

**Gaston County Schools
Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting
Monday, August 3, 2026**

MINUTES

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on Monday, August 3, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Central Office Board Room, 943 Osceola Street, Gastonia, NC. Those members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff Ramsey, Robbie Lovelace, Janna Smith, and A.M. Stephens III (who arrived at 3:06).

Additional attendees included: Chairman Josh Crisp, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Superintendent Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendent Tonya Kales, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Bessie Harvey, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services Rebekka Powers, Interim Chief Financial Officer Bryan Denton, Executive Director of Human Resources Beth Suber, Executive Directors Kevin Doran, Anarah Henderson, Chris Mills, and Tyler West, Director of K-12 curriculum Shannon Hullett, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Accountability Officer Kelly Cunningham, and Board Clerk Cindy Beck.

Chairman Jeff Ramsey called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Superintendent's Comments

Superintendent Houchard advised that there is currently a "For Sale" sign on the property of the Teacher Resource Center (TRC).

Earlier today, the Administrators Back to School Conference was held, where representatives from Legal, Finance, Operations, and HR briefed the Principals on preparations for the upcoming school year.

Superintendent Houchard expressed appreciation to our Interim Chief Finance Officer Bryan Denton for stepping into the role and providing stability.

Approval/Correction of Minutes -Action

Motion to adopt minutes of June 1, 2026, as presented was made by Mrs. Janna Smith, seconded by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

Human Resources Update - Information

Executive Director of Human Resources Beth Suber updated the Board on current staffing and vacancies across the district.

Tava Health was introduced as a new mental health support option available to all staff members and their families.

(View Handout)

Operations Update - Information

Assistant Superintendent of Operations Bessie Harvey outlined the key summer highlights and projects executed by the Operations Department.

(View Presentation)

Student Support Updates - Information

Rebekka Powers, Assistant Superintendent of Student Support Services, presented information regarding the Gaston County Schools Student Support Service Regions. Her presentation detailed the allocation of district services for Nurses, Health Techs, Counselors, and Social Workers.

Additionally, innerExplorer, a new platform designed to help students practice mindfulness to prepare for teaching and learning, was introduced as a grant-funded district resource to support mental health and well-being in schools.

(View Presentation)

Academic Updates - Information

Associate Superintendent Tonya Kales presented the Opening of Schools Support Plan for 2026-27.

(View Presentation)

2026-2027 District Literacy Intervention Plan - Action

Director of K-12 Curriculum Dr. Shannon Hullett presented information on the District Literacy Intervention Plan. Local school administrative units (LEAs) must submit literacy intervention plans to the NCDPI, including plans for reading camps, by October 1st each year. The NCDPI then approves these plans, ensuring they align with the state's literacy intervention standards and provide instruction closely aligned with the goals of the program. These plans must also incorporate feedback from the previous year's plan and may include partnerships with other LEAs or community organizations.

Items Added this year:

North Carolina Early Learning Inventory (NCELI) Beginning of the Year (BOY) for Kindergarten
Alignment of district instructional strategies to the Science of Reading

Item Removed this year:

LETERRs Coordinator position funding

Motion: A Motion was formally made by Mrs. Janna Smith and seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III, proposing that the Board

Approve the 2026-2027 District Literacy Intervention Plan as presented.

The Committee conducted a formal vote, and the motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 result.

The approved **2026-2027 District Literacy Intervention Plan** will be included on the Consent Agenda for the Board of Education's regular monthly meeting scheduled for August 17, 2026, for final consideration and approval by the full Board.

2026-2027 AIG Plan - Action

Executive Director Kevin Doran presented the 2026-2027 AIG Plan with an overview of the student population served, staffing allotments, updates, and goals.

Motion: A Motion was formally made by Mr. A.M. Stephens III and seconded by Mrs. Janna Smith, proposing that the Board

Approve the 2026-2027 AIG Plan as presented.

The Committee conducted a formal vote, and the motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 result.

The approved **2026-2027 AIG Plan** will be included on the Consent Agenda for the Board of Education's regular monthly meeting scheduled for August 17, 2026, for final consideration and approval by the full Board.

EC Yearly Service Contracts - Action

Executive Director Chris Mills presented information on the EC Yearly Service Contracts. These resources will provide staff members with the necessary research-based materials to support increased academic achievement, school safety, and improved student growth. The contracts also include personnel

to provide appropriate support, services, and testing. In addition, the resources and personnel will also support the continued implementation of Academic Services practices, protocols, policies, and procedures.

