**HYDE COUNTY SCHOOLS NEEDS ASSESSMENT
Title I, II, IV**

Located in rural Northeastern North Carolina, Hyde County is a coastal county in North Carolina bordered by the Atlantic Ocean to the east, Dare, Tyrrell, and Washington Counties to the north, Beaufort County to the west and Pamlico County to the south. Hyde County covers 612 square miles with a total population of 5,517 residents (US Census, 2016 estimate from [https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/hydecountynorthcarolina,NC/PST045217](https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/hydecountynorthcarolina%2CNC/PST045217), retrieved 05/18/2018) so our county’s population density is very low, only 9.5 people per square mile. In contrast, North Carolina’s average population density is 196 people per square mile. Our county is divided by the Pamlico Sound, yielding mainland Hyde to the west and Ocracoke Island to the east.  Swan Quarter is the county seat and there are four other small villages on the mainland in Western Hyde County where most county residents live.  Estimates of the population of residents living in or near the village communities are: 1.) Swan Quarter (800 residents); 2.) Fairfield (500 residents); 3.) Engelhard (900 residents); 4.) Scranton/Sladesville (500 residents); and 5.) Ponzer, (400 residents).  Approximately 700 year-round residents live in Eastern Hyde County on the barrier island of Ocracoke, located at the edge of the Atlantic Ocean. Ocracoke Island is thirty miles from the mainland and only accessible by boat, ferry or private plane. The mainland area of Hyde County is located sixty miles from the nearest city – Washington, North Carolina – in an isolated, vast area of agricultural and national forest land. With such a small, rural population, the county lacks the community-based infrastructure and recreational and cultural opportunities for our youth and their families that exist in more populous areas. Our county residents and community partners identify youth development as a serious need.

Designated a Tier I county by the North Carolina Department of Commerce, Hyde County has an extreme need for financial, economic, and health infrastructure support.  The county’s current unemployment rate is at 12.7% compared to the state rate of 3.7% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, April 2018) Hyde County remains at or near the top of the list of counties with highest unemployment rates even as most other areas of the state enjoy economic growth and increased job creation (North Carolina Department of Commerce).  There are no incorporated towns in Hyde County, no traffic lights, shopping malls, movie theatres, free public transportation, manufacturers, factories, major food stores, hospitals, dentists, or mental health professionals. There is only one doctor practicing medicine in the entire county and the physician’s practice is located at the Ocracoke Health Clinic.  Mainland families either travel to Belhaven, NC, located approximately 45 minutes away, or to Washington, NC, which is a 60+mile drive west depending on where one lives on the mainland, or Manteo NC, approximately 75 minutes north, to secure a physician’s medical services.  The closest hospital is over an hour away from the county seat in Swan Quarter.

Hyde County Schools is a Prekindergarten through Grade 13 public school district with campuses located on either side of Pamlico Sound.  The Hyde County student population is multi-ethnic and includes 39% African American, 44% Caucasian, and 17% Hispanic children. Hyde County Schools has three distinct schools that serve, *on average* less than 600 students.  On the mainland in Western Hyde County, the Mattamuskeet School Campus serves 405 students.  Campus facilities consist of one elementary school, grades PreK-5 (214 students) and an early college high school, grades 6-13 (191 students), in close proximity on one campus near Swan Quarter, NC. Shared resources include a gym and a school library.  Designated Title 1 schools, more than 90% of Mattamuskeet Elementary (MES) and Mattamuskeet Early College High School (MEHS) students qualify to participate in the USDA free or reduced lunch program (http://www.ncpublicschools.org/fbs/resources/data/ retrieved 05/18/2018).

Hyde County’s third designated Title 1 School, Ocracoke School, is the smallest public school in North Carolina.  The island school serves *on average* less than 180 students enrolled in Prekindergarten through Grade 12. Forty percent (40%) of the students attending Ocracoke School are members of low-income, economically disadvantaged families.  Sixty percent (60%) of Ocracoke School students are Caucasian, and 40% of the school’s students are Hispanic or Latino. The community school campus consists of two classrooms buildings, a gym and a library shared with the public. There is no cafeteria.

