Guilford
COUNTY SCHOOLS

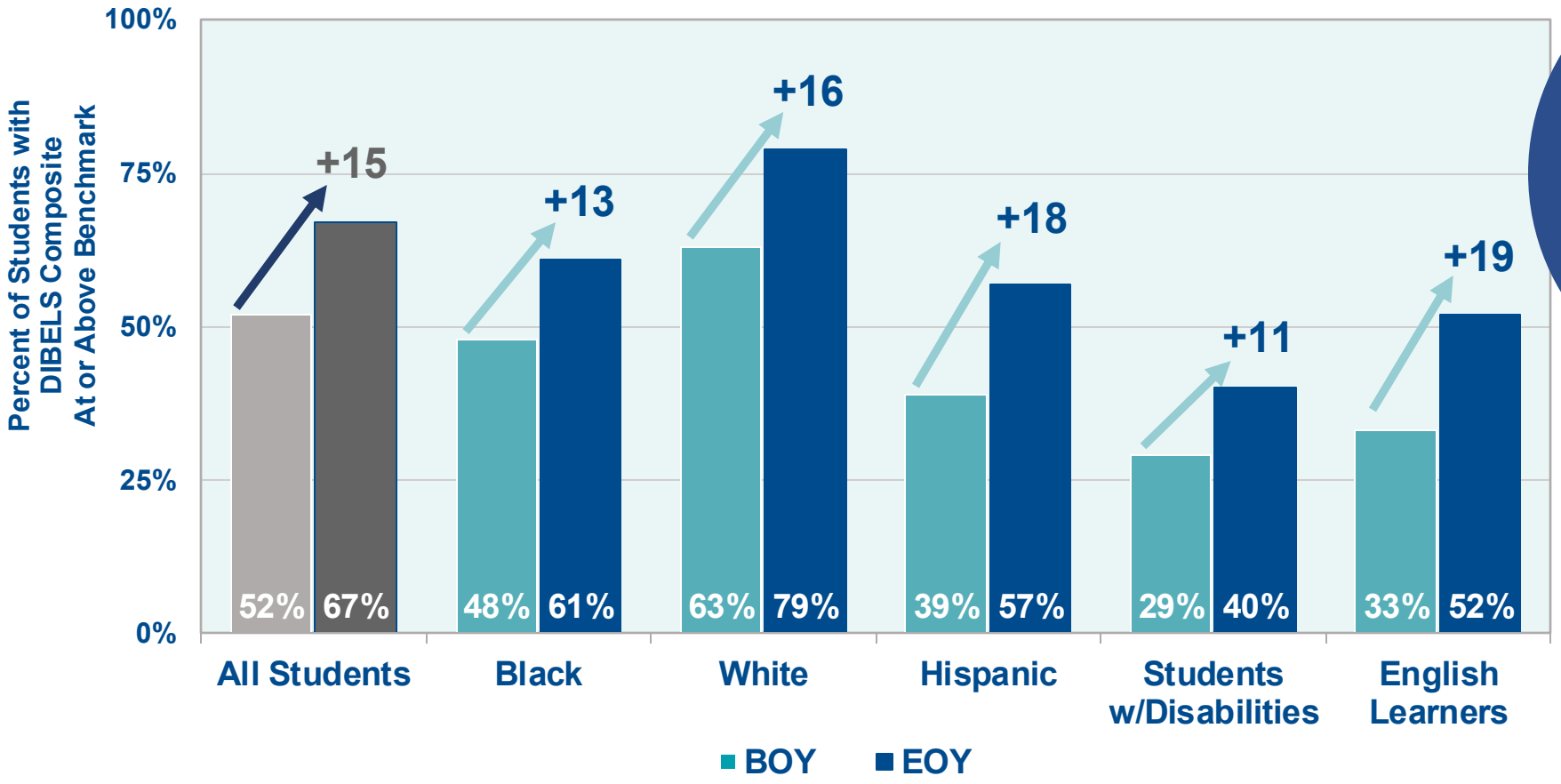
Accountability Results 2025-26

WHITNEY OAKLEY, Ed.D. | SUPERINTENDENT

Media Briefing | September 2, 2026

Early Literacy Gains in GCS

DIBELS BOY 2025 to EOY 2026 – Percentage of Students Meeting the Reading Goal for Their Grade Level
Grades K-3 Combined



Every student group had double-digit percentage point increases in early literacy skills.

