

More Students Means More State Support For Brunswick Schools

BY SUSAN USHER

Sixty-nine more students attended a Brunswick County public school Monday than were in classes at this time last year, good news for local school officials.

Monday was the 10th day of classes—the magic date that determines if the school system will receive more teachers and more money from the state. It's important enough that the Brunswick County Board of Education deliberately sets the school calendar so that the 10th day of classes falls after the Labor Day holiday, which marks the end of the peak tourist season and reduces potential conflicts with students' summer jobs.

This year attendance increased from 8,915 on the 10th day of school last year to 8,984 Monday,

with gains scattered across the county, but most noticeable in the elementary schools.

While the numbers aren't final, Personnel Director Ralph Ward said the N.C. Department of Public Instruction has indicated the local school system is eligible to receive 1½ regular classroom teachers, one program enhancement teacher and a half-time exceptional children's teacher.

The school system can also expect to receive about \$4,245 in a consolidated allotment that covers a variety of items such as supplies and textbooks, and another \$264 in "duty free" money. This is money the legislature appropriates to make sure teachers have a duty-free planning period. Ward said Brunswick County incorporates a planning peri-

od into teachers' daily schedules, and therefore can use the money for staff development purposes.

Each year, Brunswick County's basic state funding allocation for the new school year is determined on the basis of attendance records for the "best three out of four" of the first four months of the previous school term. Adjustments are then made based on 10th-day membership once the new term begins.

"That's the actual number of live student bodies there that day," said Ward, not the total number of students enrolled in the county's schools. "Our enrollment is usually larger than our membership, or attendance."

10th-Day Attendance Count

West District	
West Bruns. High	978
Shalotte Middle	872
Union Elementary	767
Waccamaw Elem.	477
Supply Elem.	699
South District	
South Bruns. High	788
Bolivia Elem.	554
South Brunswick M.	699
Southport Elem.	839
Learning Center	9
North District	
North Bruns. High	611
Lincoln Primary	778
Leland Middle	913
TOTAL:	8,984

Board To Eye Programs For Exceptional Children

How do students qualify as "exceptional"? For what services are they eligible? Why is "inclusion" of exceptional children in regular classrooms becoming more common?

Brunswick County Board of Education members will seek answers next Monday to these and other questions about programs designed to serve exceptional children—children whose needs and abilities differ from the typical public school student for any number of reasons.

A "comprehensive briefing" regarding exceptional children's programs will be presented to the board from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Monday, Sept. 19, at the CP&L Conference Center in Southport.

Candidates for election to the

school board, instructional staff and others have been invited to the work session, which is open to the public.

Superintendent Ralph Johnston said the briefing will focus on programs, services, the latest research findings in the field and legal issues. Chief presenters will be Assistant Superintendent Jan Cainoun and Exceptional Children's Program Director Lorene Williams.

Specifically questioning several practices observed in the program for gifted and talented students at his child's school, board member Bill Fairley proposed the work session several months ago, with other board members agreeing they needed a better understanding of the program.

\$1 MILLION APPLIED FOR Partnership Waits To Hear Word On Smart Start Grant

Four of every 10 children tested for kindergarten entry lack academic and social skills considered essential for success in school.

Fifteen of every 100 teen-age girls in Brunswick County get pregnant each year.

One in three Brunswick County children lives in a single-parent home.

Those are just some of the statistics the Brunswick County Partnership For Children hopes to help change, a prospect all the more likely if it receives a financial boost from the state.

Last week the partnership applied for a \$1 million state Smart Start grant to be used for early childhood education and preventive care services for children age 5 and younger and their families. Grant awards are to be announced Sept. 28 by the North Carolina Partnership For Children, with 12 awards anticipated.

"With any luck, we will soon be able to make a one-million-dollar investment in our children," said Lori Bates, spokesman for the partnership.

Three volunteers, Vicki Spencer of Carolina Power and Light, Johnnie Simpson of Brunswick Community College and Sue Chapman of the Brunswick County Schools, compiled the application using data provided by local residents and service providers who participated in a series of August work sessions.

Partnership efforts are aimed at addressing some of the problems facing youngsters, and overcoming barriers to receiving services. According to Bates, studies have documented that every dollar spent to provide early childhood education and prevention saves \$7 later in remedial education, welfare and prison costs.

Bates said research by the partnership show that nearly one in three children (27.8 percent) in Brunswick County lives in poverty. County-wide, 55 percent of students qualify for free or reduced lunches. Slightly more than one-third (36.2 percent) of the children who are eligible for Medicaid are receiving medical care; only one of eight family care practitioners in Brunswick County is accepting new Medicaid patients. Medicaid is a state/federal program that provides medical services for

the poor.

Eighty-seven percent of Brunswick County is considered rural, said Bates. As a result, many local residents have trouble gaining access to services that are available locally or regionally. Barriers include lack of transportation, lack of information about services and the availability and affordability of child care.

Information on the Brunswick County Partnership for Children is available from Bates at 910, 278-6210, or 2701 W. Yacht Drive, Long Beach, N.C. 28465.

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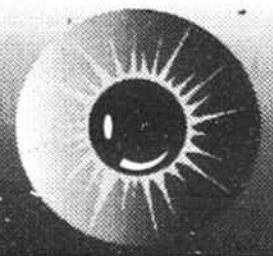
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Priority in program acceptance is given to welfare recipients, applicants lacking basic skills, teens who are pregnant or parenting, and offenders.

Also, applicants are expected to be academically and emotionally committed to completing the training program and entering employment. Job placement services are provided.

To make an appointment, call either Linda Moorefield or Diane Hewett at the JTPA office at Brunswick Community College, 754-6900, 457-6329, or 343-0203, Ext. 326 or Ext. 408.

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EXAMPLE:

Dependents				
One	Two	Three	Four	Five or More
2	2	2	1	2
QUIZ:				
Dependents				
One	Two	Three	Four	Five or More
2	2	2	1	1
Residence				
With Parents	Rent Furnished	Rent Unfurnished	Own Mortgage	Own Clear
1	2	3	4	5
Years at Present Address				
Under 2 yrs	2-4 yrs	5-8 yrs	9-14 yrs	15 yrs or more
1	2	3	4	5
Gross Monthly Income				
\$1,000	\$1,501	\$2,001	\$2,501	Over \$3,500
3	4	5	6	7
Years With Present Employer				
Under 2 yrs	2-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	Over 10 yrs
1	3	4	5	6
Years With Previous Employer				
Under 1 yr	1-3 yrs	4-6 yrs	7-10 yrs	Over 10 yrs
0	1	2	4	5
Monthly Income Remaining (After monthly obligations)				
Less than 10%	10% to 24%	25% to 32%	33% to 49%	Over 50%
1	2	3	4	5
Bonus Points (Circle all that apply)				
Checking Acct with UCB	Savings Acct with UCB	Loan at another bank	Loan at UCB	
1	1	2	1	
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TOTAL SCORE				15

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