Process/Timeline for Consideration of School Closing and Consolidation

Operations Committee Report
Curriculum and Instruction Committee Report
May 4, 2026

Gaston County Schools

Strategic Plan 2030



Inspire. Learn. Succeed.









Vision

To inspire success and a lifetime of learning.

Mission

To provide innovative educational opportunities for all students in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Core Values

Excellence

We strive to create an outstanding educational experience for all students, thus generating pride in our community.

Integrity

We pledge to build trust through transparency, honesty, and respect.

Community

We commit to fostering connections grounded in trust where all feel like family, celebrate together, and thrive in high expectations.

Innovation

We embrace new solutions to address the challenges facing our students, staff, and community.

Priorities

Academics that Build Pathways to Student Success

Empower all students to identify, explore, and achieve their career and life goals through high-quality instruction and individualized support.

Sustainable Financial Stewardship

Ensure the strategic and transparent use of financial resources to support meaningful education and maintain long-term fiscal sustainability.

Efficient and Responsive Operations and Technology

Maintain efficient and responsive operational systems and technology that provide a safe, healthy, and supportive learning environment for all students and staff.

Comprehensive Student Support

Foster a safe and welcoming school environment by expanding access to comprehensive services that promote students' academic, social, emotional, and physical well-being.

Talent and Workforce Development

Attract, develop, and retain a talented and skilled workforce by cultivating a culture where every employee feels valued, supported, and empowered to grow professionally.

Effective Communication and Partnerships

Share clear, relevant, and timely information that fosters trust, encourages engagement, and strengthens connections across the school community.

Priorities

Academics that Build Pathways to Student Success

Empower all students to identify, explore, and achieve their career and life goals through high-quality instruction and individualized support.



Sustainable Financial Stewardship

Ensure the strategic and transparent use of financial resources to support meaningful education and maintain long-term fiscal sustainability.

Attract, develop, and retain a talented and skilled workforce by cultivating a culture where every employee feels valued, supported, and empowered to grow professionally.

Effective Communication and Partnerships

Share clear, relevant, and timely information that fosters trust, encourages engagement, and strengthens connections across the school community.

Gaston Early Colleges

Gaston Virtual Academy

W.B. Beam Intermediate

Gaston Early Colleges

- Deliver high-quality, specialized academic programming
- Maximize resource utilization
- Enhance student instructional opportunities
- Expand access to courses and learning pathways
- Align staff expertise with academic programming and support
- Share resources to improve operational efficiency
- Estimated cost savings of $120,000 through efficient resource use

Gaston Virtual Academy (GVA)

Enhance instructional quality with collaboration on grade-level curriculum

Strengthen staff collaboration with similar grade levels and content

GVA elementary staff will transition to McAdenville Elementary School

- PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) - fostering collaboration, alignment, and consistency in curriculum implementation

GVA middle and high school staff will transition to Stuart W. Cramer High School, creating opportunities for structured support, access to campus resources, and alignment with district-wide academic expectations.

Estimated cost savings of $50,000 dollars

Gaston Early College
Gaston Virtual Academy (GVA)

The priorities for the consolidation of resources for the Gaston Early Colleges and the Gaston Virtual Academy:

- To offer better academic opportunities for students
- To provide better academic-related collaboration for teachers/staff
- To save money by reducing duplication of resources
- To ensure overall student and teacher success

W.B. Beam Intermediate School

Process for School Closing or Consolidation

Consolidation of districts and discontinuance of schools

General Statute 115C-72:

Local boards of education shall have the authority to close or consolidate schools located in the same district, and with the approval of the State Board of Education, to consolidate school districts or other school areas over which the board has full control, whenever and wherever in its judgment the closing or consolidation will better serve the education interest of the local school administrative unit or any part of it.

