



September 25, 2026

Dear Guilford County Families and Community Members,

A new record-high graduation rate and across-the-board increases in proficiency highlight Guilford County Schools' (GCS) accountability results for the 2025-26 school year. The Class of 2026 had a graduation rate of 93 percent, the district's highest ever, and an increase of nearly a full percentage point from 2025's rate of 92.1 percent.

Other highlights include:

- The districtwide average on end-of-grade and end-of-course assessments increased by 3.9 percentage points, and 86 schools showed increased performance or stayed above 95% proficient.
- Of the 19 tested subjects, grade-level proficiency increased in 17 subjects, with the largest increases in biology, high school Math 1, third-grade reading, English II and eighth-grade science.
- School performance grades improved, with 27 schools improving by at least one letter grade. The district also had the lowest number of low-performing schools in more than a decade, and more schools receiving B or C grades.
- Sixty-nine percent of schools met or exceeded growth, based on how much progress students are expected to make during the course of the year.

These results are worth celebrating, and I want to honor the hard work of our educators and leaders to ensure that our students are on track to thrive after high school. School performance grades and test results provide important information, but no single measure captures the full student experience or the strengths and opportunities within a school. Regardless of a school's letter grade, every student deserves the support and opportunities needed to succeed.

That commitment is reflected in the Guilford Guarantee, our promise that every student can graduate with a plan for the future and access to college credit, industry credentials and workplace learning. To learn more, visit www.gcsnc.com/guarantee.

Sincerely,

Whitney Oakley, Ed.D.
Superintendent