



Frequently Asked Questions 2008-09 GCS Proposed Budget Request

Q: Why does the GCS budget request show an increase of 9.57 percent over last year?

A: State legislators mandate salary increases for all employees. This budget request anticipates those legislated salary increases, as well as changes in benefit and retirement coverage. In 2007-08, salaries and benefits accounted for 79 percent of the operating budget. In addition to anticipating salary increases, the district has budgeted for increased energy and fuel prices in 2008-09. Another contributing factor to the budget increase is the anticipated addition of 1,294 students in 2008-09. The cost per student is approximately \$2,276.54. Therefore, the district needs nearly \$3 million to cover the educational needs of these additional students.

Q: Where does the district's funding come from?

A: A majority of the funding comes from the state. The 2008-09 budget totals \$650,571,595. Of that, \$199,303,354 has been requested from the Guilford County Commissioners.

Q: Why should individuals support this budget?

A: No community can remain competitive unless it maintains a first-rate school district. Guilford County is steadily evolving into an attractive Mecca for business interests, which are bringing with them thousands of jobs. The school system is a huge part of this attraction.

Q: How does the Lottery for Education factor into this?

A: Very little of the revenue from the lottery actually makes it into the schools. Unfortunately, later this year, even less will be distributed for education. Only 29 percent, down from 35 percent, of the revenue created from the lottery will go to schools. Of those dollars, roughly 50 percent goes to reduce class-size statewide. In the end, less than 14 percent of the total revenue is distributed for school construction costs across the state.

Q: What is the goal of the GCS budget?

A: The goal of the budget request is to allow GCS to continue focusing on student achievement, closing the achievement gap, reducing the dropout rate and increasing the graduation rate. As such, the budget adds 32 additional art, music and physical education specialists. The budget request also incorporates costs needed to implement recommendations made by the School Climate Task Force to improve student achievement, morale, teacher retention and overall school culture.

Q: What if the County Commissioners don't approve the entire budget?

A: GCS is becoming an academic powerhouse. Test scores are up, dropout rates have plummeted and graduation rates continue to soar. Cutting programs and key personnel such as teachers and staff will derail the district's hard-earned progress.

Q: How can I show my support for this budget?

A: Write your County Commissioner at:

P.O. Box 3427

Greensboro, NC 27401

Or just call 641-3351 to demand that your commissioner vote to fully fund the GSC budget.

You can find out the name of your county commissioner, the date of the next county commission meeting and other information by visiting www.co.guilford.nc.us/commissioners.

Remember: an investment in public education is an investment in the community.