

A large circular logo for Granite City Community Unit School District #6. The logo features the letters "GC" in a large, stylized font. The text "GRANITE CITY COMMUNITY UNIT SCHOOL DISTRICT #6" is written around the top inner edge of the circle, and "CARE · CONNECT · LEARN" is written around the bottom inner edge. The logo is set against a red background.

FIVE-YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN
2023-2028





Dear Granite City School District Family,

We are excited to introduce our new five-year strategic plan for Granite City Community Unit School District 9. This plan was developed through a collaborative effort between district administration, teachers, parents, and community members. Our goal is simple yet profound: To provide the best possible education for our students and prepare them for success in the future.

This strategic plan outlines our vision, mission, and goals through 2028. It includes initiatives to improve student achievement, increase parent and community involvement, and enhance the overall learning environment. We believe that this plan will help us achieve our goal of providing a high-quality education to all students. It is our promise to provide continuous improvement for both students and staff. By continually caring, connecting, and inspiring learning with our students, staff, and school community, GCSD9 believes we can achieve anything.

With your help, we aspire to craft an amazing educational experience. Read this strategic plan; give us your thoughts, and play an active role in this collaborative journey. Your input is vital as we work toward implementation. We will be hosting community sessions around the district to discuss this document and the achievement of its goals. At the heart of our district and this plan lies innovation, community partnership, equity, integrity, empowerment, and above all, our GCSD9 students!

Thank you for your continued care and support of our school district.

Granite City Community Unit School District #9 Board of Education

STRATEGIC PLAN **2023-2028**

Planning Process

The development of the GCSD9 Strategic Plan was a community-wide effort led by a steering committee of dedicated individuals representing students, teachers, parents, administrators, central office staff, board members, and community leaders. The committee consisted of over 40 individuals who worked collaboratively to ensure that the plan was comprehensive and inclusive.

The committee met multiple times during the 2022-23 school year to review stakeholder feedback, conduct research, and analyze relevant data. Their goal was to gather as much information as possible to inform the development of the plan. By taking into account different perspectives and expertise, they aimed to create a strategic plan that would benefit the entire district.

In addition to the committee’s efforts, the draft content of the plan was also reviewed by numerous focus groups comprised of students, caregivers, and staff. These focus groups provided valuable reactions and feedback, which were carefully considered in the revision process. The committee used this feedback to ensure that the plan reflected the needs and aspirations of the community.

Finally, after thorough consideration and discussion, the GCSD9 Board of Education adopted the strategic plan. The board, along with the superintendent, expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the members of the committee for their time, effort, and dedication throughout the planning process. It is through the collective commitment of these individuals that the district’s strategic plan was developed, aiming to guide the future direction and success of GCSD9.

Now, it is time to deliver! The district is poised to be focused, disciplined, and accountable over the next five years to bring the strategic plan to life. This will occur through the following:

- Identification of ‘Priority Leads’ and members of ‘Priority Teams’
- Development of implementation plans for each of the strategies
- Scheduled updates for the district leadership team and school board
- On-going communication with the community

CARE • CONNECT • LEARN

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**STRATEGIC PLAN
2023-2028**



Mission

At the heart of Granite City School District #9 lies a hard-working, resilient community that takes pride in fostering an inclusive, innovative, and diverse educational experience for all students. We are dedicated to continuous improvement, supporting students' academic success, overall growth, and a safe environment through equity, advocacy, empowerment, and community involvement.

Vision

Empowering lifelong learners, critical thinkers, and responsible citizens through innovation and community support to reach their potential.

Core Beliefs

We believe in...