Process for School Closing or Consolidation

General Statute 115C-72 requires:

- Thorough study of a school closing or consolidation
- Having in mind the welfare of the students to be affected
- Geographic conditions
- Anticipated increase or decrease in school enrollment
- Inconvenience or hardship that might result
- Cost of providing additional school facilities
- School board must provide a public hearing

Process for School Closing or Consolidation

Previous School Closings - Gaston County

- Rhyne Elementary School - 2015
- Forest Heights Elementary School - 2016

Process and Timeline

- General Statute 115C-72
- Resource: School Closing Procedure - Relating to the Public School of North Carolina, January 2019
- Process and procedures from the closing of Rhyne and Forest Heights elementary schools
- Feasibility Study

Process and Timeline

- Presentation to the Board of Education at May committee meetings
- Feasibility Study shared with all stakeholders
- Open House at Cherryville Elementary School and John Chavis Middle School for students and parents
- Public Hearing
- Board of Education recommendation and decision

Capacity - Cherryville Schools

Gaston County Schools Utilization Forecast								
School Name	Capacity		2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30
Cherryville Elementary	500	Enrollment	366	354	342	336	339	347
		Utilization	73%	71%	68%	67%	68%	69%
W B Beam Intermediate School	221	Enrollment	191	186	186	195	183	175
		Utilization	86%	84%	84%	88%	83%	79%
John Chavis Middle	619	Enrollment	412	403	391	387	382	378
		Utilization	67%	65%	63%	63%	62%	61%

Source: Cropper GIS Study

Cherryville Elementary School

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
K	81	85	95	92	89	80	82	85	86	87	87	88	87	88	86
1	100	92	96	106	98	88	87	88	91	91	93	92	91	91	91
2	90	85	87	88	96	90	81	80	81	86	86	88	88	86	86
3	104	90	88	92	83	96	92	83	81	83	89	89	91	92	90
Total: K-3	**375**	**352**	**366**	**378**	**366**	**354**	**342**	**336**	**339**	**347**	**355**	**357**	**357**	**357**	**353**

Total: K-3	**375**	**352**	**366**	**378**	**366**	**354**	**342**	**336**	**339**	**347**	**355**	**357**	**357**	**357**	**353**
Change		-23	14	12	-12	-12	-12	-6	3	8	8	2	0	0	-4
% Change		-6.1%	4.0%	3.3%	-3.2%	-3.3%	-3.4%	-1.8%	0.9%	2.4%	2.3%	0.6%	0.0%	0.0%	-1.1%

Forecasts developed December 2024

Green cells (2024-2025 and earlier) are historical data

Blue cells (2025-2026 and later) are forecasted years

W. Blaine Beam Elementary School

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
4	100	101	99	87	100	85	100	94	86	86	89	97	97	97	95
5	88	93	103	103	91	101	86	101	97	89	90	94	102	102	102
Total: 4-5	**188**	**194**	**202**	**190**	**191**	**186**	**186**	**195**	**183**	**175**	**179**	**191**	**199**	**199**	**197**

Total: 4-5	**188**	**194**	**202**	**190**	**191**	**186**	**186**	**195**	**183**	**175**	**179**	**191**	**199**	**199**	**197**
Change		6	8	-12	1	-5	0	9	-12	-8	4	12	8	0	-2
% Change		3.2%	4.1%	-5.9%	0.5%	-2.6%	0.0%	4.8%	-6.2%	-4.4%	2.3%	6.7%	4.2%	0.0%	-1.0%

Forecasts developed December 2024

Green cells (2024-2025 and earlier) are historical data

Blue cells (2025-2026 and later) are forecasted years

Source: Cropper GIS Study

John Chavis Middle School

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
6	143	133	152	132	129	138	135	125	133	135	120	121	123	127	129
7	140	130	121	148	143	126	135	132	122	127	129	114	115	116	121
8	127	134	138	116	140	139	121	130	127	116	119	121	106	108	109
Total: 6-8	**410**	**397**	**411**	**396**	**412**	**403**	**391**	**387**	**382**	**378**	**368**	**356**	**344**	**351**	**359**

Total: 6-8	**410**	**397**	**411**	**396**	**412**	**403**	**391**	**387**	**382**	**378**	**368**	**356**	**344**	**351**	**359**
Change		-13	14	-15	16	-9	-12	-4	-5	-4	-10	-12	-12	7	8
% Change		-3.2%	3.5%	-3.6%	4.0%	-2.2%	-3.0%	-1.0%	-1.3%	-1.0%	-2.6%	-3.3%	-3.4%	2.0%	2.3%