The challenges that the Hyde County Schools face in providing students with high quality access to educational services include shrinking state funding for education and an unstable, virtually non-existent tax base.  Our county’s economy lacks the potential stability that could result from hosting a manufacturing base and/or retail businesses. Small-scale family farming and commercial fishing are the two main sources of family income. The flow of tourism dollars to Ocracoke Island is dependent on the vagaries of weather and unreliable seasonal (May to October) access to the island via state ferry and the Bonner Bridge, currently under construction.  The Bonner Bridge on Highway12 is the only means of road access from mainland Hyde to Hatteras Island and the Hatteras Ferry dock to get to Ocracoke.  Widely chronicled in statewide and national news media, the entire village located on Ocracoke Island was without electrical power for over a week this past summer causing severe economic hardship to the islanders in the middle of the most profitable segment of the island’s tourism season. According to the County Manager’s Office of Hyde County, the exact tally of economic loss to the businesses and residents of Ocracoke Island during the outage is not yet determined due to lag time in receiving state sales tax reports.

In addition to local funding decreases, Hyde County Schools is also facing decreased funding from state resources.  These cuts will have a significant financial impact on the school system employees and students. It is important to note that one of the greatest challenges facing Hyde County Schools is the reduction in funding for fiscal years 2015-2017 that was mandated by the state legislature.  Hyde County Schools operating budget totals approximately $10,000,000 per year and ten (10) members of our teaching staff are paid from Program Report Code (PRC) 019, Small School Supplemental funding.  Due to changes in the PRC 019 funding formula, the LEA’s operating budget was reduced by $844,417.00 from that "one" PRC.  The cumulative effect of budget cuts from the past three years has been devastating and as of school year 2017-18, the LEA’s operating budget has been reduced by 8.5%.  In the face of such steep cuts, necessitating significant reduction in force, the LEA’s Title 1 funds originally designated to support our 21stCCLC program at the end of this four-year grant cycle have been reallocated to preserve regular school day teaching staff positions.

**Need for Assistance**

Our students and their families face many identified needs and risk factors that can be barriers to academic success.  Demographic information describing the nature and degree of student and family needs are listed below.

* Twice as many children live in poverty than the state average. 39% of Hyde County’s children birth to age 17 lives in poverty compared to the North Carolina state average of 20%.  27.3% of all Hyde County residents were living below the poverty level as compared to 16.8% statewide.  (US Census 2012-16).
* Hyde County Health Department Community Needs Assessment shows that at least 54% of children age birth to 18 living in Hyde County does not reside in two-parent households.  25% of children under 18 live with one parent, 16% live with other relatives, and 13% live with grandparents (Hyde County Community Health Assessment 2011).
* Hyde County median family income is $37,741 compared to $48,256 median for North Carolina (US Census Quick Facts 2016).
* 55% of our students across the county have no one home between the hours of 3:00pm and 6:00pm and have no teen or adult babysitter.
* On the Mattamuskeet Schools campus, greater than 90% of elementary students and early college high school students are eligible for free and reduced lunch. The state average is 56.9%.
* On the Ocracoke School campus, 40% of the students are from economically disadvantaged homes. 40% of our students are from homes where their parents speak a first language other than English. Ocracoke School does not have cafeteria services so there is no free or reduced lunch program.

HYDE COUNTY SCHOOLS TREND DATA

2013-2017

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| % proficient | EOCs |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | III-V | III-V | III-V | III-V |  | III-V | III-V | III-V | III-V |  | III-V | III-V | III-V | III-V |
|  | Math I |   |   |  |  | Biology |   |   |   |  | English II |   |   |   |
|  | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |  | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |  | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| OS | 75.0 | 100.0 | 91.7 | 64.3 |  | 90.0 | 70.6 | 60.0 | 88.9 |  | 90.9 | 78.9 | 87.5 | 92.9 |
| MECHS | 38.5 | 48.3 | 53.8 | 48.0 |  | 5.0 | 13.3 | 63.6 | 68.2 |  | 31.3 | 34.6 | 41.7 | 83.3 |
| district | 50.0 | 57.1 | 63.6 | 53.8 |  | 22.0 | 43.8 | 62.5 | 77.5 |  | 46.5 | 53.3 | 48.2 | 88.5 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | III-V | III-V | III-V | III-V |
|  | EnglishII |   |   |   |
|  | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| OS | 90.9 | 78.9 | 87.5 | 92.9 |
| MECHS | 31.3 | 34.6 | 41.7 | 83.3 |
| district | 46.5 | 53.3 | 48.2 | 88.5 |