** Chart includes students in grades K-3 who had both BOY and EOY scores.*

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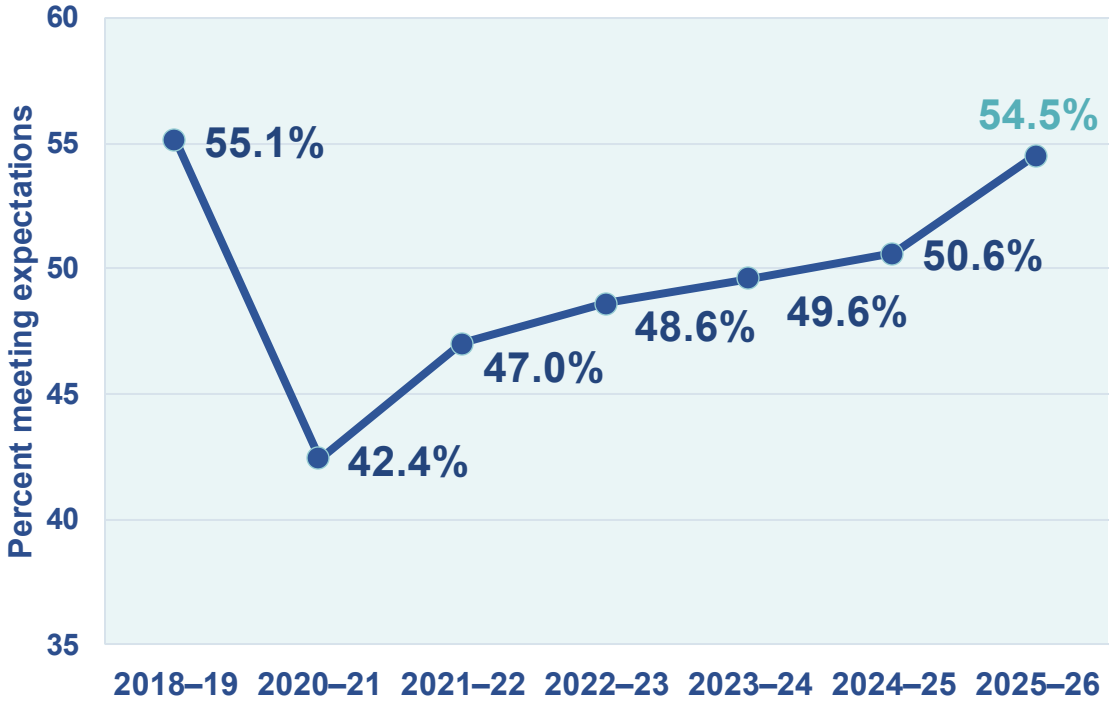
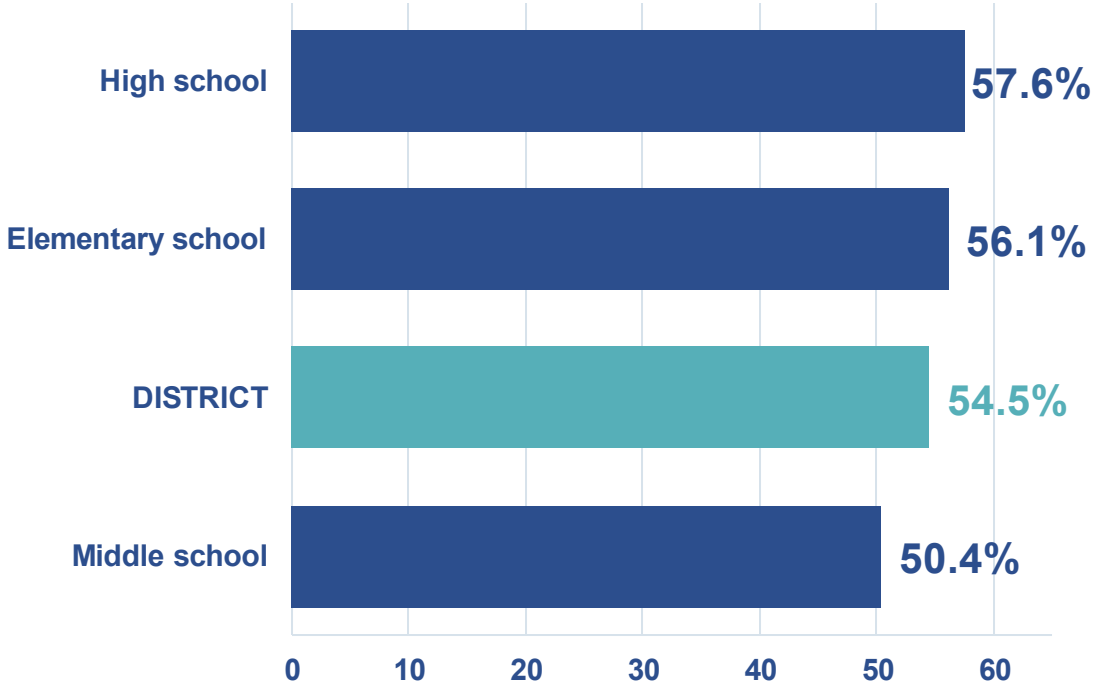
GCS Continues to Make Steady Progress

Percentage of tests meeting state expectations for grade-level learning

District Recovery Over Time



2025–26 Results by School Level



The district has gained 12.1 points since 2020–21.

Proficiency Increased in 17 of 19 Assessments

Grade Level Proficiency

in **17** out of **19** assessments

highest on

- Biology EOC
- High School Math 1
- Grade 3 Reading
- English 2
- Grade 8 Science

Overall Performance Composite

+3.9 points

86

schools saw increased performance composite or stayed above 95% in 2025-26

Performance Composite

for **all** student racial/ethnic groups

highest increases for

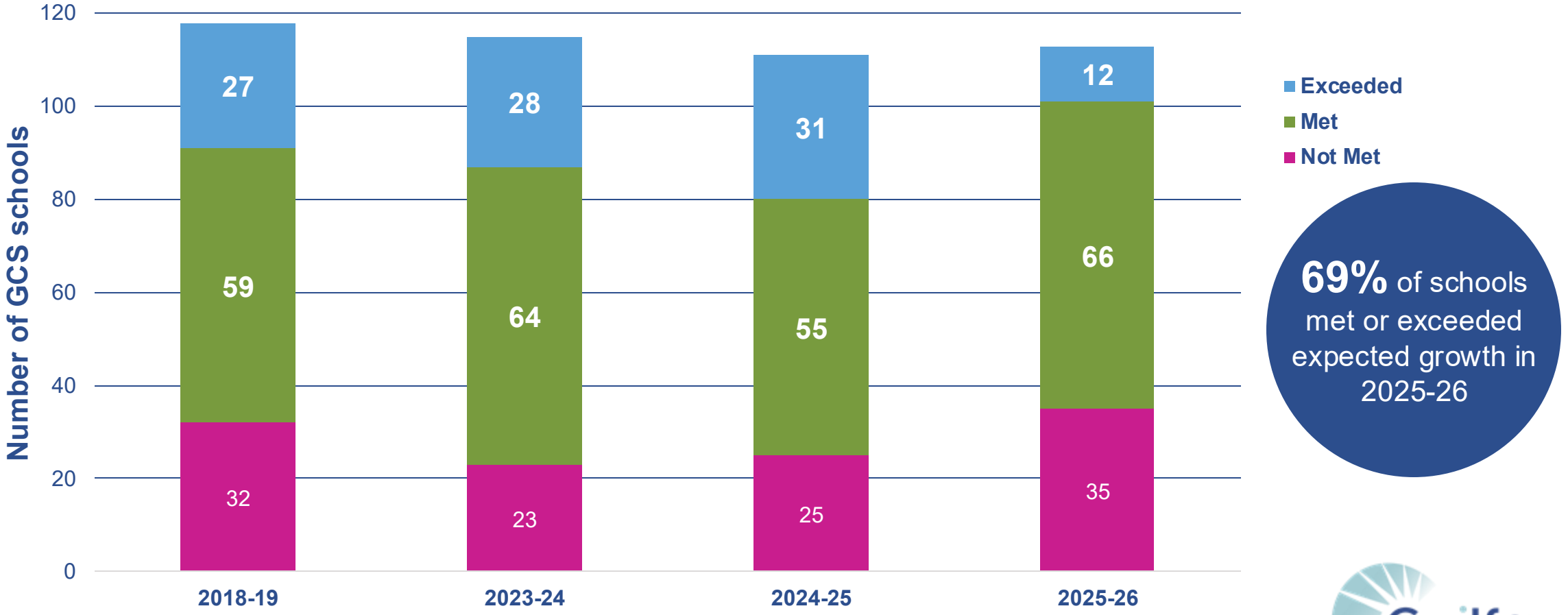
- Black students
- Hispanic students
- American Indian students
- Multiracial students