Innovation

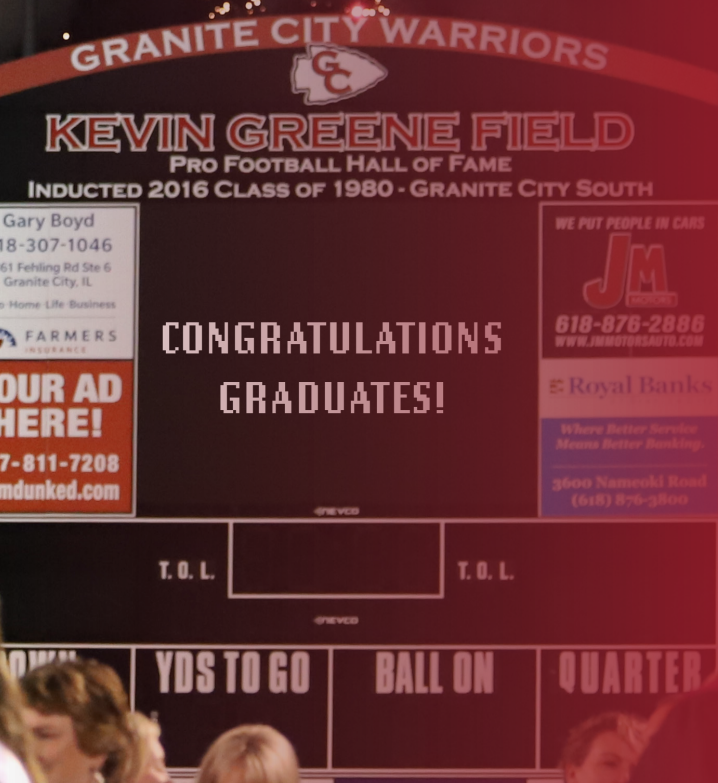
Community Partnership

Diversity/Equity/Inclusivity

Integrity

Empowerment

...Our Students!





Core Beliefs



We believe that **innovation** brings forth new and creative approaches that revolutionize learning, preparing students for a rapidly evolving world.



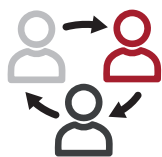
We believe that **integrity** fosters trust and ethical conduct, guiding educators to prioritize honesty, transparency and two-way communication throughout their interactions.



We believe that **community partnerships** foster collaborative efforts between schools, families, business and local organizations, creating a supportive network that enhances student learning and holistic development.



Empowerment fuels students' and staff confidence, autonomy, and self-belief, equipping them with the skills and mindset to take ownership in pursuit of their full potential.



We believe that **diversity, equity, and inclusivity** serve as the cornerstones of our educational approach, ensuring that every student and staff member is valued, respected, and provided with equal opportunities to thrive and succeed.

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

Students will graduate...



Empathetic

...expressing a healthy sense of *empathy*, compassion, and self-awareness as they work to build a better future.



Resilient

...embodying a *growth mindset* and resilience to overcome adversity and navigate the challenges of life.



Collaborative

...developing relationships and working collaboratively with others to reach common goals.



Skilled

...exemplifying strong academic and communication skills that position them to lead in the local and global community.



Critical Thinker

...demonstrating the ability to think critically, solve complex problems, and innovate in a dynamic world.

GCSD9 PRIORITIES



Supporting the Whole Child

GCSD9 will support the physical, mental, social, and behavioral well-being of each student.



Aspiring to Academic Excellence

GCSD9 will ensure that students are academically prepared for college, vocational, and/or career readiness through strong programming, high-quality instructional materials, and research-based instructional practices.



Equipping for Tomorrow

GCSD9 will collaborate with stakeholders to provide students with the essential attributes and traits coupled with skills necessary to actively contribute to the success of the community.