EOG’s

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | ELA |   |   |   |  | Math |   |   |   |
|  | 2013-14  |  2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |  | 2013-14  |  2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| Grade 3 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| OS | 69.2 | 91.7 | 88.2 | 75.0 |  | 76.9 | 100 | 100.0 | 83.3 |
| MES | 54.5 | 54.1 | 55.9 | 58.8 |  | 60.6 | 54.1 | 58.8 | 58.8 |
| district | 58.7 | 63.3 | 66.7 | 39.1 |  | 65.2 | 65.3 | 72.5 | 65.2 |
| Grade 4 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| OS | 75 | 69.2 | 92.9 | 88.2 |  | 83.3 | 69.2 | 92.9 | 94.1 |
| MES | 68.8 | 50 | 51.6 | 51.4 |  | 75 | 42.9 | 19.4 | 37.1 |
| district | 71.4 | 56.1 | 64.4 | 53.8 |  | 78.6 | 51.2 | 42.2 | 55.8 |
| Grade 5 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| OS | 95 | 77.8 | 66.7 | 87.5 |  | 90 | 88.9 | 75.0 | 73.3 |
| MES | 42.9 | 57.1 | 51.7 | 36.1 |  | 25.0 | 50.0 | 55.2 | 47.2 |
| district | 57.9 | 65.2 | 56.1 | 40.4 |  | 42.1 | 65.2 | 60.1 | 55.8 |
| 5th Grade Science |   |   |   |
|  2013-14  |  2014-15 | 2015-16 |  2016-17 |
| OS 95 | 88.9 | 66.7 | 81.3 |
| MES 50.0 | 92.9 | 93.1 | 80.6 |
| District 63.2 | 91.3 | 85.4 | 80.8 |

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|   | ELA |   |   |   |  | Math |   |   |   |
|   | 2013-14  |  2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |  | 2013-14  |  2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| Grade 6 |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |  |
| OS | 70.0 | 100.0 | 90.0 | 76.9 |   | 80.0 | 100 | 90.0 | 69.2 |
| MECHS | 41.0 | 23.1 | 58.8 | 50.0 |   | 30.8 | 7.7 | 35.3 | 42.9 |
| district | 46.9 | 42.9 | 70.4 | 58.5 |   | 40.8 | 31.4 | 55.6 | 51.2 |
| Grade 7 |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |  |
| OS | 92.3 | 90.1 | 90.0 | 66.7 |  | 95 | 81.8 | 90.0 | 75.0 |
| MECHS | 35.6 | 33.3 | 48.1 | 43.8 |  | 13.3 | 33.3 | 18.5 | 25.0 |
| district | 48.3 | 47.7 | 59.5 | 53.6 |   | 32.8 | 45.3 | 37.8 | 46.4 |
| Grade 8 |   |   |   |  |  |   |   |   |  |
| OS | 71.4 | 87.5 | 50.0 | 72.7 |   | 85.7 | 100 | 53.3 | 81.8 |
| MECHS | 39.3 | 41.4 | 34.3 | 33.3 |   | 32.1 | 34.1 | 25.7 | 20.7 |
| district | 45.7 | 54.4 | 38.8 | 52.5 |   | 42.9 | 52.6 | 34.0 | 37.5 |

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Science |   |   |   |
|  | 2013-14  |  2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 |
| OS | 71.4 | 100 | 80.0 | >95 |
| MECHS | 42.9 | 41.5 | 68.6 | 62.1 |
| district | 48.6 | 57.9 | 72.0 | 62.5 |

**Mattamuskeet Schools Campus**

EOG reading scores for the students attending the Mattamuskeet Schools are decreasing.  In 2013, the percentage of 3rd graders scoring Level 1 or 2 in reading was 45.5%.  In 2014-15, the percentage of Level 1 or 2 students in reading rose to 50% from the same cohort. In 2015-16, the percentage of Level 1 or 2 students in reading rose to 55.7%. This trend flattened in 2016-17 with the percentage of Level 1 or 2 students dropping slightly to 53.3%.

During the three-year period from 2014 to 2016, the cohort of 5th graders in 2014-15 scoring Level 1 or 2 in reading was 42.9%.  In 2015-16 the same group of students’ test scores for reading rose therefore, the number of students at Level 1 and 2 decreased to 41.2%.

