Superintendent’s Message

When our students envision the world they want to live in, they look to us to make it possible.

During my tenure with Guilford County Schools (GCS), I’ve listened to many students talk about their hopes and dreams. As I do, I’m always left with a clear and powerful thought.

Our young people have the ability to make great things happen for our community and our world — but they need us to help clear the way.

As we reflect on the last year, we must remind ourselves of what we have here in Guilford County:

- More than 68,000 students and families
- Nearly 10,000 faculty and staff members
- 126 schools
- 120 languages
- Families live in rural areas, suburban neighborhoods, and within our cities
- Advanced learners, exceptional children, first-generation and next-generation college students, and others are driven to head straight into a rewarding career or service in one of our fine branches of the military

No matter their next steps, our students have our guidance and care.

I wholeheartedly believe that our students rise to the expectations we set for them. They are our present and our future — talented and filled with promise. It is our job to unlock their potential. While this work is a long game requiring patience and fortitude, we’ve seen notable achievements along the way, and for those of us working directly in the schools, we see them every day. The accomplishments and improvements made across the district are the results of years of hard work by all staff and the community.

Moving on from Guilford County Schools is bittersweet. I feel deeply connected to and thankful for our school community — so proud of the progress we’ve made and enthusiastic about the future of this outstanding district. I know, at our core, we are the kind of community that wants to put in the hard work, is willing to seek connections, and advocate for the needs of all of our students, across every zip code, every socioeconomic level and every demographic.

I also want to remind each of us that our students are watching and we have an obligation to not only prepare them for the future but to ensure we model the type of service above self that enhances our lives individually and contributes to the overall well-being of the community.

The future our students hope for is one in which they can succeed while also lifting one another up. They want a world with improved collaboration and communication, greater problem solving and innovation. The achievements included in this annual report — and those that GCS will make possible in the coming years — are dedicated to our students and to our shared promise of preparing them for the world they want to live in.

For all children,

Sharon L. Conrreras, Ph.D.
Superintendent, Guilford County Schools

Since taking on the role of superintendent in 2016, I have been singularly focused on one goal: to improve life outcomes for every single student.

All of this energy and beauty, this challenge and opportunity, this potential — all of it is wrapped up in one county, with families and perspectives as diverse as the student body we so fervently serve.

I am grateful to every staff person, school leader, student, board member and community member who has worked to elevate what we’re able to offer our students and families.
Fulfilling Our Promise

The initial strategic plan implemented under the leadership of Superintendent Contreras was entitled Ignite Learning. GCS has fulfilled that promise in partnership with talented, dedicated staff and the community through partnerships, community action and funding. The Guilford County community stepped up to show we are all committed to creating a better future for our students.

While we have fulfilled our promise to Ignite Learning, we are not finished. Sustained movement will occur as a result of ongoing commitments to our students, our people (staff), our schools, and ultimately our future. The following presents several accomplishments related to these commitments and we hope will inspire each of us to maintain our vigilant efforts to prepare our students for a world they deserve and want to live in.

Committed to our Students

Commitment to our students means providing EVERY student with access to great instruction and rigorous experiences that challenge them while simultaneously providing the support needed in a safe and healthy environment.

To do that we focused on intensive tutoring to accelerate learning through a pandemic, closing the digital divide by equipping our students with devices and our community with the infrastructure needed, providing access to learning outside of typical school hours by creating learning hubs, and providing experiences that connect classroom learning to real-world application through our unique Shift-ed and Career and Technical Education programs. We are also committed to the health of our students and piloted one-of-a-kind telehealth clinics in our schools.

Intensive Tutoring Program

421 TUTORS
5,251 STUDENTS
66,944.6 STUDENT HOURS
109,176 STUDENT SESSIONS

Learning Hubs

5,901 STUDENTS signed up to accelerate learning outside school hours with certified teachers
$800K GRANT from the Walton Family and the Michael & Susan Dell Foundations

Closing the Digital Divide

79K+ DEVICES purchased and distributed to students and instructional staff
124 “SMART” BUSES deployed to apartment complexes, mobile home parks, and communities lacking broadband
2,411 MiFi HOTSPOTS provided to students

offered broadband internet in community centers and some municipal buildings
Say Yes Guilford (Shift-ed) and Career and Technical Education (CTE)

**FALL 2021** – 7th and 8th graders took YouScience Discovery assessment

**WINTER 2022** – Students explored careers in Mobile Innovation Lab

**SPRING 2022** – 8th graders “pitched” their entrepreneurial product, service, or good in a “Shark Tank-like” competition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>CREDENTIALS awarded</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020-21SY</td>
<td>2,966</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021-22SY</td>
<td>7,118</td>
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</tbody>
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**140%** increase in awarded credentials from the previous year