Motion: A Motion was formally made by Mrs. Robbie Lovelace and seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens, proposing that the Board

Approve the EC Yearly Service Contracts as presented.

The Committee conducted a formal vote, and the motion carried unanimously with a 4-0 result.

The approved **EC Yearly Service Contracts** will be included on the Consent Agenda for the Board of Education's regular monthly meeting scheduled for August 17, 2026, for final consideration and approval by the full Board.

Summer Professional Development - Information

Director of Professional Development Sarah Rector gave an overview of the Summer Professional Development Series that provided educators with CEU opportunities. The weekly format provided greater flexibility, choice and impact.

Instructional Coaches & ATR - Information

Associate Superintendent Tonya Kales gave an overview of professional development sessions for Instructional Coaches and Reach teachers that featured a panel discussion on strategies for student growth. The sessions focused on data-driven instruction through the analysis of school performance data and modeled effective data meetings. Additionally, participants practiced instructional planning by reviewing curriculum resources and simulating Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings to prepare for the upcoming school year.

TIPS (Teacher Induction Program for Success) - Information

Director of Professional Development Sarah Rector provided information on the TIPS program for the new school year. TIPS has focused on planning, engagement, assessment, and classroom management as well as new teacher support topics monthly.

District Mandated Professional Development Days - Information

Ms. Kales provided an overview of the content and expectations for the upcoming District Mandated Professional Development Days, which are scheduled for September 16, October 28, February 10, and April 14.

(View Presentation)

Classroom Moment Plan for the Year - Information

Ms. Kales presented the Classroom Moment Plan for the Year.

(View Presentation)

Finance Update - Information

Interim Chief Finance Officer Bryan Denton presented information on the State Budget that our governor signed into law on July 7, 2026.

Dr. Denton additionally provided a summary of projected salary increases and bonuses along with the timelines.

Furthermore, updates regarding the local budget were detailed:

The commissioners allocated an extra \$5 million in local funding for Gaston County Schools' operations on July 14, raising the total local support for the 2026-2027 term to \$59 million.

Additionally, \$1.2 million was designated by the county for annual capital funds. In accordance with state regulations, roughly 12 percent (equivalent to \$600,000) of the newly approved \$5 million for Gaston County Schools must be allocated to charter schools.

(View Presentation)

Next Committee Meeting Date/Time

The next Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2026, beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Adjournment

All business being conducted, Motion to adjourn was made by Mrs. Janna Smith; seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III, motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

The Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Approved: _____

Jeff Ramsey, Chairman

Date Approved: _____

9/14/26

GCS Board of Education Curriculum and Instruction Committee Meeting

August 3, 2026

Gaston County Schools
Curriculum & Instruction Committee Meeting
Monday, June 1, 2026

MINUTES

The Curriculum and Instruction Committee met on Monday, June 1, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. at the Linda Rader Staff Development Center, Cramerton, NC. Those members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff Ramsey, Robbie Lovelace (who joined via phone), Janna Smith, and A.M. Stephens III.

Additional attendees included: Chairman Josh Crisp, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Superintendent Dr. Morgen A. Houchard, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendent Tonya Kales, Assistant Superintendent of Operations Bessie Harvey, Executive Director of Human Resources Beth Suber, Executive Directors Bryan Denton, Kevin Doran, and Tyler West, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans, Chief Accountability Officer Kelly Cunningham, and Board Clerk Cindy Beck.

Chairman Jeff Ramsey called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone.

Approval/Correction of Minutes - Action

Motion to adopt minutes of May 4, 2026, as presented was made by Mrs. Janna Smith, seconded by Mr. A.M. Stephens III, motion carried unanimously. (4-0)

Human Resources Update - Information

Executive Director of Human Resources Beth Suber updated the Board on current staffing, vacancies, and Reduction In Force (RIF).

Two Job Fairs have been scheduled at the Gaston Public Library on June 11 and June 18, 2026, to help recruit candidates for current vacant positions.

A Retirement Celebration will be held on June 24, 2026, at 6 PM at Camelot Meadows in Belmont. The event will have community sponsors to help facilitate the celebration.

[View Handout]

Consolidation Updates - Information

Superintendent Houchard reviewed the Consolidation Updates in accordance with North Carolina General Statute 115C-72. The presentation covered the consolidation process and requirements for W.B. Beam in Cherryville.

Among the options presented last month, Option C received the most support. This option would move fourth-grade and fifth-grade students to Cherryville Elementary while relocating the pre-kindergarten program to Tryon Elementary.

Executive Director Tyler West also shared projections for student enrollment capacity under Option C and discussed the related teacher allotments anticipated for the upcoming school year under Option C.