Overall Performance Composite is the percentage of students who met grade-level expectations across all tests.

*Results compared to 2024-25

Academic Growth Across GCS Schools

Number of schools that exceeded, met or did not meet expected growth



69% of schools met or exceeded expected growth in 2025-26

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School-level Improvement is Accelerating

27 SCHOOLS

improved by at least one performance grade

School-level improvement

is accelerating — and it's showing up school by school across GCS.

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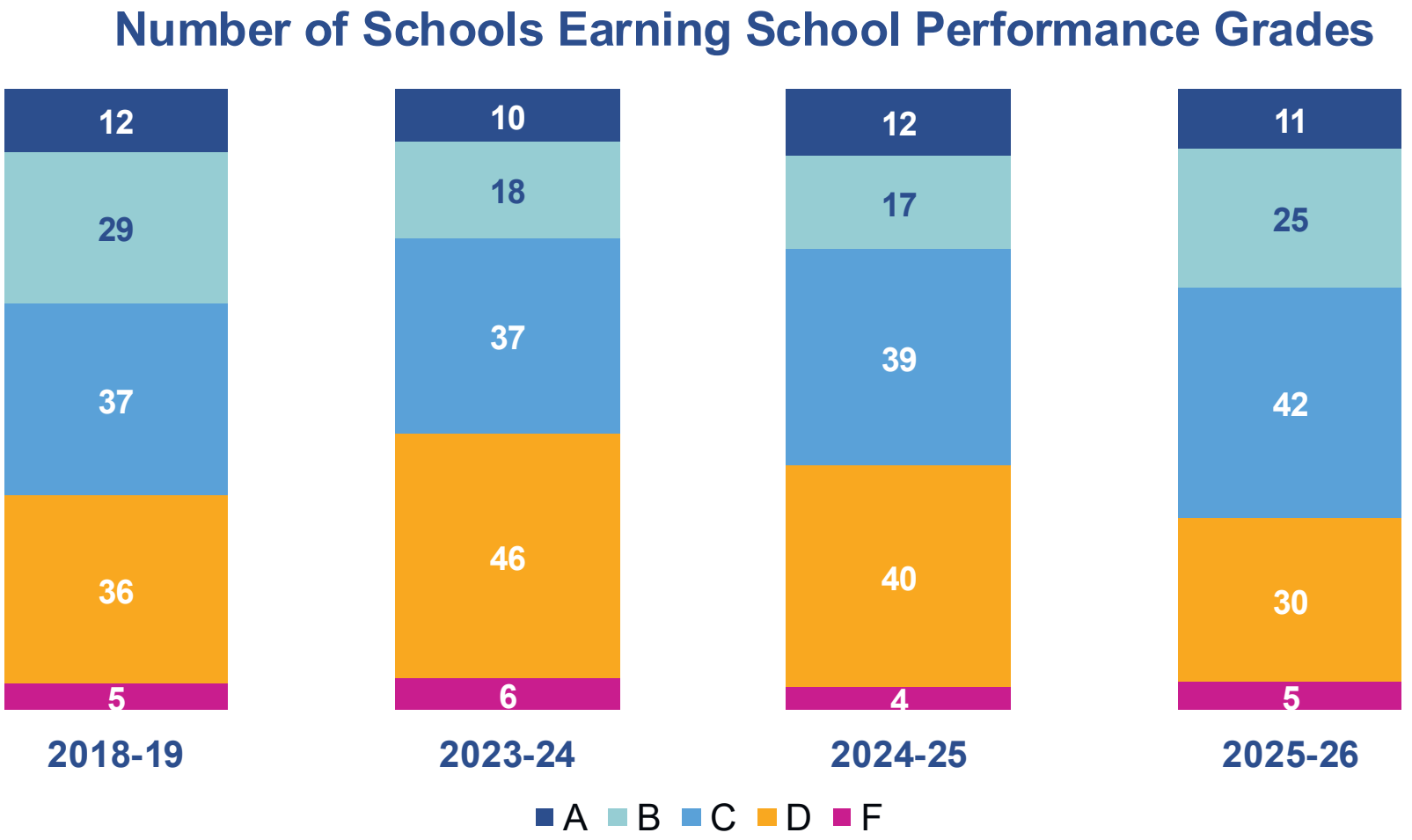
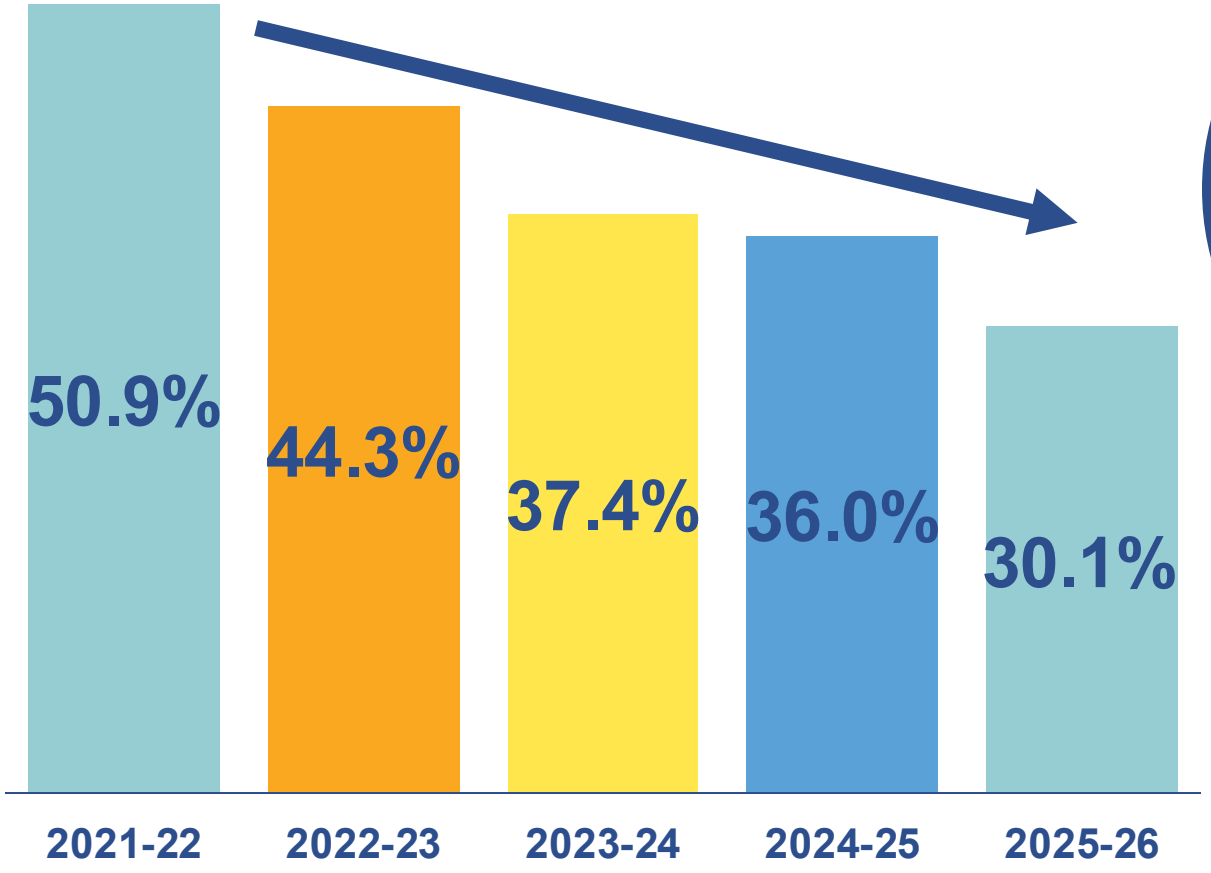
School Performance Grades Continue to Improve