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**Telehealth Clinics in Schools**

*Pilot Program at Bessemer Elementary*

**VIRTUAL DOCTOR VISITS**
for students and parents
(at Bessemer Elementary)

- **300 PATIENTS** seen since the clinic opened
- **240 STUDENTS** seen at clinic returned to school on the same day

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**PARTNERS & SPONSORS**

- **CONE HEALTH.** Health Partner
- **James B. Duke**
  *THE DUKE ENDOWMENT*
  Grant Support

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www.gcsnc.com | Preparing Our Students for the World They Want to Live in | 3
Student Learning Gains

Our commitments have produced unprecedented results for our students. Preliminary state accountability data show students and schools saw learning gains compared to 2020-21. Some schools had preliminary 2021-22 performance composites that were at or above pre-COVID levels (2018-2019).

Awards

#1 in NC Rankings
#2 in NC Rankings
#5 in NC Rankings
#8 in NC Rankings

Guilford County schools earn top two spots, four of top 10 in U.S. News' ranking of NC high schools

Guilford County schools earned the top two spots in U.S. News & World Report's 2022 rankings of North Carolina high schools and four of the top 10.

The Early College at Guilford held onto the No. 1 spot in North Carolina for the fourth straight year, and The Early College at North Carolina A&T moved up to the No. 2 spot after coming in third last year.

Philip J. Weaver Ed Center came in at No. 5 in the N.C. rankings, giving Greensboro schools three of the top five spots.

Penn-Griffin Schools in High Point ranked eighth.

All four public schools are part of the Guilford County School System.
Outstanding Students

21 STUDENTS were 2020-2021 National Merit Scholarship program finalists

40 STUDENTS selected for 2022 Governor’s School of North Carolina*

2.1M STUDENT SERVICE LEARNING HOURS, more than $51 million in economic impact

91.5% GRADUATION RATE 2021

$166,440,587 scholarships and grants awarded to the Class of 2022

*the nation’s oldest statewide summer residential program for academically gifted students
Committed to Our People

Our commitment to our people is highlighted by the improvements to competitive compensation and the timely professional learning our staff deserves. Guilford County Schools prides itself on recruiting and retaining excellent staff from teachers to principals, central office employees, bus drivers, paraprofessionals, cafeteria workers and custodians.

GCS educators demonstrate leadership in the classroom, preparing students to succeed in higher education, or in the career of their choice. Educators also compassionately and generously model character and service as we focus on educating the whole child through exciting, engaging and challenging educational offerings.

Outstanding Educators

763 National Board Certified Teachers

#9 ranking in the United States

2022 AASA Women in School Leadership Award
Superintendent Dr. Sharon L. Contreras received the Superintendent Award as part of the AASA’s 2022 Women in School Leadership Award.

Burroughs Wellcome Fund North Carolina Teacher of the Year
GCS Teacher of the Year Leah Carper received the 2022 award.

Regional Finalist for Principal of the Year
GCS Principal of the Year KaTrinka Brown recognized in the top levels of the Piedmont-Triad Region.

Milken Educator Award
GCS Teacher Justin Scarbro received the 2022 award. Also know as the “Oscars of teaching.”
Competitive Compensation

**PAY INCREASES FOR ALL STAFF**
for the 2021-2022 and 2022-2023 school years
GCS has advocated for and been instrumental in the adoption of state budgets with pay raises.

**INCREASED SUPPLEMENTS**
$10M TEACHERS
$2M PRINCIPALS
$1.2M ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS

**SIGNING BONUSES**
for new teachers in hard-to-fill positions such as math, science, exceptional children, and career and technical education (CTE) positions.

**INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP**
with the University of NC at Greensboro to TRAIN 42 INDIVIDUALS to teach secondary math in GCS.

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Diversifying, expanding the assistant principalship key to repairing leadership pipelines
Despite impacts on culture and outcomes, those in the role continue to face barriers, experts said during a session at AASA’s national conference.

**Mental Health Toolkit**
Designed as a resource for school mental health support for students.

**Trauma Informed Care Training**
Introduced the concepts and implementation of trauma informed care in schools.

**Suicide Intervention staff Training**
Taught participants how to help those who are suicidal.

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Professional Learning

**Targeted Support for Struggling Students**
MTSS staff training helped participants learn effective strategies to support struggling learners.

