



BOARD OF EDUCATION

2024-25

STATE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES



In May 2023, Guilford County Schools launched [Better Together](#), a new strategic direction with a singular focus on making GCS the best place to learn, work, and grow. The new strategic direction was informed by 200 community conversations, resulting in the following four focus areas: recruit, retain and reward top talent; accelerate learning; foster healthy and safe schools; and prepare students for the world. Therefore, in alignment with our community, the Guilford County Board of Education advocates for the following legislative actions:

Recruit, Retain and Reward Top Talent

- Provide a substantial increase in state-funded base pay for teachers to reach the national average and help attract and retain teachers and address teacher shortages.
- Invest in higher wages for classified staff so the district can support frontline workers, including teacher assistants, custodians, treasurers, bus drivers, school nutrition staff, administrative staff, etc., as we work to meet state standards and increase student achievement at scale.
- Provide funding for recruitment and retention bonuses for teachers and staff, especially for hard-to-fill positions.

Accelerate Learning

- Provide \$5 million in the 2023-2025 biennium budget to sustain a high-dosage tutoring program at scale. Using time-limited federal relief funds, GCS tutored 5,251 students for a total of 66,910 hours in over 109,000 sessions during the 2021-2022 school year. In the 2022-2023 school year, GCS tutored 11,641 students for a total of 161,598 hours in over 305,016 sessions.
- Provide \$3.3 million in the 2023-2025 biennium budget to sustain learning hubs for high school students. Using time-limited federal relief funds, GCS created learning hubs to address learning loss. During the 2021- 2022 school year, 5,901 students attended learning hubs at one of the 15 comprehensive high schools. In the 2022-2023

school year, 7,854 students attended a learning hub (a 33% increase). High school students who attended learning hubs during the 2022-2023 school year graduated at a higher rate (96.9% vs. 88.8%) than those who did not attend the learning hubs. Students who attended learning hubs also experienced a higher daily attendance rate than students who did not attend learning hubs.

- Increase the number of Pre-K seats available to serve all three and four-year-old children.
- Count NC Pre-K students for Average Daily Membership (ADM) purposes. Funding allocations are based on ADM- the average number of students present on a typical school day.
- Provide local calendar flexibility to address pandemic-related learning loss.

Strengthen Health, Wellness & Safety in Schools

- Increase allocations to match recommended ratios for school psychologists. The recommended ratio by the NC Child Fatality Task Force is one school psychologist per 550 students.
- Increase allocations to match recommended ratios for school social workers. The recommended ratio by the National Association of Social Workers is one school social worker per 250 students.
- Increase allocations to match recommended ratios for school counselors. The recommended ratio by the American School Counselor Association is one school counselor per 250 students.



- Support comprehensive school safety and security programming, including facility improvements, updated technology, and training. Provide \$2 million to continue the lease for the use of Evolv security scanners at every school in Guilford County.
- Provide adequate funding for school districts to fully transition from diesel school buses to electric school buses, reducing exposure to harmful emissions like PM and NOX for nearly 43,000 students and staff who ride a school bus in Guilford County.
- Provide all students in Guilford County with school meals at no cost to their families.

Prepare Students for the World

- Provide undocumented students who graduated from a North Carolina high school an in-state tuition rate to attend two-year and four-year public higher education institutions to help address staff shortages in critical fields.
- Provide \$2.5 million for our career and technology education programs to expand enrollment in CTE courses and credentials earned, purchase industry-standard equipment and technology, and provide career exploration opportunities for middle and elementary school students.

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