Decrease in Low-Performing Schools



20.8-point decrease in low-performing schools since 2021-22 – the lowest number in more than a decade

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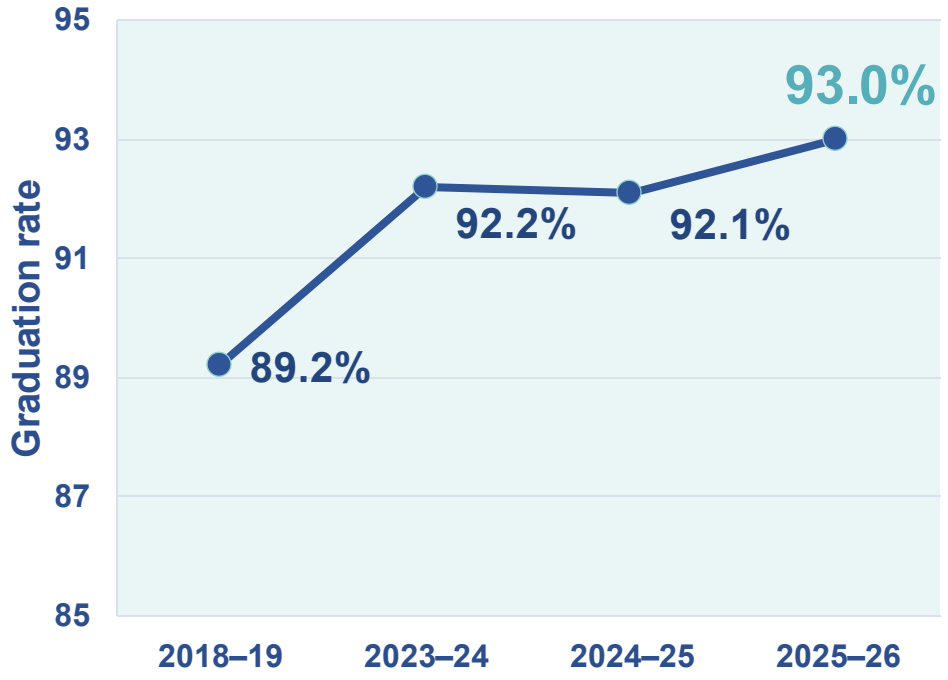
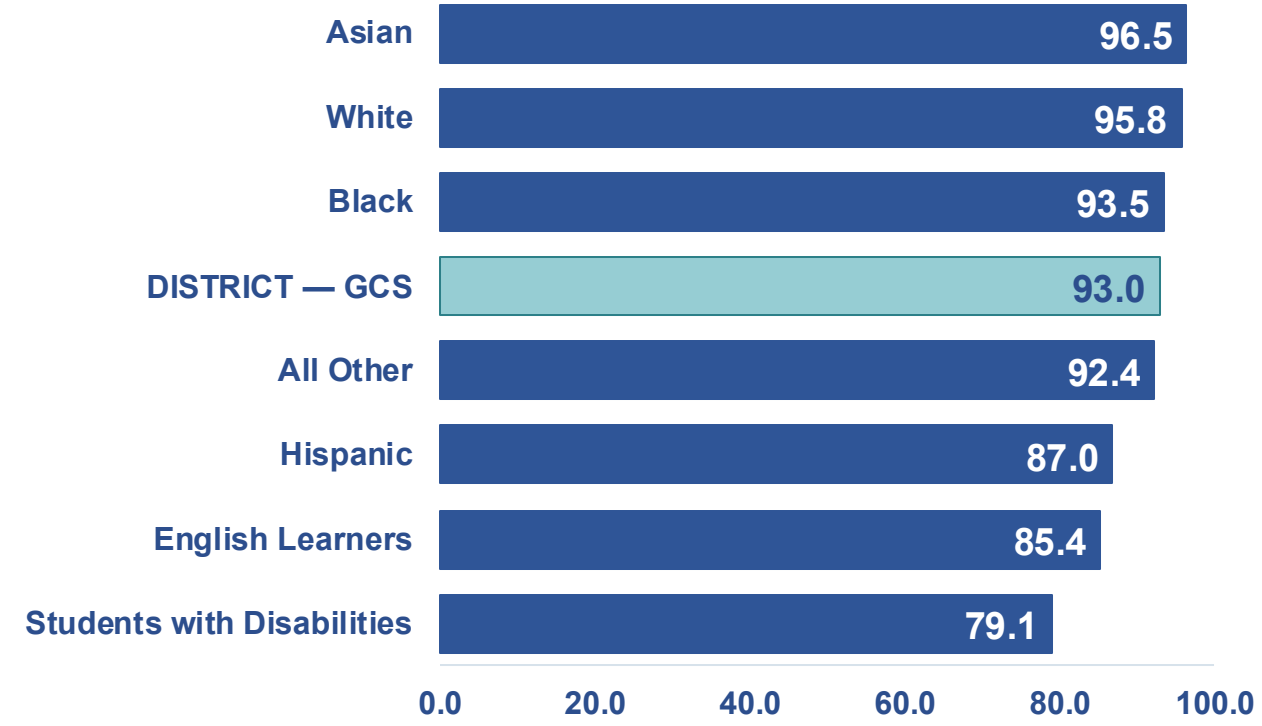
GCS Graduation Rate Reaches a Record 93%