**Ending the Silence Training**
Helped educators learn how to recognize the signs and symptoms of mental health conditions.

**Mental Health Toolkit**
Designed as a resource for school mental health support for students.

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**Youth Mental Health First Aid Training**
Provided skills to identify, understand and respond to the signs of mental illness and substance use disorders in youth.

**Student Drug and Alcohol Abuse Training**
Helped educators understand their role in and response to substance abuse issues involving students.

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**Schools Try Bonuses, Stipends to Attract & Keep Teachers in a Tight Labor Market**
Innovative compensation strategies for educators go against the grain — but some districts are showing they can be nimble when they need to be

By Chad Aldeman & Katherine Silberstein | July 26, 2022

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**Sexual Assault Training**
Guilford County Schools is leading the state in taking a proactive approach to prevent sexual assault and protect children who may be abused.
The district is partnering with the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault on a series of training for all teachers, administrators and instructional support staff.
Committed to Our Schools

Commitment to our students means providing EVERY student with access to great instruction and rigorous experiences that challenge them while simultaneously providing the support needed in a safe and healthy environment.

To do that we focused on intensive tutoring to accelerate learning through a pandemic, closing the digital divide by equipping our students with devices and our community with the infrastructure needed, providing access to learning outside of typical school hours by creating learning hubs, and providing experiences that connect classroom learning to real-world application through our unique Shift-ed and Career and Technical Education programs. We are also committed to the health of our students and piloted one-of-a-kind telehealth clinics in our schools.

Outstanding Schools

48 MAGNET/CHOICE SCHOOLS with 66 programs

258 CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION (CTE) courses offered in 49 schools including artificial intelligence, nursing, drone supply chain and logistics, advanced manufacturing, culinary arts, aviation, and engineering, among others.

Early College at Guilford #1 IN NORTH CAROLINA for third year in a row and jumped up 11 spots to 20th best school in the country. Ranked the second-best STEM high school in the nation.

19 STATE SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER since 2014

13 NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER

2 NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED visual and performing-arts high schools

School Construction Bonds

After passing the $300 million school construction bond in 2020, Guilford County voters said YES to a $1.7 billion school bond, the largest in North Carolina history, as an investment in the future of our children and our county.

Economic Impact
According to a 2020 study by North Carolina State University, a bond investment can have the following potential impacts:

23K LOCAL JOBS in Guilford County

$1B SAVINGS in public safety and health care

$100M+ INCREASE in local property values
Committed to our Future

During the Groundbreaking Ceremony at Kiser Middle School, Principal Edward “Teddy” Wohlgemuth said, “I can’t wait to provide the students of this community the best possible environment to learn and the teachers the best possible place to work for many generations to come.” Guilford County Schools students, staff and the voters of Guilford County began to see the fulfillment of the vision of Superintendent Dr. Sharon Contreras with six groundbreaking events for new schools on August 22 and 23, 2022. Witnesses to the historic event were students, staff, alumni, community members and elected officials.

Dr. Contreras galvanized the community and elected officials through her leadership to make improving school facilities a top priority. She shined the light on the disrepair of schools, creating the Joint Capital/Facilities Committee, including members of the Guilford County Board of Commissioners and the Guilford County Board of Education. Jointly, and with the support of the Guilford County community, who overwhelmingly voted yes to a $1.7 billion bond referendum on the ballot in 2022, coupled with the $300 million bond referendum approved by voters in 2020, six new schools will open in the fall of 2024. These schools are an investment in the future of Guilford County, creating the next chapter for students, staff and the community for decades to come.

New Facilities

Six Unique, Innovative and State of the Art Learning Opportunities for Students to dare to dream of a bright future.

- Kiser Middle School
- Claxton Elementary School
- Brooks Global Studies
- Foust Robotics & Gaming Magnet School
- Peck K-8 Expeditionary Learning School
- Visual and Performing Arts Elementary School
### Budget

#### Where the Money Comes From (2021-22)

- **State Funds** – $440,083,648
- **Local (County) Funds** – $233,741,181
- **Federal Funds** – $371,678,426
- **School Food Services** – $40,341,500
- **ACES** – $5,569,942
- **Local Special Revenue** – $8,612,708
- **Capital Outlay** – $4,000,000

#### How the Money is Used* (2021-22)

- **Salaries and Benefits** – $707,531,493
- **Purchased Services** – $143,564,930
- **Supplies & Materials** – $97,777,424
- **Equipment** – $5,569,942
- **Transfers** – $26,652,996

*Local, State and Federal funds only

### Guilford County Board of Education Members, Districts, and Contact Information

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