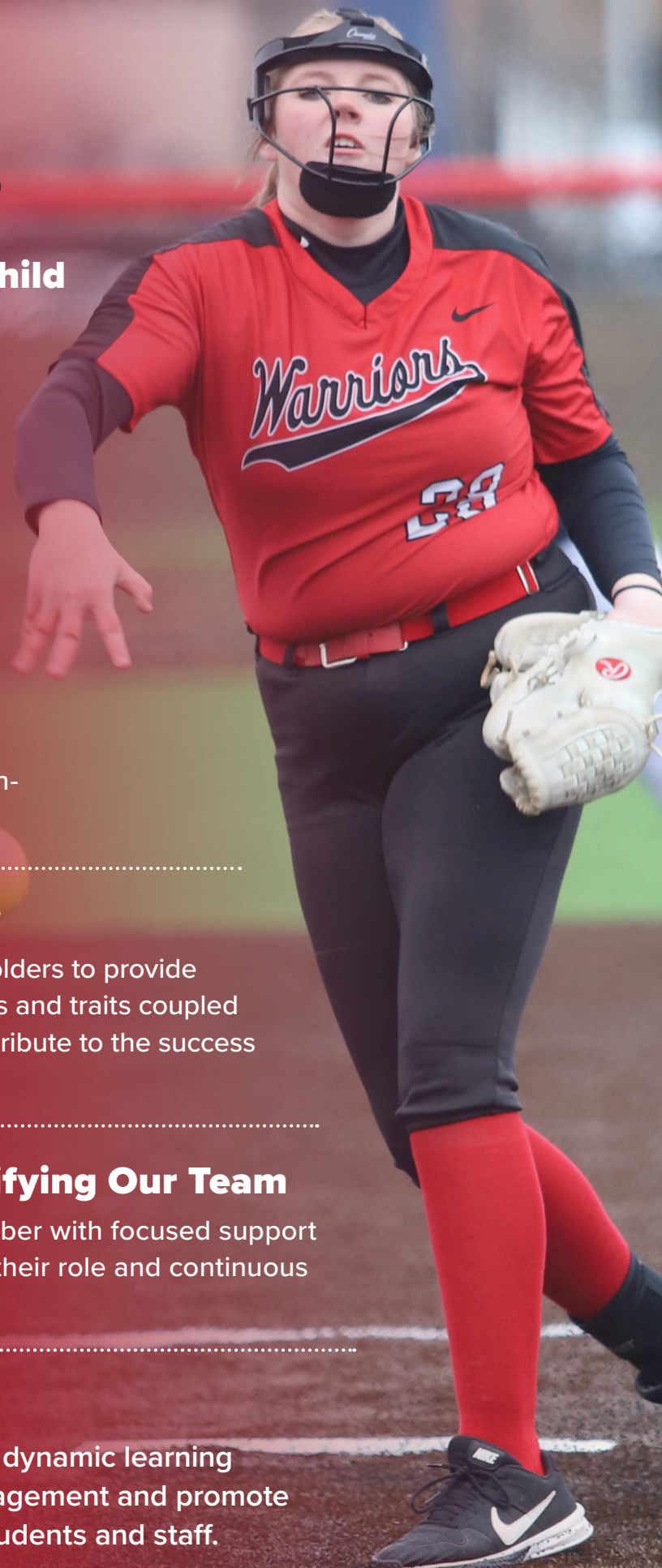
Empowering and Diversifying Our Team

GCSD9 will provide each staff member with focused support that allows them to find success in their role and continuous growth.



Building Our Future

GCSD9 is committed to fostering dynamic learning environments that maximize engagement and promote enriching experiences for both students and staff.





Supporting the Whole Child

GCSD9 will support the physical, mental, social, and behavioral well-being of each student.

Goal 1 Provide on-going training for staff to support students' mental health and well-being.

Strategy 1

Increase staff awareness and understanding of trauma, its impact on students' mental health, and the importance of trauma-informed practices.

Strategy 2

Enhance staff knowledge and skills in recognizing and responding to students' mental health needs to create a supportive and empathetic school environment.

Strategy 3

Foster a supportive and empathetic school culture that prioritizes student well-being by creating an environment where students feel safe, valued, and motivated to learn.

Goal 2 Ensure that schools are provided sufficient support services to meet the needs of students.

Strategy 1

Assess the current staffing levels to identify and address any gaps in support services.

Strategy 2

Forge partnerships with external organizations, community agencies, and mental health providers to expand the range of support services available to students.

Strategy 3

Establish a systematic approach to elevating student voice through the development of student advisory boards on each campus to better understand the student perspective and the impact of adult decisions on school environment.

Goal 3 Maintain safe, supportive, and orderly learning environments throughout each school.

Strategy 1

Review, revise, and consistently apply the Student Code of Conduct across all schools.

Strategy 2

Routine safety drills in collaboration with designated safety officials.



Aspiring to Academic Excellence

GCSD9 will ensure that students are academically prepared for college, vocational, and/or career readiness through strong programming, high-quality instructional materials, and research-based instructional practices.

Goal 1 Establish pathways for students to engage in advanced coursework in English Language Arts (ELA) and Math, providing them with opportunities to access higher-level learning experiences.

Strategy 1

Support teachers to implement differentiated instruction techniques to cater to the diverse learning needs of students.

Strategy 2

Establish enrichment programs specifically focused on accelerated ELA and Math.

Goal 2 Achieve vertical and horizontal curriculum alignment across all grade levels.