Every student group improved in 2025–26

District Progress Over Time



2025–26 Results by Student Group



The district reached a new high, but graduation rates still vary across student groups.

22 Schools Achieved Graduation Rates of **90%** or Higher

2025–26 four-year cohort graduation results

11

schools graduated

100%

EVERY STUDENT in the four-year cohort graduated on time.

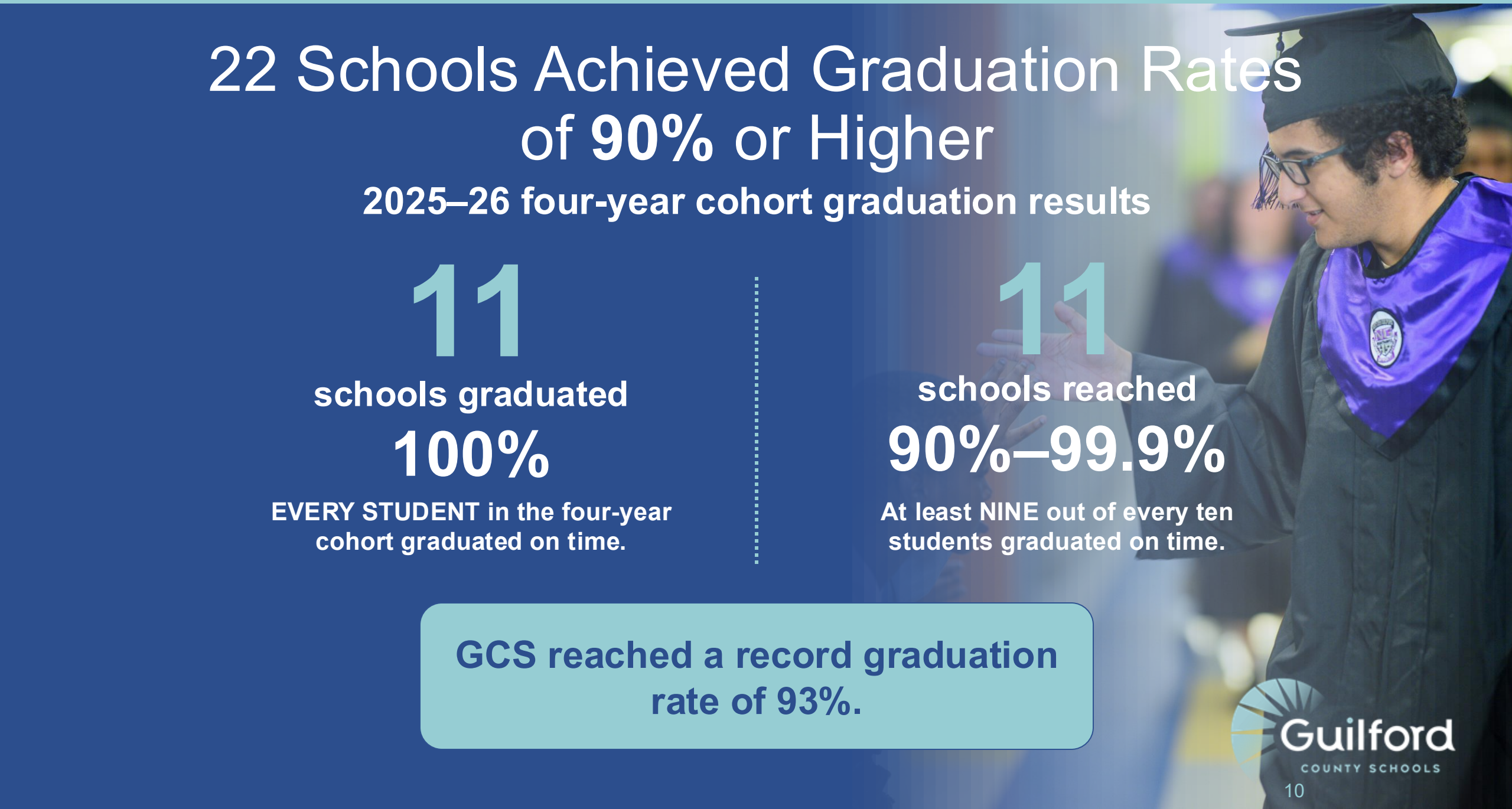
11

schools reached

90%–99.9%

At least NINE out of every ten students graduated on time.

GCS reached a record graduation rate of 93%.



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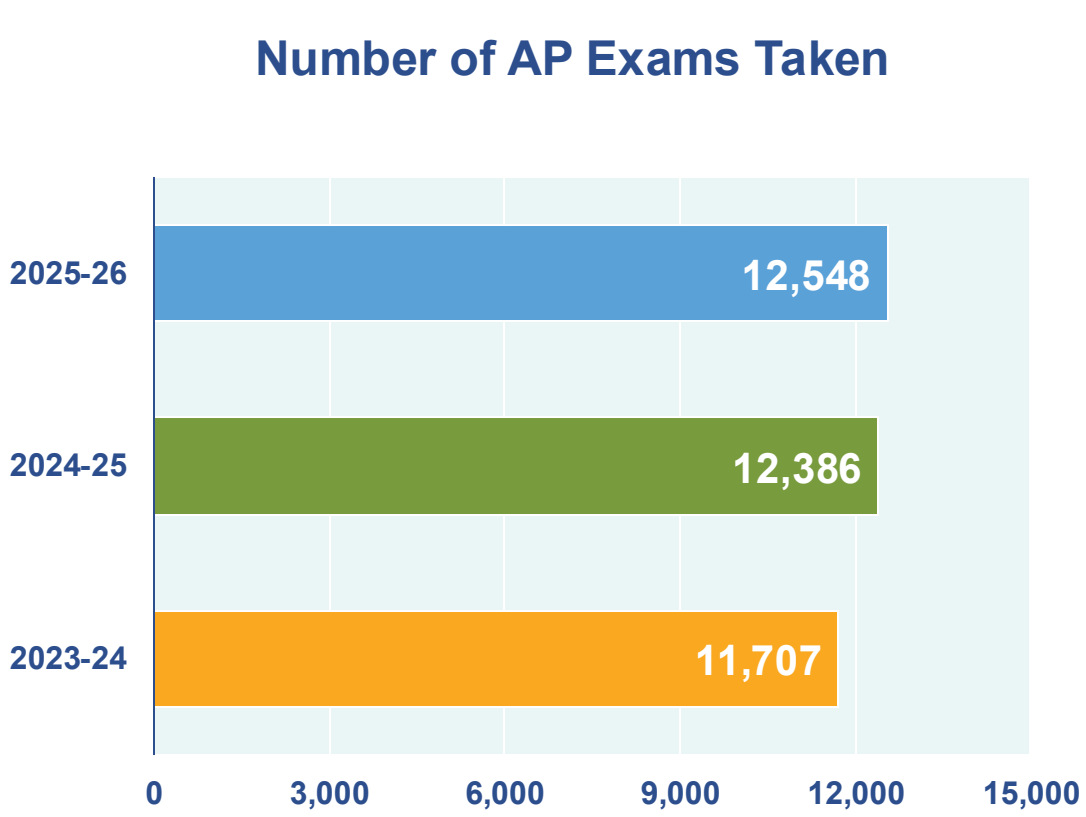
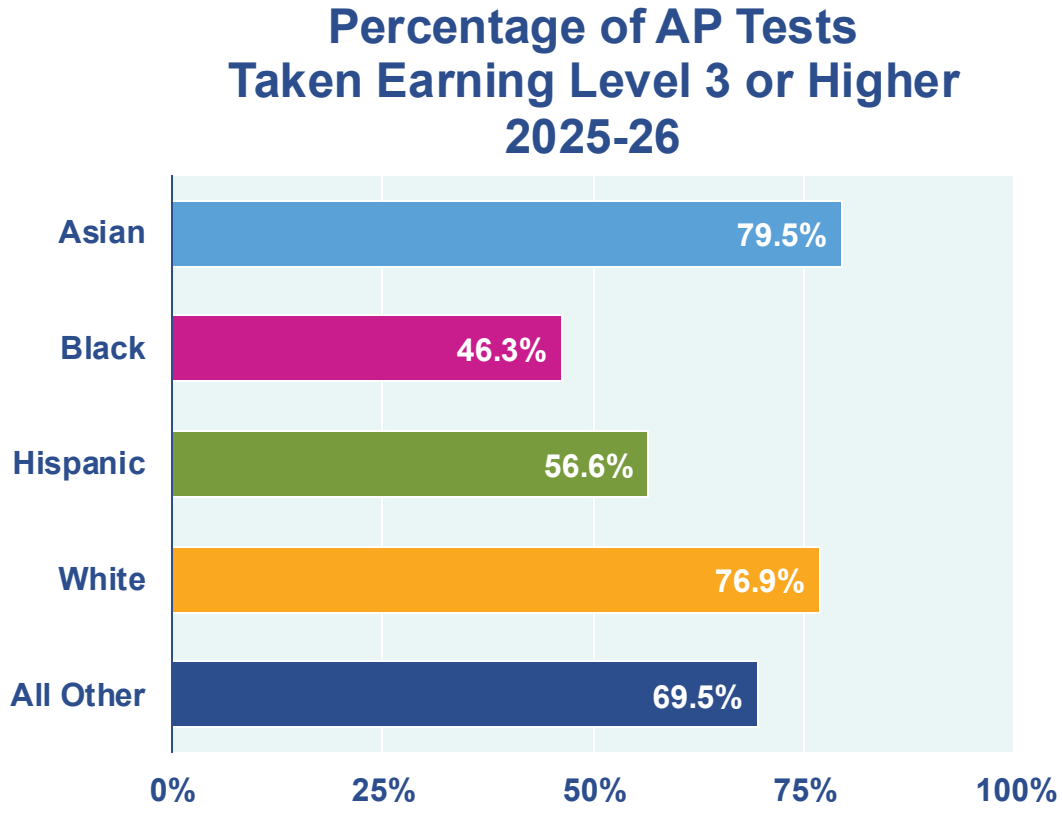
More Students are Taking AP Exams and Succeeding