June 1, 2026
GCS Board of Education
Curriculum and Instruction
Committee

Recommendation

Review and approve June 1, 2026
minutes

Opening of Schools
HR Updates

Mrs. Suber

Opening of Schools
Facilities Updates

Ms. Harvey

Summer Projects

Bottle Filler Replacement

*Cherryville ES, Lingerfeldt ES,
McAdenville ES, and Robinson ES*

Ceiling Grid/Tile Replacements

Emergency Radio (BDA)

Flooring Replacements

ES Lighting Upfits

*Cherryville ES, Costner ES, Gardner Park
ES, Lingerfeldt ES, and Woodhill ES*

Life Safety Systems

*Camera, intercom, and fire alarm systems at
Belmont Central, Catawba Heights, Cherryville
ES, and Kiser ES*

HVAC Repair & Renovation

Minor and major

Minor Asphalt & Pavement Repairs

Waterless Urinal Replacements

Secure Vestibule Installation

*Ashbrook HS, Bessemer City Primary,
Cherryville ES, East Gaston HS, and
Sherwood ES*

Operations Projects In Review

**Belmont Central Elementary / New Hope
ES School Addition**

Bottle Filling Station Replacements
*Identifying the next phase of schools
for implementation.*

**Bessemer City HS / South Point HS
Concession Stand Replacement**

Elementary School Lighting Upgrades
Identifying the next phase of schools.

Life Safety System Upgrades

Identifying the next phase of schools.

**Minor and Major HVAC Repairs and
Renovations**
Ongoing district wide assessment.

Secure Vestibule Installations
*Identifying the next phase of schools to
enhance campus security.*

**CTE and Science Laboratory
Renovations**
*Reviewing project scope and
programming requirements.*

Operations Highlights

Custodial & School Nutrition

Developed operational guidelines to clearly define cafeteria and custodial responsibilities, ensuring consistency across all district schools.

Campus Site Visit Check-In

Established a process for Area Supervisors to strengthen customer service, increase operational accountability, and promote consistent support for schools.

Custodial School Assignments

Realigned assignments to provide Innovation Schools with appropriate staffing, improved coverage, and enhanced operational support.

In-House Facilities Staff

Expanded the utilization of staff to identify and complete maintenance projects that were previously outsourced to contractors.

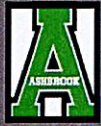
Transportation Cohorts

Conducted meetings to review staffing vacancies, identify operational challenges, develop collaborative solutions, and better align with the district's service model.

Opening of Schools *Student Supports*

Dr. Powers

Gaston County Schools Student Support Service Regions



Lingerfeldt
Sherwood
Woodhill
Grier Middle
Holbrook Middle
Ashbrook High



BC Primary
BC Central
Chapel Grove
Sadler
Bessemer City MS
Bessemer City HS



Cherryville ES
WB Beam Int
Tryon
John Chavis MS
Cherryville HS



Catawba
Heights
Springfield
Kiser
Mt. Holly MS
East Gaston HS



Gardner Park
Hawks Nest
Robinson
WA Bess
Cramerton MS
Forestview HS



HH Beam
Pleasant Ridge
Southwest MS
York Chester MS
Hunter Huss HS



Brookside
Carr
Costner
WC Friday MS
North Gaston HS



Belmont Central
McAdenville
North Belmont
Page
Belmont MS
South Point HS



Lowell
New Hope
Pinewood
Rankin
Mt. Holly MS
Stuart Cramer HS



Regional Support Model



21
NURSES

TOTAL DISTRICTWIDE



8
HEALTH TECHS

TOTAL DISTRICTWIDE



26
SOCIAL WORKERS
(+ ON-CALL MODEL
AT HIGHLAND/GECHS/GVA)

TOTAL DISTRICTWIDE



58
COUNSELORS

TOTAL DISTRICTWIDE

REGIONAL STAFFING ALLOCATIONS

REGION	NURSES (TOTAL)	HEALTH TECHS (TOTAL)	SOCIAL WORKERS (TOTAL)	COUNSELORS (TOTAL)
A Ashbrook	2	4	4	7.5
B Bessemer City	2	1	3	6
C Cherryville	2	0	1	3
E East Gaston	2	0	2	5
F Forestview	3	1	3	7.5
H Highland / GECHS / GVA	1	0	On Call	3
HH Hunter Huss	2	2	4	7
N North Gaston	2	0	3	6
Sc Stuart Cramer	2	0	3	6
SP South Point	2	0	3	7

Note: Totals reflect dedicated staff allocations. Highland/GECHS/GVA is served by an on-call Social Worker.