Strategy 1

Implement a comprehensive curriculum review focused on analyzing and documenting the curriculum across grade levels and subjects, identifying content gaps, redundancies, and opportunities for alignment.

Strategy 2

Create opportunities for collaborative planning and regular professional development sessions for teachers across grade levels and subjects so they can discuss and align curriculum content, learning objectives, and instructional strategies.

Strategy 3

Utilize data-driven instruction and assessment practices to inform curriculum alignment efforts.

Goal 3 Implement strategies to progressively reduce and ultimately eliminate achievement gaps across subgroups.

Strategy 1

Monitor, collect, and analyze comprehensive data on student achievement, disaggregated by subgroups, such as race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, English language proficiency, or special education status.

Strategy 2

Implement targeted intervention programs specifically designed to address the needs of students in underperforming subgroups.

Strategy 3

Promote culturally responsive approaches throughout the district to ensure that the curriculum, instructional materials, and teaching strategies reflect the cultural backgrounds and experiences of all students.

Strategy 4

Employ the systematic implementation of differentiated instruction and personalized learning approaches to address the specific needs of students within subgroups.



Equipping for Tomorrow

GCSD9 will collaborate with stakeholders to provide students with the essential attributes and traits coupled with skills necessary to actively contribute to the success of the community.

Goal 1 Establish a workforce development taskforce to initiate collaboration between the district, local colleges/universities, alumni, and business leaders.

Strategy 1

Establish an alumni network that fosters ongoing relationships with former students.

Strategy 2

Foster partnerships with post-secondary institutions, such as community colleges, technical schools, and universities, to align Career Technical Education (CTE) programs with post-secondary education pathways.

Strategy 3

Broaden internship opportunities with local businesses to enhance CTE and post-secondary readiness.

Goal 2 Expand and align career technical education and post-secondary readiness.

Strategy 1

Evaluate the existing CTE programs to identify gaps and areas for improvement including student enrollment, industry certifications, and future workforce needs.

Strategy 2

Expand the range of CTE pathways offered to cater to a wider range of student interests and career goals in alignment with local workforce needs through partnerships with local businesses.

Goal 3 Encourage career exploration throughout the Pre-Kindergarten through Graduation experience.

Strategy 1

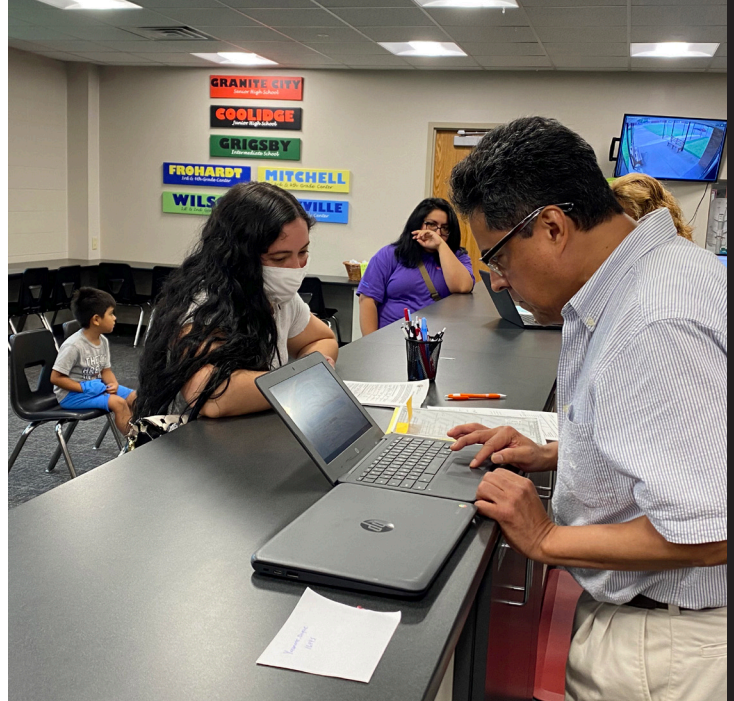
Develop a comprehensive career counseling program to guide students in their career exploration and planning.

Strategy 2

Offer exploration opportunities for students to learn about different CTE pathways before making a commitment to that specific pathway.

Strategy 3

Provide work-based learning opportunities and/or internships for students to gain practical experience and develop employability skills in partnership with local businesses, industries, and community organizations.