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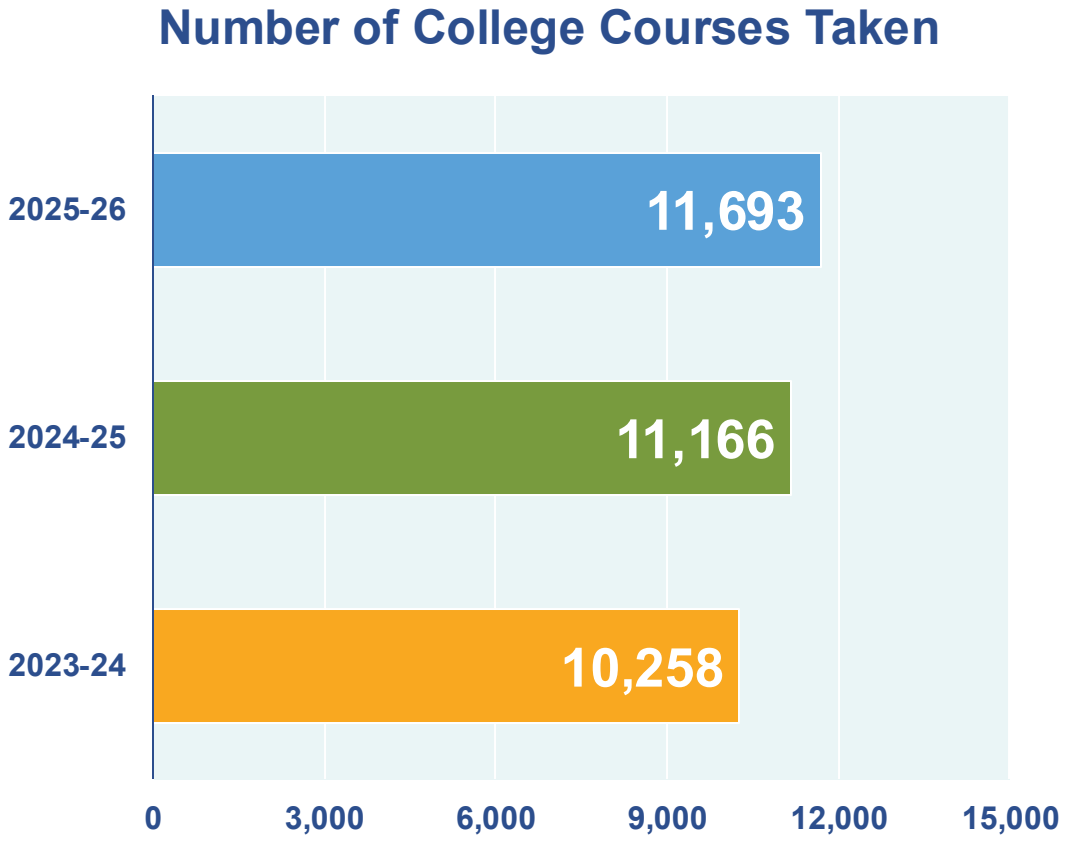
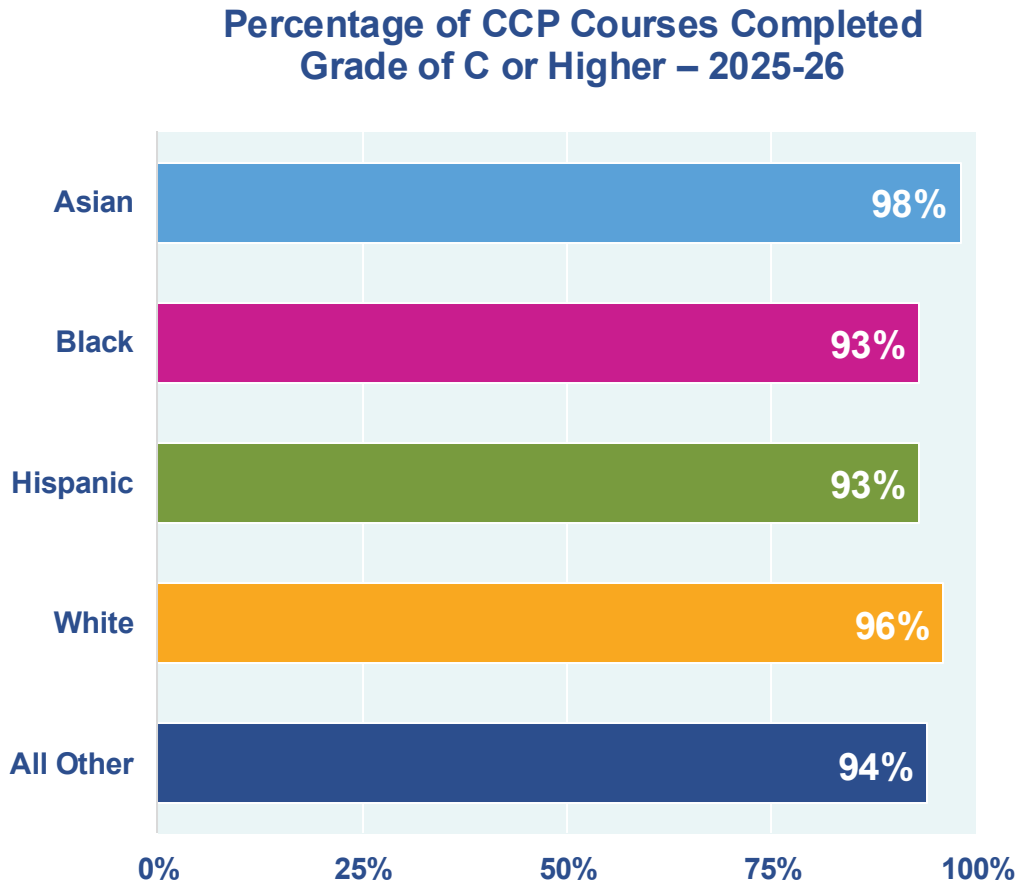
Students Are Completing College Courses at High Rates