EOG math scores for the students attending the Mattamuskeet Schools are also declining.  In 2014-15, the percentage of 3rd graders scoring Level 1 or 2 in reading was 45.9%.  In 2015-16, the percentage of Level 1 or 2 students in math rose to 48.4% from the same cohort.  In 2016-17, the percentage of Level 1 or 2 students in math rose again to 52.7%.

 **Ocracoke School**

EOG scores for the students attending the Ocracoke School have decreased over time.  In 2014-15, the percentage of 3rd graders scoring Level I or II in reading was 8.3%.  In 2015-16, the percentage of Level I or II students in reading decreased to 7.1% from the same cohort. In 2016-17, this cohort had just over 14.6% of students score level 1 or level 2 on the EOG reading test.

During the three-year period from 2014 to 2016, the cohort of 5th graders in 2014-15 scoring Level 1 or 2 in reading was 27.2%.  In 2015-16 the same group of students’ test scores for reading increased with decreased the number of students scoring a level 1 and 2 to 10%.

EOG math scores for the students attending the Ocracoke School are erratic with no steady inclining or declining trend.  In 2014, the percentage of 3rd graders scoring level 1 or 2 in math was 23.1%.  In 2015-16, the percentage of Level 1 or 2 students in math rose to 30.8% from the same cohort. In 2016-17, this same cohort had ~25% of students scoring level 1 or level 2 in math.

During the three-year period from 2014 to 2016, the cohort of 5th graders in 2013-14 scoring Level 1 or 2 in reading was <5%.  In 2014-15 the same group of students’ test scores for reading rose to 100% that concluded no students at Level 1 and 2 on their final EOGs.

Hyde County Schools 21st Century Community Learning

Hyde County Schools, *the smallest (and mightiest) public school system in the state of North Carolina*, requests $400,000 in grant funds from the North Carolina Department of Education to serve 200 students in the proposed Hyde County Schools 21stCentury Community Learning (21stCCLC) program at two sites.  One program site is located on the mainland in Western Hyde County at the Mattamuskeet Schools Campus in Swan Quarter, NC.  The second program site is located at Ocracoke School accessible only by boat, state run ferry or private plane approximately 3.5 hours of driving and ferry transport time away from the mainland campus on Ocracoke Island.  Approximately 35% of the students enrolled in Hyde County Schools attend our current 21stCCLC program.

Upon receipt of grant notification, our Kindergarten through Grade 12 students on both campuses will receive services beginning on Fall 2018 and continuing through September 30, 2021.  Our proposed 21stCCLC program services will include 12 hours of afterschool programming for K-12 students, opportunities for Saturday activities, and a summer program that will operate from June 15th to August 15th during the summers of 2019-2021. Parent education and engagement activities in all the villages are planned in conjunction with our community partners, the Hyde County Health Department, Beaufort County Community College, the Hyde County Ministerial Council for Education, and East Carolina University’s Recreation and Leisure Studies Department of the College of Health and Human Performance.  Adult education courses will be conducted by Beaufort County Community College at the Davis Center in Engelhard, NC and at Ocracoke School on Ocracoke Island.  Hyde County Schools provides our K-12 students access to the only 21stCCLC program available to youth in our county.

Our current 21stCCLC program serving 200+ K-12 students, was initially established in Fall 2010 through a generous grant from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and awarded an second round of grant funding in Fall 2014.

Prior to the establishment of the 21stCCLC program by Hyde County Schools in 2010, there was no organized effort to provide our K-12 students with access to an array of high quality academic and enrichment programming with no fee for service, free transportation, healthy afterschool snacks, and summer enrichment opportunities.

**What We Need to Address as a Community**

Based on our parent/student needs assessment survey, six risk factors were identified by Hyde County families, as the most critical needs to be addressed by the proposed HYDE 21stCLCC program.  Identified needs include: students at-risk for academic failure, a K-12 dropout prevention program, geographically isolated communities, families at risk, increased numbers of school discipline referrals, and juvenile use of tobacco, drugs and alcohol.  These factors are outlined below.

