

# GCS Information Ambassador Newsletter



January 27, 2023

GCS Choice Showcase  
Wednesday, February 1, 2023



**GCSChoice**  
Schools + Programs

**GCS**  
**CHOICE**  
**SHOWCASE**

Back in  
Person!



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for more info!

Wednesday, February 1, 2023  
5:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

In Guilford County Schools, the choice is yours. See all your school options at the GCS Choice Showcase, where more than 60 innovative programs will be on display.



Greensboro Coliseum  
Special Events Center  
1921 West Gate City Boulevard  
Greensboro

Explore, then apply! The application window is open from Jan. 13 to Feb. 20, 2023.  
Learn more at <https://www.gcsnc.com/choiceschoolsandprograms>.



## GCS Choice Showcase

Tuesday 1st 2023

5:30 am - 8 pm

Greensboro Coliseum

Special Events Center

[Click here to learn more and apply!](#)

### **\$2.2 Million Grant Will Support Expansion of Learning Hubs**

Guilford County Schools (GCS) will expand its [nationally recognized](#) high school learning hubs program into district middle schools, thanks to \$2.2 million in grant funding secured by Rep. Kathy Manning (NC-06) for the GCS Middle School Learning Hubs Expansion Project.

GCS launched learning hubs at all 15 comprehensive high schools in the winter of 2021. The hubs create small environments where students can extend learning beyond the traditional day and receive other support. GCS has seen early success on the impact learning hubs have had on students. For example, in high school, students who attended learning hubs during the 2021-2022 school year had a six-percentage point higher graduation rate than those who did not.

“This funding will provide younger students more opportunities to accelerate learning and will help prioritize academic recovery following two years of interrupted instruction,” said Superintendent Dr. Whitney Oakley. “In conjunction with high-dosage tutoring, these strategies are making a difference for our students, and we are grateful to Representative Manning for being a champion for public education and her ongoing support for our students.”

The \$2.2 million grant will fund comprehensive services, including access to academic recovery programs, mental health supports, transportation, materials and meals. The funding will also support meetings for students and families to learn about college planning, test-taking strategies, high school success, college-ready course selection and opportunities to participate in choice and Career and Technical Education (CTE) specialized learning pathways.

Manning was instrumental in advocating on behalf of the district and other community organizations to secure funds in the \$1.7 billion bipartisan omnibus bill signed into law on Dec. 29, 2022. In March 2022, [Manning secured \\$2 million](#) in federal funds to support the district’s high-dosage tutoring efforts. During the 2022-2023 school year, GCS has already provided over 100,000 high-dosage tutoring sessions.

## District Receives \$14.8 Million to Expand Mental Health Student Services

A federal grant worth \$14.8 million will allow Guilford County Schools (GCS) to expand its on-demand mental health resources for students. The [2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey \(YRBS\)](#) data released last month shows alarming mental health trends among students in North Carolina.

“Through our Community Conversations, we’ve spoken a great deal about the need for increased mental health services for both students and staff, and recent tragedies in our community underscore how urgent that need truly is,” says Superintendent Dr. Whitney Oakley. “This funding will allow us to further address the mental health needs and strengthen the resources in our schools to support students and staff.”

The School-Based Mental Health Services grant from the U.S. Department of Education will help expand on-demand mental health services at 61 schools across the district and will provide funding for 16 new full-time mental health clinician positions over the next five years. The school-based clinicians may be trained in counseling, psychology or social work, and will help improve the ratios of counselors, psychologists and social workers serving students.

The district will also partner with local universities to recruit a diverse pool of graduate students to serve in assistantships and fellowships that build their skills and experience in providing school-based mental health services, creating a talent pool of qualified candidates to fill district positions.

Last October, using federal relief dollars, GCS launched mental health services at 46 schools to provide on-demand school-based mental health services to students with parental consent. Nearly 1,000 students signed up within the first month. The district expanded those services to 40 additional schools last month and made services available to all staff.

The School-Based Mental Health Services grant requires federal and district project investments. The federal government will provide 75 percent of project funding, and the district will provide a 25 percent match. The Department of Education will provide \$14,835,019 over five years, and GCS will provide \$3,708,755, bringing the total investment in school-based mental health services for students to \$18,543,744.

## Jones Elementary Becomes First Global Teaching Partners Language Immersion Model School

Jones Elementary School will soon become an international model of language immersion education.

Global Teaching Partners, a nationally recognized exchange program, announced that Jones Elementary would be its first Global Language Immersion Model school. The school will become a hub for school districts and educators across the state to learn how to implement an immersion program successfully.

School administrators will guide Global Teaching Partners’ best practices for a full dual-language immersion program. Teachers and administrators will also offer training and shadowing opportunities for dual immersion teachers and new principals. Jones Elementary is one of the oldest language immersion schools in North Carolina. Students learn in both English and Spanish. The school’s history of success in this learning model made it Global Teaching Partners’ primary choice to launch its new venture.

“The benefits of dual language immersion are well documented and support native and non-native English speakers...,” Superintendent Dr. Whitney Oakley said. “By starting students in a second language at a young age, we are helping them improve their overall language skills, increase their cultural understanding and prepare them to compete in a global economy. This connection through Global Teaching Partners will continue to position Jones and Guilford County Schools as leaders in dual language programming.”

Guilford County Schools has a language immersion model in five schools: Jones

Elementary, Hunter Elementary, Kirkman Park Elementary, Allen Jay Elementary and Swann Middle. Parents can apply to enroll their child in Jones, Kirkman Park, Swann and other choice programs by clicking [here](#).

## Severe Weather Information Session

