

The History of Gwinnett Online Campus

Gwinnett County Online Campus (GOC) is the oldest online program in Georgia, serving students since 1999. It has grown from serving 122 students in summer school or 7th period to providing more than 12,000 course segments today. The original summer-only program has expanded to a fulltime educational option for students that includes more than 175 secondary courses, middle grades courses, elementary courses, math support classes, special entity support, and curriculum resources and support. Today, GOC is the school system's full-time, diploma-granting online school, serving students in grades kindergarten through twelve. Maturing since its humble beginnings, it is now recognized as one of the leading online programs in the nation.

Building upon the success of the supplemental program, the Gwinnett School Board voted to approve Gwinnett Online Campus as a full-time charter school in March of 2010. The State Board of Education approved the GOC Charter in April of 2011, and Gwinnett Online Campus Charter School opened as a full-time option for high school students in the fall of that same year. During the first year as a full-time school, a middle-grade curriculum team developed all of the digital content for middle grades and in the fall of 2012, the middle school opened. Elementary students in grades four and five enrolled in Gwinnett Online Campus full-time in the fall of 2013. In 2016–17, Gwinnett County Public Schools relinquished the charter school status for Gwinnett Online Campus, choosing instead to operate the school as a special entity school. While the status changed from just a



Fast Facts

Address: 713 Hi Hope Road
Lawrenceville, GA 30043

Principal: Dr. Christopher Ray

School Colors: Black and Teal

School Mascot: Owl

supplemental program to include a full-time school option, GOC's commitment to become the best diploma-granting, online school in the nation has not wavered. To complete our elementary program, we began enrolling grades kindergarten through third in the fall of 2022.

GOC full-time students must meet all graduation requirements for credits and assessments to receive a high school diploma. Gwinnett Online Campus offers a flexible learning environment, extensive support from teachers and counselors, individualized instruction, and a full range of courses including many career and technical education, foreign language, and other academic electives. As part of the instructional delivery model, full-time students attend interactive virtual learning labs and CORE labs, which are live streamed and recorded. Unlike a traditional school setting, GOC students in grades four through twelve work online at the time of day that works best for their schedule. Our kindergarten through third grade students work synchronously with their teachers throughout the school week. In addition, students have various social and service opportunities through student leadership teams, clubs, and rich experiences. GOC students perform in fine arts performances each year. These face-to-face opportunities enhance the

school community and students' learning experience and are vital to the success of the unique learning environment found at Gwinnett Online Campus. With this school design in mind, the GOC Student Leadership Team established the school's mascot—the Owls— because Online We Learn Successfully!

In its early days, GOC shared a facility with GIVE West. It was located at 2595 Beaver Ruin Road in Building F of what was called Buchanan High School of Technology (a building which was formerly used as Norcross High School). For the 2013–14 school year, GOC moved to its current location on Hi Hope Road in Lawrenceville. The newly renovated facility (formerly the building that housed Dyer Elementary School) was designed with online learning in mind. Over the years, GOC has been recognized by a number of organizations for quality online instruction. Awards include being named a 2006 United States Distance Learning Association Silver Award Winner, a 2008 Elluminate Center of Excellence, a Creative Finalist for the Technology Association of 2016 Georgia Excalibur Award, a 2015 Brightspace Excellence Award for student engagement, faculty efficiency, and communication, and a winner of the Blackboard

Catalyst Award for Innovation. GOC won the 2021 D2L Excellence Award for its work with personalized learning. In addition, individual faculty members have earned accolades as leaders in online and blended learning in public education with Gabby Bray being named a finalist for National Online Teacher of the Year in 2010, Randi Hill named as Gwinnett County High School Teacher of the Year in 2015, and Michelle Jones named as a top six county finalist in 2017. Kristi Rhine was awarded the 2018 Marilyn Brackett Excellence in Teaching Award for Physical Education. Dr. Ray along with GOC has been named a Finalist for the EdTech Awards in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. GOC has most recently been awarded the 2024 D2L Excellence Award for our developed comprehensive training programs through our Center for Transforming Instruction for both educators and students.