AT-A-GLANCE HIGHLIGHTS



HIGHEST COUNSELOR
ALLOCATION

Ashbrook & Forestview

7.5 each



HIGHEST SOCIAL WORKER
ALLOCATION

Ashbrook & Hunter Huss

4 each



SMALLEST COUNSELOR
ALLOCATION

Highland/GECHS/GVA
& Cherryville

3 each



ON-CALL SOCIAL WORKER MODEL

Highland/GECHS/GVA

What's New in 2026-2027



Opening of Schools
Academic Services

Tonya Kales

Opening of Schools Support Plan

Elementary			Secondary			Specialized		
SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL	EXEC. DIR.	SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL	EXEC. DIR.	SCHOOL	PRINCIPAL	EXEC. DIR.
Beam, HH	Crosby	Henderson	Belmont	Beckham	West	Warlick	Lefevers	Powers
Beam, WB	Falter	West	Bessemer Middle	Reese	Henderson	Webb Street	Williams	Mills
Belmont Central	Kiser	West	Chavis	Gomto	West	GVA	Wilson	Doran
Bess	L. Clark	West	Cramerton	Tolleson	Doran			
Bessemer Primary	Poag	West	Friday	McKay	Doran			
Bessemer Central	Miller	West	Grier	Mellon	Kales			
Brookside	Jennings	West	Holbrook	Winston	West			
Carr	Stefaniak	West	Mount Holly	Mitcham	Henderson			
Catawba Heights	Glenn	Henderson	Southwest	D'Avria	Doran			
Chapel Grove	Harvey	Henderson	Stanley	Rhyne	Henderson			
Cherryville Elem	Black	West	York Chester	Bradley	Kales			
Costner	Brusie	Henderson	Ashbrook	Rikard	Doran			
Gardner Park	Stamey	Henderson	Bessemer High	Bromley	Doran			
Hawks Nest	Lawson	West	Cherryville High	M. Allen	Doran			
Kiser	Gust	Henderson	East Gaston	Huffstetler	Doran			
Lingerfeldt	Cabe	Henderson	Forestview	Mims	Doran			
Lowell	Conley	Henderson	Gaston Early College	Cook	Doran			
McAdenville/GVA	Lavinder	Henderson	GEC Medical Sciences	Bowman	Doran			
New Hope	Goff	West	Highland	Redmond	Doran			
North Belmont	M. Clark	Henderson	Huss	Elms	Doran			
Page Primary	Kessler	West	North Gaston	Willis	Doran			
Pinewood	Tessnear	Henderson	South Point	J. Allen	Doran			
Pleasant Ridge	Hubers	West	Stuart Cramer	Steiner	Doran			
Rankin	LaRusch	Henderson						
Robinson	Morris	West						
Sadler	Barr	Henderson						
Sherwood	Beam	Henderson						
Springfield	Buchanan	Henderson						
Tryon	Knick	West						
Woodhill	Wallace	West						

2026-2027 District Literacy Intervention Plan

Dr. Hullett

2026-2027 District Literacy Intervention Plan

OFFICE OF EARLY LEARNING NC Department of Public Instruction



Literacy Intervention Plan



Core Literacy Instruction

Core instruction is the instruction provided to all students. Core literacy instruction is evidence-based and aligned to the science of reading. Within core instruction, teachers differentiate to meet the needs of all students in the classroom. Core support is defined through environment, curriculum, and instruction.
Environment: Includes daily instructional time, physical environment, group size, and classroom routines.
Curriculum: Materials and resources utilized, scope and sequence of delivery, and skills/standards addressed.
Instruction: Instructional design, student engagement, methods for feedback, and opportunities for practice.

Environment
Instructional Time:
K-1: 120-minute literacy block, which includes 40-50 minutes reserved for whole group and small group word work, which includes Phonological Awareness, Phonics Instruction
2-3: 120-minute literacy block, which includes 30 minutes reserved for whole group and small group word work, which includes Phonics/Morphology instruction
Classroom Routines: Routines and procedures are explicitly taught, reviewed, practiced, and reinforced within a PBIS framework
Physical Environments: The teacher has organized the space to be a resource for learning to support student independence (learning charts, a learning wall, student work exemplars, classroom libraries, access to materials and manipulatives, and learning centers). The students see themselves as a

Curriculum
Curriculum choice is:
check both if applicable
District Choice
Curriculum Name: Heggerty, Into Reading HMH, Into Reading Structured phonics lessons, Learning A-Z
School Choice
Curriculum Name: Heggerty, Into Reading HMH, Learning A-Z

Instruction
All students receive whole-group word work instruction (phonemic awareness & phonics) during a portion of the literacy block, as well as whole-group vocabulary, comprehension, and writing instruction. Instruction is systematic and explicit.
Small group instruction/practice occurs 3-5 days a week. Small-group instruction is teacher-led and differentiated based on student assessment data and responses to instruction. Differentiation strategies include increased practice opportunities, consistent feedback, and more explicit scaffolding.
*The district's focused professional learning| instructional strategies will highlight the alignment with the science of reading.