Empowering and Diversifying Our Team

GCSD9 will provide each staff member with focused support that allows them to find success in their role and continuous growth.

Goal 1 Develop a local pipeline for supporting non-traditional pathway educators to the classroom.

Strategy 1

Create a para to teacher 'grow your own' program to support individuals currently in the schools to become certified teachers through paid residencies.

Strategy 2

Implement targeted recruitment strategies to attract individuals from non-traditional pathways to the teaching profession.

Strategy 3

Collaborate with local colleges, universities, and educational organizations to develop alternative certification programs specifically designed for non-traditional pathway educators.

Goal 2 Develop a middle and high school teacher pathway program.

Strategy 1

Introduce students to the teaching profession early in their high school years through introductory courses, electives, or a pathway that provides an overview of teaching as a career, its impact on students' lives, and the importance of education.

Strategy 2

Provide current middle and high school students with practical teaching experiences to apply their knowledge and develop their skills.

Strategy 3

Pair aspiring teachers with experienced educators who can serve as mentors throughout their high school and post-secondary journey to the classroom.

Strategy 4

Establish partnerships with local colleges and universities to offer dual enrollment opportunities for high school students.

Goal 3 Support, develop, and promote high levels of retention of educators.

Strategy 1

Explore opportunities to build a comprehensive and focused instructional coaching program that provides regular feedback and support for growth.

Strategy 2

Create clear pathways for career advancement and growth within the teaching profession.

Strategy 3

Offer meaningful professional development opportunities that align with teachers' needs and career goals.

Strategy 3

Foster a positive and supportive school leadership culture that values and appreciates teachers' contributions.



Building Our Future

GCSD9 is committed to fostering dynamic learning environments that maximize engagement and promote enriching experiences for both students and staff.

Goal 1 Develop a 5 year plan that ensures GCSD9 facilities, infrastructure, transportation, and technology are most efficiently utilized and effective for students.

Strategy 1

Evaluate grade level configurations to optimize the physical spaces and provide the best possible learning environments for all students.

Strategy 2

Assess building capacities by analyzing the physical layout, facilities, and resources available within the school premises to ensure they are designed to serve the intended student population.

Strategy 3

Ensure that classrooms are equipped with reliable internet connectivity, availability of up-to-date technology, and adequate IT support to help create modern learning environments.

Goal 2 Continue to provide facilities that are safe and secure learning environments.

Strategy 1

Continue to review current facilities through the lenses of safety and optimum learning (such as accessibility, natural lighting, ventilation, and acoustics) to promote a healthy and comfortable learning environment.

Strategy 2

Leverage the role of the District Student Safety Coordinator to regularly evaluate and address physical security measures to protect the school facility from unauthorized access, intrusions, and all potential threats.

Strategy 3

Prepare for emergencies and having well-defined protocols in place is essential to ensure the safety of individuals within the school facility.

Strategy 4

Strengthen existing partnerships and collaborations with local and regional safety authorities, such as fire departments, police departments, and emergency medical services.

School Sites



**Granite City High School
(9th-12th Grade)**
3148 Fehling Road
Granite City, IL 62040



**Frohardt 3-4 Education Center
(3rd & 4th Grade)**
2040 Johnson Road
Granite City, IL 62040



Wilson 1-2 Education Center (1st & 2nd Grade)
2400 Wilson Avenue
Granite City, IL 62040



**Coolidge Junior High School
(7th & 8th Grade)**
3231 Nameoki Road
Granite City, IL 62040



Mitchell 3-4 Education Center (3rd & 4th Grade)
316 East Chain of Rocks
Granite City, IL 62040



Prather Pre-K / K Education Center (Pre-K & Kindergarten)
2300 West 25th Street
Granite City, IL 62040



**Grigsby Intermediate School
(5th & 6th Grade)**
3801 Cargill Road
Granite City, IL 62040



Maryville 1-2 Education Center (1st & 2nd Grade)
4651 Maryville Road
Granite City, IL 62040



Lake Educational Support Services Center
3201 E. 23rd Street
Granite City, IL 62040

District Demographics



5,817
Students

 **100%**

free and reduced lunch rate

as a member of the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP).



