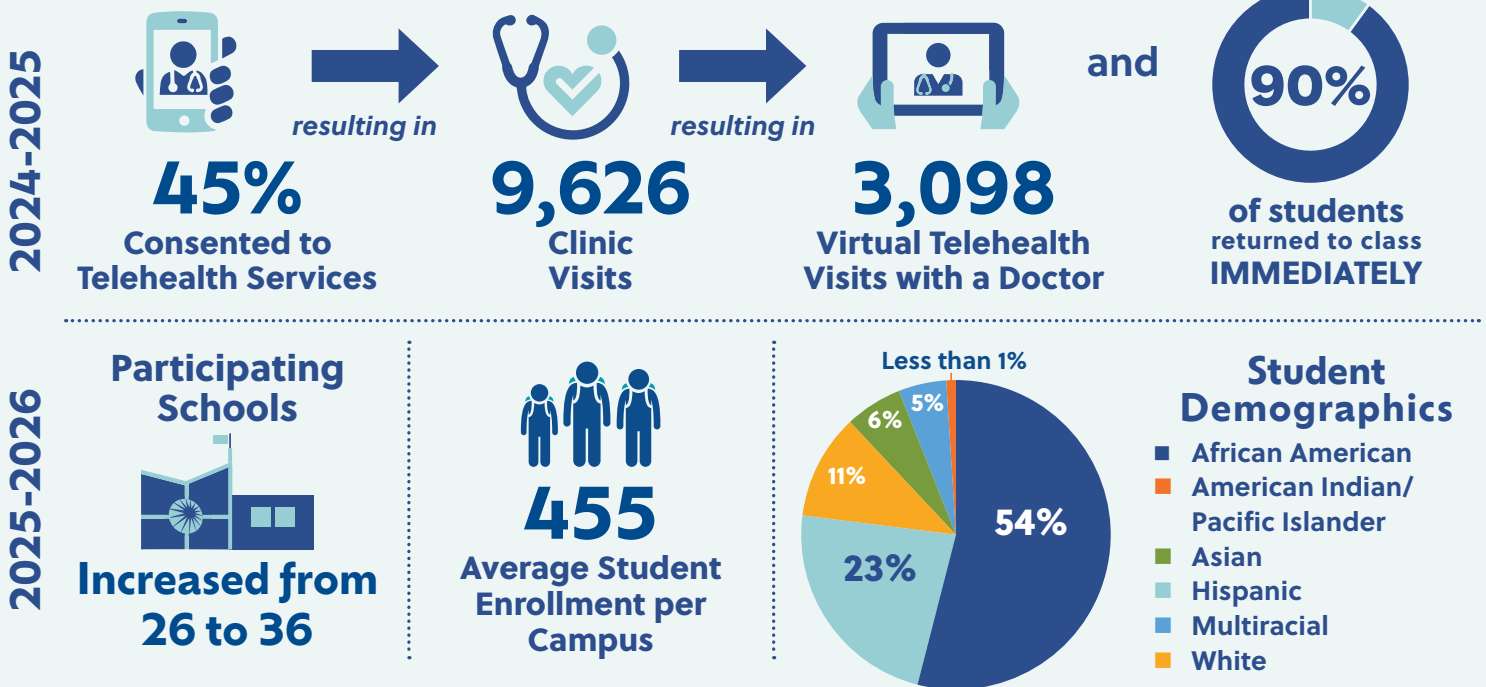


Background

Beginning in March 2021, **Guilford County Schools (GCS)** partnered with **Cone Health and Guilford Education Alliance (GEA)** to launch school-based telehealth services for children at Bessemer Elementary School, the first of many future programs in high-poverty elementary schools. In the fall of 2025, the partnership reached a total of 34 elementary schools offering telehealth services to GCS children and families, with two more schools launching by June 2026.

With parent consent, students in these schools receive access to a **full-time, on-site Certified Medical Assistant (CMA)** who can assess their symptoms to determine the need to access a healthcare provider. If determined necessary, the child's parent is connected virtually with a physician where a healthcare visit can immediately take place. Often, a student can return to class quickly, without a parent or guardian leaving or missing work, further supporting the child's school experience and the parent's ability to maintain their job.

Telehealth by the Numbers



Participating GCS Elementary Schools

 Alderman	 Frazier	 Joyner	 Peck	 Triangle Lake*
 Bessemer	 Gillespie Park	 Kirkman Park	 Pilot**	 Union Hill
 Bluford	 Guilford*	 McNair	 Rankin	 Vandalia
 Brightwood	 Hunter	 Montlieu	 Reedy Fork*	 Washington
 Cone	 Irving Park*	 Northwood	 Sedgefield	 Montessori
 Fairview	 Jamestown*	 Oak Hill	 Shadybrook**	
 Falkener	 Jefferson*	 Oak View	 Simkins	
 Foust*	 Jones*	 Parkview Village	 Sumner	

*Opened Fall 2025

**Opening Spring 2026

School-Based Telehealth Services supports the GCS Strategic Direction focus area: Strengthen health, wellness & safety in schools. Learn more at gcsnc.com/bettertogether



The Impact

GCS, Cone Health and Guilford Education Alliance/shift_ed have worked to develop a common vision through the school-based telehealth program. This vision is built on increasing access to healthcare, quickly returning students to classrooms, decreasing student absenteeism, increasing student instructional time, and reducing the impact of illness on students, schools, and families.

Data was collected and reviewed for students with and without consent for telehealth services specific to the areas of school attendance (chronic absenteeism), progress on reading and math proficiency, and student discipline referrals.

Overall Trends



Higher Average Attendance

25 out of 26 schools (96%)



Higher Math Scores

15 out of 26 schools (58%)



Higher Reading Proficiency

13 out of 26 schools (50%)



Fewer Office Discipline Referrals

11 out of 26 schools (42%)

Since 2022-2023, schools with telehealth programs consistently show positive results for students in key areas.

New!

Expanding Access to Behavioral Health for Elementary Students

Starting in January 2026, a **Behavioral Telehealth pilot program** will launch at Alderman Elementary, with plans to expand to five additional schools in 2026.

Cone Health's innovative approach combines full-time, in-person Community Health Workers (CHWs) with virtual Licensed Behavioral Health Clinicians to provide seamless care.

- **Licensed clinicians** conduct behavioral health assessments and deliver brief therapeutic interventions through a secure virtual platform.
- **Community Health Workers** support families, facilitate virtual visits at school, and help identify social drivers of health to ensure every child receives comprehensive support.

Together, we're making **behavioral healthcare accessible, convenient, and effective**—right where students learn.

School-Based Telehealth Partners



At Fairview Elementary, Cone Health's school-based telehealth clinic program has become an essential part of how we care for our scholars. Quick access to healthcare right here at school means fewer absences, more time in class, and stronger academic growth. Families love and appreciate the convenience, flexibility, and peace of mind the program provides. Parents can even call ahead to request that their child be seen through Telehealth, ensuring timely care and helping scholars return to learning within minutes. Teachers also appreciate the quick response to scholar health needs, which allows instruction to continue smoothly.

Our Telehealth representative has built strong, trusting relationships with our families. She knows our scholars by name, understands their needs, and helps identify and mitigate potential health concerns before they become larger issues. Parents have shared how reassuring it is to know that, even while they're at work, their child's health is being cared for with compassion and professionalism.

Together, we're supporting the whole child, academically, physically, and emotionally. It's one of the most meaningful partnerships we've established to ensure our scholars can be present, healthy, and ready to learn every day.



— Fanisha Love
Principal, Fairview Elementary School