2026-2027 District Literacy Intervention Plan

Plan Guideline

Required Inclusion



NCDPI Feedback Integration

The annual literacy intervention plan must incorporate all feedback received from NCDPI on the previous year's plan to ensure continued alignment and approval.

Reference Resource

Prior Year Review



Gaston LIP 2025-2026 Feedback

Review the official evaluation and recommendations from NCDPI on the 2025-2026 submission.

[Access Document →](#)

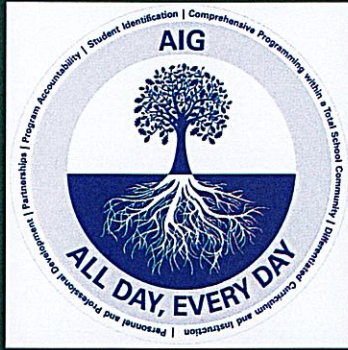
2026-2027 District Literacy Intervention Plan

- **Added:**
 - North Carolina Early Learning Inventory (NCELI) Beginning of the Year (BOY) for Kindergarten
 - Alignment of district instructional strategies to the Science of Reading
- **Removed:**
 - LETERs Coordinator position funding

2026-2027 Literacy Plan

Recommendation

Motion to recommend the Literacy Plan for approval at the August Board of Education meeting



AIG Department

AIG Plan

AIG Success Stories from 25-26



Served 3,198
students in grades
K-12



PAIDEIA
Think.Discuss.Act

National Paideia School for
Creative Thinking



Collaboration with
Academic Services

Why AIG?

General Statute § 115C-150.5, Article 9B

Article 9B provides a mandate to **identify** gifted learners.

Article 9B provides a mandate to **serve** gifted learners.

- Differentiate instruction based on NCSCOS
- Extend, Enrich, Accelerate based on student need
- GCS serves potential and AIG identified students in grades K-12

Elementary Service Delivery

Elementary Programs

- AIG Pull out 90 minutes weekly
- Composer-*Title 1* schools pull out 45 minutes weekly
- Itinerants serve multiple schools

Secondary Service Delivery

Middle School

- Honors ELA, Advanced Math, Math 1
- English 9 HS at Cramerton Gifted & Talented Academy
- Compacted Curriculum, Advanced Math
- Junior Great Books curriculum extension, ELA
- AIG Certified or G.A.L.E. endorsed teachers

High School

- AP and Honors courses (self-select)

AIG Program Updates for 26-27

- Aligning staffing and services with our budget
- Elementary itinerant assignments
- Adjustments to the AIG Plan to maintain compliance.
- Supporting growth of Academically and Intellectually gifted students in College and Career Readiness (CCR)

2026-2027 PRC 034 Staffing Allotment

District AIG Staff

AIG Coordinator
K-12 AIG Math Facilitator
K-12 AIG ELA Facilitator

School-based Staff

12 Elementary AIG Itinerant Teachers

AIG Plan updates for 26-27

K-1 Identification

GCS has included a K-1 identification pathway in order to fulfill the states requirements.

Talent Development

Talent Development will change to consultative services for potentially gifted students in grades K-2.

Goals for for 26-27

Elementary

- Revise and grow AIG Talent Development Program within the current framework of the AIG state standards.
- Collaborate with Academic Services to provide academic extensions.
- Support PRGTA Academy Teachers to strengthen their Paideia and Coached Project goals.

Middle

- Schedule a Parent Night in the Spring for Rising Sixth Grade parents (Introduction to expectations for AIG in middle school).
- Provide virtual PLC meetings for AIG ELA and Math middle school teachers.

Goals for for 26-27

High School

- Strengthen and support High School AP Coordinators by providing training and quarterly updates of deadlines and important information from the College Board.
- Provide teachers with curriculum support and training from College Board.

AIG Department

- Maximize student growth through closer integration and ongoing collaboration between the AIG Department and Academic Services
- Increase the number of students who achieve College and Career Readiness (Level 4 and 5) status on EOG and EOC Testing.