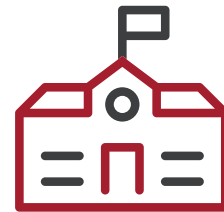
668
Staff

9 Education Centers and programs in separate buildings

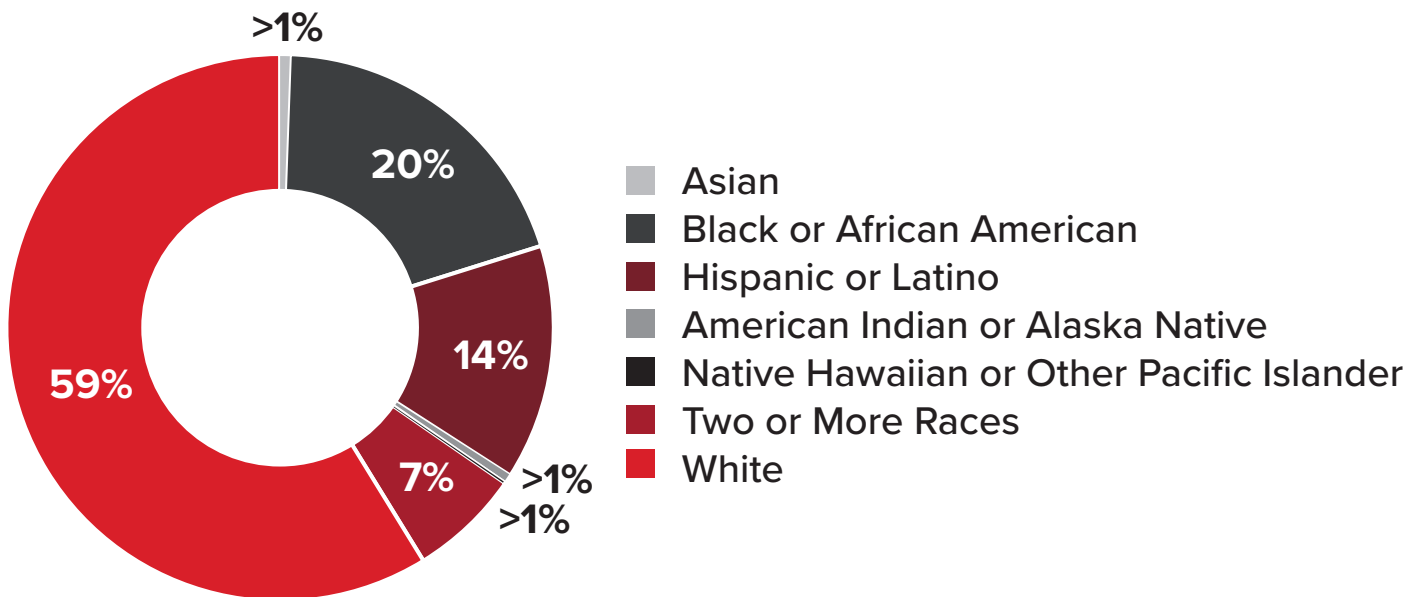


402
English Language Learners (EL)

5%
Homeless



Students by Race



Acknowledgments

As district leaders, we want to express our deepest gratitude to the esteemed members of the steering committee for their invaluable contributions and support throughout our strategic planning process. Your dedication, expertise, and commitment was instrumental in shaping our vision and turning it into a reality.

Each member's unique perspective and expertise have greatly enhanced the quality of our strategic plan. Your dedication and active engagement have been truly inspiring, and it has been a privilege to work alongside such a passionate group.

Your unwavering commitment to excellence and improving outcomes for students and the GCSD9 community is reflected in the elements of the strategic plan. We recognize that this is only the next step of the journey towards continuous improvement and that there is a lot of work to be done. Your continued commitment and valuable insights will be needed as we move towards implementation. We are confident that, together, the next five years of implementation will lead us to achieve the aspirations of the plan.

Thank you once again for your dedication and support. It has been an honor to work with such an exceptional group of individuals, and we look forward to our continued collaboration and the achievement of a brighter future in GCSD9.

Care. Connect. Learn.



LEARN

Being a part of the steering committee was a highlight of not just my high school career but my life. It is such an honor to have the opportunity to share my thoughts of the GC High School and our community, but more so to be a voice for my peers.

—Julia Villa, GCHS Class of 2024 and Student Representative on the Strategic Plan Steering Committee

CONNECT





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