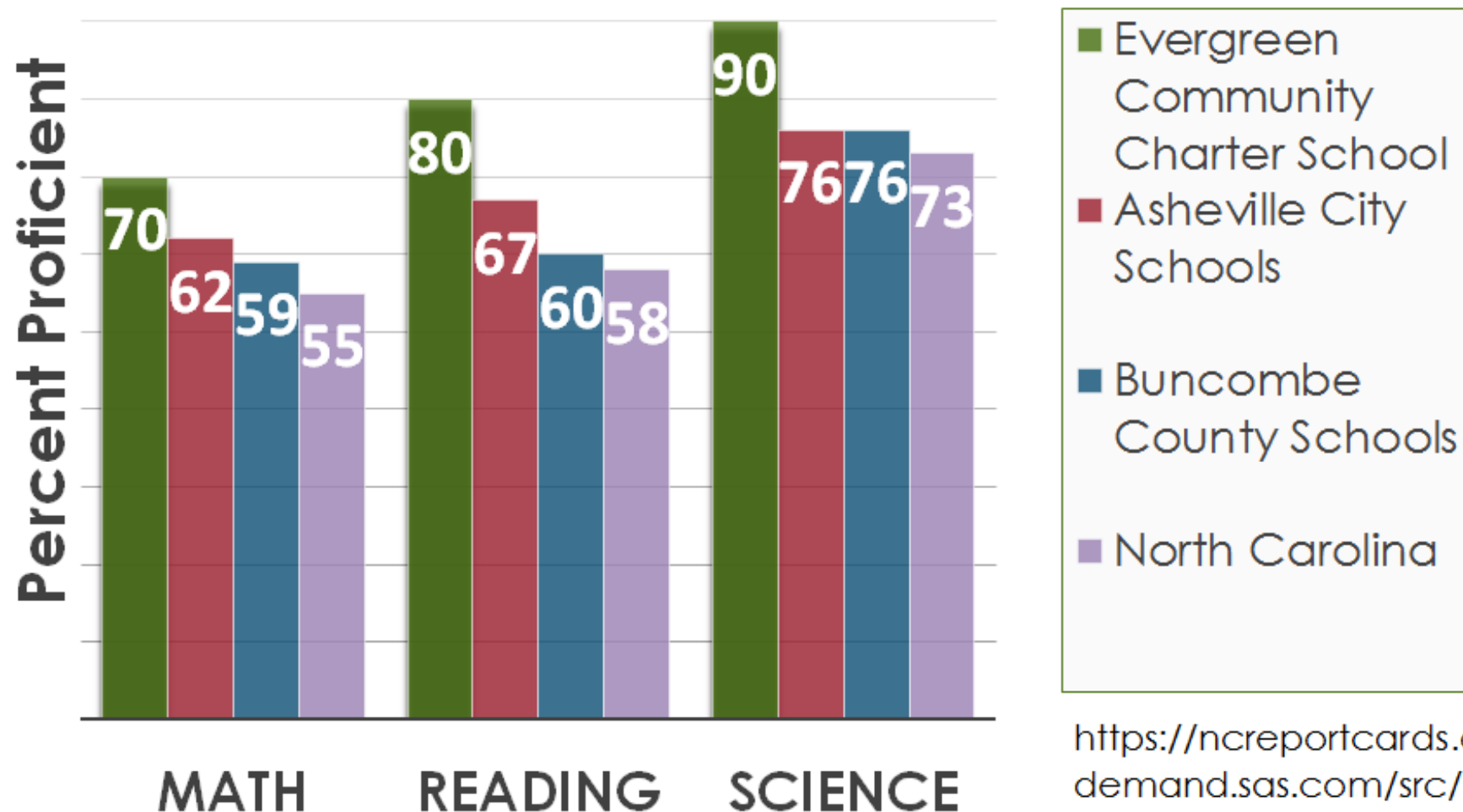


Evergreen Accomplishments

- Accredited by AdvancED /SACS CASI
- U.S. Department of Education 2012 Green Ribbon School
- EL Education Mentor School
- Honor School of Excellence
- noodle Innovative School Award
- NC Green School of Excellence
- Best School in Western NC - Mountain Xpress
- Best After School Program - Mountain Xpress
- Exceptional Environmental Education Center - Environmental Educators of North Carolina
- US Green Building Council Sustainability Business Award
- NC Charter School Teacher of the year (2)
- Science Olympiad Regional Winners



Percent Proficient on NC End of Grade Tests 2016-2017



<https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src/>

Effects of Insufficient Funding

- Teacher turnover
- Low morale
- Cuts to programming
- Reduced associate teachers
- Reduced substitute teachers
- Fewer enrichment classes
- Slashed classroom budgets
- Less professional development
- Fewer counseling resources and behavior support



Effects of Adequate Funding

- Increased emotional and mental health support
 - Trauma Informed School
- Additional support for students with disabilities
- More robust AIG programs
- Lower teacher/student ratio
- Improvements to buildings and classrooms
- Equitable pay for non-teaching staff
- Support for low income families
 - Transportation
 - Food
- Exchange of innovative ideas between LEAs and Charters
- More accessible technology
- World language classes

Recommendations

- Increase Per Pupil Funding for ALL public schools
- Provide Capital Funding
 - Facilities funding from state budget
 - NC Education Lottery
 - Local sales tax revenue
 - County Commissioners/City Council permitted to approve capital funding and technology projects
- Expand Transportation Grant Funding
 - Regardless of free or reduced lunch
 - Include bus driver salaries



Recommendations



- Detangle State and Local Funds
 - Transparency
 - Improved relationships
- Improve Equity in Exceptional Children Funding
 - Weighted for level of services
 - Raise or eliminate cap
- Maintain Charter Flexibility in Resource Allotment
 - Responsiveness to specific student needs

Most Importantly...

We are committed to:

- forming collaborative partnerships with all public schools;
- supporting efforts to increase the amount of per pupil funding in all North Carolina public schools to the top 25% compared to other states.



Thank You

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