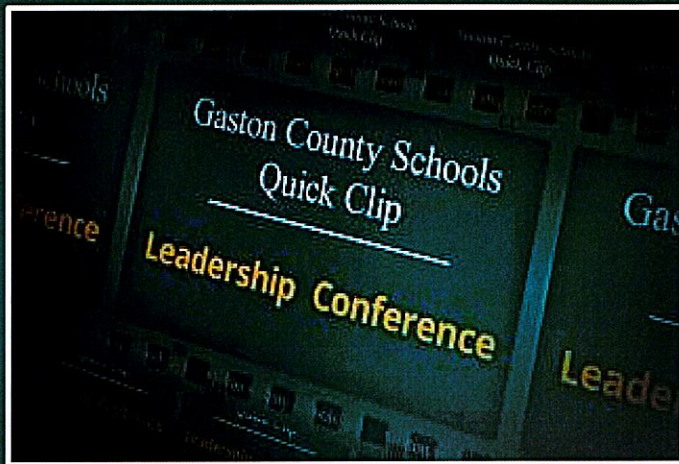
2026-2027 AIG Plan

Recommendation

Motion to recommend AIG Plan for approval at the August Board of Education meeting

Academic Services
Summer Professional Development

Leadership Conference - June 2-3, 2026



Teaching and Learning: Summer Series



Gaston County Schools Professional Learning Department

Teaching and Learning: Summer Series

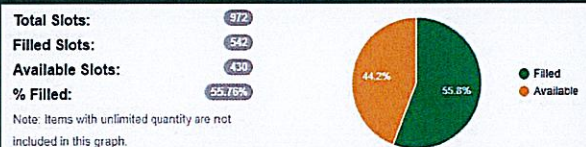
Gaston County Schools [Contact](#)

We are excited to invite you to the **Teaching and Learning: Summer Learning Series**, a refreshed and expanded learning opportunity designed to support your growth as an educator!

Previously offered as a one-day event, this series has been redesigned into a weekly format to provide greater flexibility, choice, and impact. Sessions will take place on Wednesdays from June 3 to July 15, allowing you to select topics that best fit your needs without committing to a full-day event or attending every week.

Event Details

- **Dates:** Wednesdays, June 3 – July 15
- **Location:** Rader Staff Development Center (240 8th Ave, Cramerton, NC 28032)
- **Session Times:**
 - Morning: 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM
 - Afternoon: 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM



Teaching and Learning: Summer Series Feedback

What Worked Well

- Hands-on, interactive learning
- Practical strategies and ready-to-use resources
- Knowledgeable and engaging presenters
- Relevant technology, AI, and Canva applications
- Content that supported both professional and personal growth

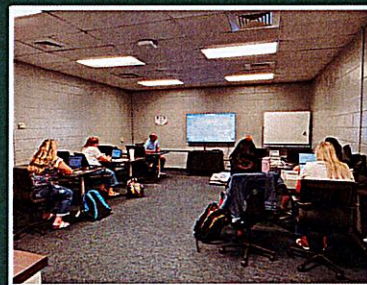
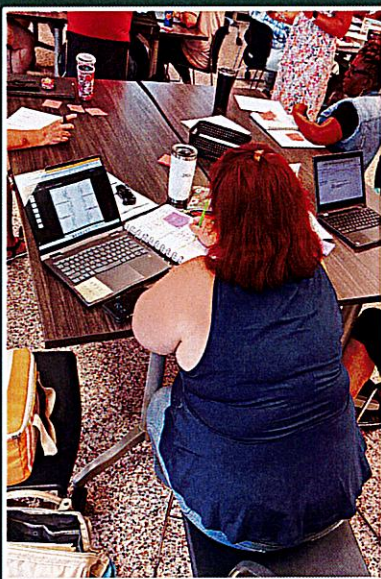
Future Considerations

- Offer more advanced or follow-up sessions
- Provide additional grade- and content-specific options
- Expand access to high-demand sessions