Forecasts developed December 2024

Green cells (2024-2025 and earlier) are historical data

Blue cells (2025-2026 and later) are forecasted years

Cherryville High School

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	2025-26	2026-27	2027-28	2028-29	2029-30	2030-31	2031-32	2032-33	2033-34	2034-35
9	140	139	145	149	125	150	150	132	140	136	121	128	131	113	113
10	131	134	131	129	134	116	139	139	122	131	126	113	120	121	105
11	127	109	113	120	122	121	105	126	125	111	118	114	102	108	110
12	127	101	100	107	103	108	108	94	112	112	98	104	102	90	97
XG				1											
Total: 9-XG	**525**	**483**	**489**	**506**	**484**	**495**	**502**	**491**	**499**	**490**	**463**	**459**	**455**	**432**	**425**

Total: 9-XG	**525**	**483**	**489**	**506**	**484**	**495**	**502**	**491**	**499**	**490**	**463**	**459**	**455**	**432**	**425**
Change		-42	6	17	-22	11	7	-11	8	-9	-27	-4	-4	-23	-7
% Change		-8.0%	1.2%	3.5%	-4.3%	2.3%	1.4%	-2.2%	1.6%	-1.8%	-5.5%	-0.9%	-0.9%	-5.1%	-1.6%

Forecasts developed December 2024

Green cells (2024-2025 and earlier) are historical data

Blue cells (2025-2026 and later) are forecasted years

Source: Cropper GIS Study

Capacity - Cherryville Schools

Data from Principal's Monthly Report - Month 7 and Cropper GIS Study

Elementary School	Capacity	Current Enrollment*	% Filled	2026-27	2029**	2034**	Growth (5-Year)	Growth (10-Year)
Cherryville Elementary	500	348	69.60%	319	347	353	-0.29%	1.44%
WB Beam Intermediate	221	180	81.45%	182	175	197	-2.78%	9.44%
Middle School		**Current Enrollment***	**% Filled**	**2026-27**	**2029**	**2034**	**Growth (5-Year)**	**Growth (10-Year)**
Chavis Middle	619	395	63.81%	379	378	359	-4.30%	-9.11%
High School		**Current Enrollment***	**% Filled**	**2026-27**	**2029**	**2034**	**Growth (5-Year)**	**Growth (10-Year)**
Cherryville High	707	468	66.20%	507	490	425	4.70%	-9.19%

Consolidation Study Findings K-4 and K-5

Fewer Transitions

- Maintain stronger academic momentum
- Preserve intervention plans and student supports
- Strengthen relationships between students and educators

Stronger Focus on Early Literacy and Numeracy

- Early literacy support to and through grade 3
- Targeted reading and math interventions
- Consistent instructional practices across early grades

K-4, K-5 Elementary Schools

- Foundational literacy and numeracy
- Social-emotional development
- Family engagement and early intervention
- More services

Consolidation Study Findings 5-8, 6-8

Improved vertical alignment and expanded opportunities

- Stronger alignment of curriculum and expectations
- Earlier access to subject-specific instruction
- Increased opportunities for STEM and advanced coursework
- Intentional preparation for high school pathways - advanced coursework
- Project-based learning opportunities
- Academic clubs and enrichment programs
- Advanced coursework preparation
- Increased academic rigor
- Chavis becomes a Title I school, gaining Instructional Coaches
- More services

Consolidation Study Findings

- Wider age span among students (approximately ages 10-13 for grades 5-8) requires intentional planning
- Strong grade-level team structures and student support systems are essential
- Purposeful transition supports are needed as students move from elementary to upper grades
- If consolidation is pursued, school design, scheduling, and leadership structures must be thoughtfully aligned

Consolidation Study Findings

Personnel Savings (SRO, EC Teacher, AIG, Clerical)	$195,750
Supplies and Materials and Copiers	$10,000
Utilities	$82,592

Total: $288,342

Consolidation Option A

4th Grade to Cherryville Elementary School

418 total students – 500 is capacity 83.6%

5th Grade to John Chavis Middle School

462 total students – 619 is capacity 74.6%

Consolidation Option B

4th Grade to Cherryville Elementary School

418 total students – 500 is capacity 83.6%

5th Grade to John Chavis Middle School

462 total students – 619 is capacity 74.6%

Allow any 5th grader to attend Tryon Elementary School for 2026-2027 then Chavis Middle in the 6th grade

Consolidation Option C

4th and 5th grade to Cherryville Elementary and pre-kindergarten being relocated to Tryon Elementary

- Projected 501 students with a capacity of 500 at Cherryville Elementary – 100.2% capacity
- Twenty pre-kindergarten students relocated to Tryon Elementary School (space is available)
- Future attendance line adjustment

Discussion