* Total number of courses receiving a final transcript grade

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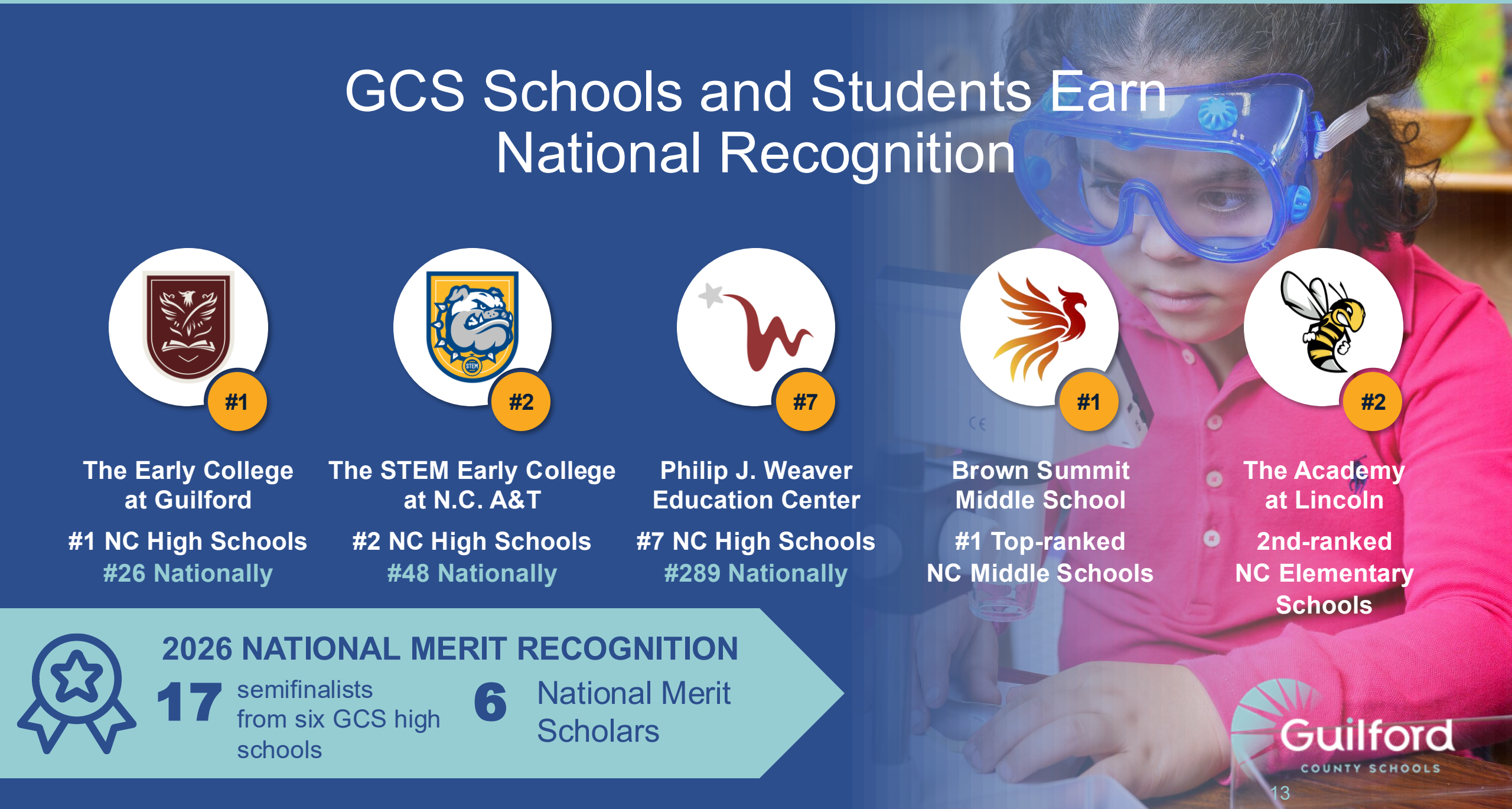
GCS Schools and Students Earn National Recognition



The Early College at Guilford

#1 NC High Schools
#26 Nationally

The STEM Early College at N.C. A&T

#2 NC High Schools
#48 Nationally

Philip J. Weaver Education Center

#7 NC High Schools
#289 Nationally

Brown Summit Middle School

#1 Top-ranked NC Middle Schools

The Academy at Lincoln

2nd-ranked NC Elementary Schools

2026 NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

17 semifinalists from six GCS high schools

6 National Merit Scholars

Guilford COUNTY SCHOOLS

Progress is Clear and the Work Continues

Academic results improved

- 17 of 19 assessments increased in proficiency
- 69% of schools met or exceeded growth
- All six achievement gaps narrowed

More schools move forward

- 27 schools earned a higher performance grade
- Low-performing schools declined to 30.1%
- Graduation rate reached a record 93%

Readiness extends beyond graduation

- 67% of AP exams earned a 3 or higher
- At least 93% of CCP courses earned a C or higher

The direction is positive. Through the Guilford Guarantee, we will expand pathways and work to ensure progress and opportunity reach every student.

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