Future Professional Development

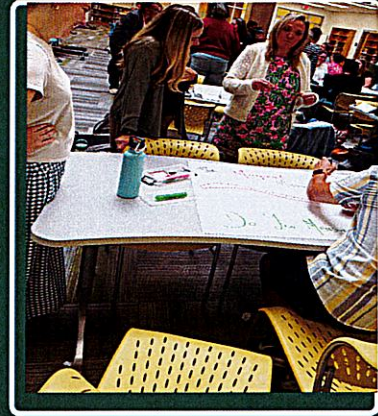
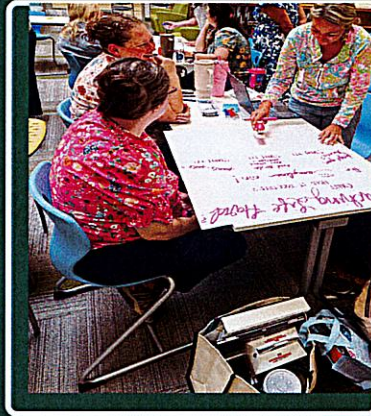
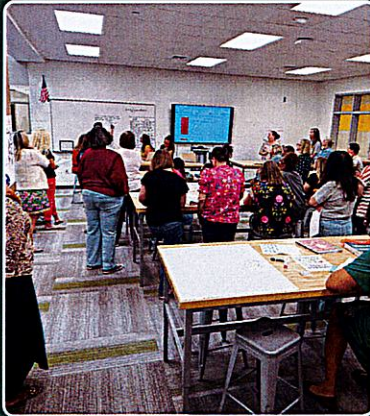
- AI, Canva, Google tools, and classroom technology
- Classroom management and student engagement
- Grade-level and subject-specific instruction
- Financial literacy, retirement, and employee benefits

Teaching and Learning: Summer Series



Instructional Coaches & ATR

Professional Development



Jump Start to Coaching

- ▶ High Performing Teachers and Coaches Panel Discussion
 - ▶ Highest Performing Coaches and Reach Teachers discussed techniques that supported high growth and proficiency at their school
- ▶ Data Driven Instruction
 - ▶ Deep Dive into school data to identify areas of celebrations, growth, and goal setting for upcoming school year
 - ▶ Weekly Data Meeting overview and role play
- ▶ Instructional Planning
 - ▶ Deep Dive into Curriculum resources and new curriculum website
 - ▶ Role Play PLC meeting and pre-work expectations for teachers
 - ▶ Deep dive into Unit 1 to support teacher development

TIPS (New Teachers) Feedback

TIPS: Welcome to Gaston Agenda



Day 1: Build Your Game Plan

- Welcome and Warm-up
- Professionalism
- State Goals and Board Policies
- Human Resources Overview
- Lesson Planning
- Understanding Standards and Curriculum Resources
- State Beginning Teacher Information
- Calendar and Closing

Day 2: Power Up Your Practice

- Welcome and Warm-up
- Operations Overview
- Classroom Management: Building Connections
- Classroom Management: Procedures and Routines
- Classroom Management: Classroom Monitoring
- Classroom Management: Student Work Requirements
- Classroom Management: Rules and Consequences
- Active Student Engagement within Lesson Planning
- Classroom Management: Law of Least Intervention
- Exceptional Children Overview
- Closing and Reflection

Day 3: Press Start

- Breakfast and Welcome
- Understanding NCEES: Creating PDP Goals
- Tech Ready Classrooms
- Student Support Services
- Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child
- Model Classroom Visits
 - Sherwood Elementary School, 1744 Dixon Rd, Gastonia, NC 28054
 - Cramerton Middle School, 601 Cramer Mountain Rd, Cramerton, NC 28032
 - South Point High School, 906 S Point Rd, Belmont, NC 28012
- First Day Classroom Strategies
- Open House Preparation
- Final Reflection and Closing

The three-day experience is aligned with the North Carolina Professional Teaching Standards and focuses on leadership, respectful learning environments, content knowledge, facilitating learning, and reflective practice.

Focused on planning, engagement, assessment, and classroom management

What Worked Well

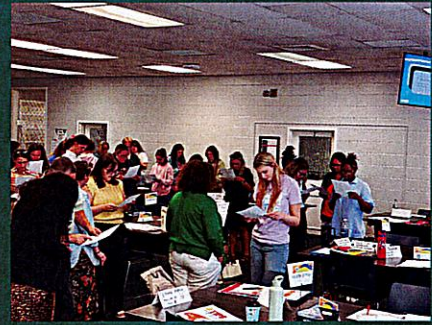
- Interactive and engaging activities
- Collaboration and breakout sessions
- Clear, organized presentation
- Effective pacing, movement, and breaks
- Helpful resources and materials

Future Considerations

- Increase curriculum discussions
- Include more support for related arts, Pre-K, CTE, ESL, and EC teachers

Future Professional Development

- EC, IEP, 504, inclusion, and co-teaching
- Grade-level and content-specific strategies
- Classroom management and student behavior