* Increasing Numbers of Students At-Risk for Academic Failure. There is a significant and growing population of students who are falling behind academically and struggling with social and emotional issues that could continue to benefit from the academic enrichment support currently provided by the 21st CCLC HYDE programs. North Carolina End of Grade test scores in reading and math for academic years 2014-2017 are included in the appendix for every Hyde County student, grade 3-9.
* Dropout Prevention. Surveys and interviews with students who are on the verge of dropping out and with our high school dropouts cite a lack of student motivation and self-esteem, coupled with seasonal employment opportunities as the major reasons for dropping out of school. In 2014-15 the dropout rate was 5.3% for the district.  Since the continuous improvement due in part to the 21st CCLC program, the dropout rate has continued to shift downward dramatically. Three-year trend data show the rate for dropping out of school was 5.3% in 2014-15, 8.7% in 2015-16, and 5.3% in 2016-17.  Encouraging K-12 students to stay in school through support of programs offered in a 21st CCLC afterschool setting is essential to dropout prevention.
* Community Isolation. The mainland area of Hyde County is located sixty miles from the nearest city – Washington, North Carolina – in an isolated, vast area of agricultural and national forest land. With such a small, rural population, the county lacks the community-based infrastructure and recreational and cultural opportunities for our youth and their families that exist in more populous areas. Our county residents and community partners identify youth development as a serious need.  Before the 21stCCLC program was established in 2010, by virtue of their geographic location, Ocracoke Island students were prevented from participating in many afterschool and summer program activities.  Prior to implementation of program services, Ocracoke School students traveled to Hatteras and Bodie Island by ferry to participate in most sports activities or cultural programs. Travel time required for a round-trip between resources on Hatteras and Bodie Islands for Ocracoke students is a minimum of 3 hours, excluding scheduled activity time.  The time required for a round-trip ferry ride to mainland Hyde County is approximately 6 hours minimum, excluding scheduled activity time. The Hyde County CCLC afterschool and summer programming has truly meant that for the first time our students and their parents are afforded opportunities to participate in regularly scheduled enrichment and remediation activities in their home communities with their friends, neighbors, and community partners.
* At-Risk Families. Coupled with lower incomes and fewer job opportunities, many families in our county exhibit factors that are associated with high social risks. In approximately 55% of our students’ homes, parents are working and children are left unsupervised during after school hours. The Hyde County Department of Social Services reports that in 2015, there were 22 cases of neglect and 13 cases of abuse that were substantiated. In 2016, there were 29 reported or substantiated cases of neglect and 9 cases of abuse. In 2017, the Hyde County Department of Social Services has reported an aggregated 19 cases of abuse or neglect in the county. These statistics suggest the need for after school program activities that include violence prevention, conflict resolution, and family development building.
* School Discipline Referrals. In the latest figures from the Index Crimes by Agency by County, Hyde County shows a decrease in county crimes statistics, but there is an increase in the number of juvenile arrests. However, school statistics from the past two years show a decrease in school discipline referrals. This student behavioral trend is documented in slightly lower incidents of inappropriate behavior, class disruption, disrespect, and fighting. During the 2016-17 school year, there were 41 referrals for the elementary school, and a combined 202 referrals for the early college high school and Ocracoke School.  During the 2015-16 school year, there were 49 referrals for the elementary school, 209 referrals for early college high school and Ocracoke School involving fighting, disrespect, skipping classes, and insubordination.  With a stronger emphasis on character education, academic performance, cultural activities, and more engaged parental involvement and support, the 21stCLCC program will strive to continue to curb discipline offenses.
* Juvenile Alcohol, Tobacco, and Drug Use. Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics indicate that being unsupervised between the hours of 3:00pm and 6:00pm doubles the risk that eighth graders will smoke, drink alcohol, or use drugs. Hyde CCLC provides teachers, school administrators, parents and concerned community members a vehicle for proactive intervention to protect our youth before greater numbers experiment with and/or use drugs and alcohol.

In sum, Hyde County Schools 21stCCLC program initially started serving K-12 students in October 2010.  Prior to that time, there was no organized effort to provide afterschool services to children anywhere in the county.  The benefits to our participating students and parents is exceptionally important for our community particularly in light of the great needs our families are faced with every day.  Hyde County Schools is excited by the prospect of expanding our 21stCCLC services to students and families in Fall 2018 with new family literacy services and an increased program emphasis on reading and mathematics achievement, improving student behaviors, homework completion and teacher collaboration, coupled with enriching in-depth exposure to the arts, healthful living, and STEM activities grounded in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.