THIS YEAR'S PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT LINEUP



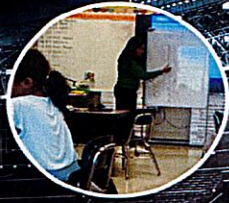
**DO NOWS &
EXIT TICKETS**



**ACADEMIC
MONITORING**



**ACTIVATE
KNOWLEDGE**



**THINK
ALOUDS**



**FINAL PLAY:
COMING SOON**

District Mandated Professional Development Days: September 16, October 28, February 10 and April 14

Contracts:

Exceptional Children: [Contracts for 2026 - 2027.docx](#)

Recommendation

**Motion to recommend contracts for approval
at the August Board of Education meeting**

2026-2027 Classroom Moments

Month	Classroom Moment Focus
September 2026	Innovation Schools Academic Performance Highlights
October 2026	Instructional Strategy: Do Nows and Exit Tickets
November 2026	Instructional Strategy: Academic Monitoring
December 2026	Webb Street Student Holiday Performance
February 2027	Instructional Strategy: Activate Knowledge
March 2027	Instructional Strategy: Think Alouds
April 2027	CTE Highlights
May 2027	Academic Enrichment Highlights
June 2027	Graduation and Summer Opportunities

Other Business and Discussion

Finance Updates

Dr. Bryan Denton
Interim Chief Financial Officer

State Budget Update

- The state legislature passed a comprehensive budget on July 2, 2026.
- The governor signed the budget into law on July 7, 2026.

Pay Increases & Bonuses

- **Teachers & Instructional Support Personnel**
 - Average 8% raise
 - \$48,000 starting base pay for teachers; \$59,000 base pay for teachers with 25+ years of experience.
 - Provides a one-time \$500 bonus for those with 0-15 years of experience and \$1,000 for those with 16+ years of experience.
- **Assistant Principals**
 - Salary increases tied to the teacher pay schedule, plus a one-time \$500 bonus for those with 0-15 years of experience and \$1,000 for those with 16+ years of experience.

Pay Increases & Bonuses

- **Other School Employees**
 - 3% raise for state employees, principals, central office employees, and non-certified staff.
 - Provides a one-time \$1,750 bonus for employees earning \$65,000 or less, and a \$1,000 bonus for employees earning more than \$65,000.
 - The state specifically funded these bonuses for custodians and School Nutrition staff.
- **Pay Increases & Bonuses - Timeline**
 - Salary increases should be reflected in the August 2026 paycheck
 - Retroactive pay for July 2026 for affected employees should be reflected in the August 2026 paycheck
 - Bonuses should be reflected in the October 2026 paycheck; this will likely be on the second bi-weekly paycheck for employees paid on that schedule.

Local Budget Update

- Our original budget request to the County Commissioners was \$60.4 million in local operating funds and \$4 million in local annual capital funds.
- The County Commissioners initially approved \$54 million in operating funds and stated their intent to engage school district leaders in further discussion about financial needs.

Local Budget Update

- On July 14, the commissioners approved an additional \$5 million in local funds for the operation of Gaston County Schools, bringing the local funding total for 2026-2027 to \$59 million. The county also provided \$1.2 million for annual capital funds.
- Of the additional \$5 million approved for Gaston County Schools, approximately 12 percent of it (or \$600,000) must be sent to charter schools, per state law.

Local Budget Update

- Of the remaining approximately \$4.4 million, the following allocations will be made:
 - **\$2,100,000** will be used to increase the local teacher and other certified employee supplement – this increases the average supplement for Gaston County Schools and gets us a closer to the state average and our neighboring districts.
 - **\$1,280,000** will be used to cover the state-mandated increases in health insurance premiums and retirement contributions for employees.
 - **\$800,000** will be used to ensure employees paid with local funds will receive a pay increase that is in line with state-approved raises for employees.
 - **\$220,000** will be used for the operation of W.B. Beam Intermediate School in Cherryville for the 2026-2027 year.

Hiring & Budget Limits

- As of July 22, 53 vacant positions, as identified by school principals, will not be filled at this time. This includes:
 - 27 classroom teacher positions
 - 14 regular education teacher assistant positions
 - 8 custodian positions
 - 2 school media specialist/librarian positions
 - 1 school counselor position
 - 1 school clerical position
- Hiring at the central department level is strictly limited to positions that are deemed critical to school system operations.
- Additionally, 11 positions in Facilities/Maintenance are vacant and have not been advertised for hiring.
- Central department supervisors/directors have been advised to anticipate a 10 percent decrease in department budgets for 2026-2027.



Thank you

Next Meeting: September 14 @ 3:00
in the Boardroom