

GCS Information Ambassador Newsletter



January 13, 2023

GCS Choice Application Window Opens Jan. 13

Beginning January 13, families can apply to enroll their student in a Guilford County Schools (GCS) Choice school.

At Guilford County Schools, we believe every single student, pre-K to high school, should have a choice and a voice in determining the kind of educational experience that's right for them. Because of this belief, GCS houses 47 Choice schools and 66 elementary, middle and high school programs that prepare students for future jobs. Programs focus on [various themes](#), such as performing arts, STEM, global logistics and supply chain management, agriculture science, global studies, language immersion and International Baccalaureate (IB).

GCS Choice Schools and Programs is a nationwide leader in providing innovative educational options for K-12 students and families. Schools and programs offer students the opportunity to learn the way they learn best and be mentored by passionate and knowledgeable teachers and staff. Each school and program's design are based on research, best practices, student and family input, and feedback from employers who help the district predict the kinds of professionals they will need.

"Every student deserves innovative educational choices that inspire and prepare them to create the world in which they want to live..." said Dr. Eboni Chillis, GCS Chief Innovation Officer. "Providing educational choices for all kinds of learners throughout the district gives each student a path that challenges appropriately and provides community."

Families can find information about Choice schools and programs and the application process [here](#). Applications will be posted online at gcsnc.schoolmint.net on January 13. The application window for Choice schools closes on February 20 at 5 p.m.

On Wednesday, February 1, families can learn more about each program at the annual GCS Choice Showcase. Current students and school representatives will be available to answer questions and demonstrate their work. GCS is offering the event in person for the first time since 2020. The GCS Choice Showcase is from 5:30 to 8 p.m. at the Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center.

GCS Superintendent Invites the Public to Better Together Meetings



You're Invited



Join Superintendent Whitney Oakley for a



BETTER TOGETHER
Community Conversation
Open to the Public

Wednesday, January 18, 2023 • 6:00-7:00 PM



Allen Jay Prep
1201 East Fairfield Road
High Point, NC



[Click here to RSVP or scan QR code](#)

During her first 100 days, Dr. Whitney Oakley met with more than 2,000 people during the Better Together community conversations. As we move into the new year, Dr. Oakley is offering two additional opportunities to hear from the community. Feedback from these conversations will help guide the strategic direction of the district so it is important to hear from more community members. We invite you to come and share your thoughts about the future of GCS.

www.gcsnc.com



You're Invited



Join Superintendent Whitney Oakley for a



BETTER TOGETHER
Community Conversation
Open to the Public

Tuesday, January 24, 2023 • 6:00-7:00 PM



Dudley High School
1200 Lincoln Street
Greensboro, NC



[Click here to RSVP or scan QR code](#)

During her first 100 days, Dr. Whitney Oakley met with more than 2,000 people during the Better Together community conversations. As we move into the new year, Dr. Oakley is offering two additional opportunities to hear from the community. Feedback from these conversations will help guide the strategic direction of the district so it is important to hear from more community members. We invite you to come and share your thoughts about the future of GCS.

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Please click here to RSVP!

Please click here to share with us your hopes and dreams for our graduates and our community!

GCS Seeks Feedback on Traditional Calendars

GCS invites parents and community members to weigh in on the proposed traditional academic calendars for the next three school years.

The calendars can be reviewed using the links below:

- [2023-24 Traditional Academic Calendar](#)
- [2024-25 Traditional Academic Calendar](#)
- [2025-26 Traditional Academic Calendar](#)

Each calendar link includes two proposed options designed to prioritize student instructional time to support learning recovery following the pandemic.

The options exceed the state requirement of 1,025 instructional hours and meet other state requirements. These requirements include but are not limited to:

- Start date no earlier than the Monday closest to August 26 and end date no later than the Friday closest to June 11 (not inclusive of inclement weather days);
- 185 days or 1,025 hours of instruction covering at least nine months;
- 215 contractual days per school year for teachers;
- 10 annual vacation leave days for teachers and school personnel, 11 state holidays (including Veteran's Day) and at least two optional workdays on which teachers may choose to take annual leave; and,
- No school on Sunday.

For each year, Option 1 includes 180 days and 1,080 hours of instruction, while Option 2 includes 1,074 instructional hours and 179 days of school in 2023-24 and 1,062 hours and 177 days in 2024-25 and 2025-26.

In each of the proposed options, the administration plans to maximize the use of the five remote learning days allowed for emergency purposes in state law and to waive any additional make-up days for students as long as the state's minimum hourly requirement for instructional hours is met.

The public may offer feedback for a 21-day period, through Jan. 31, 2023. To share feedback, email boardclerk@gcsnc.com and use the subject line Calendars. The public can also mail comments to Calendar Comments, ATTN: Office of the Superintendent, 712 N. Eugene Street, Greensboro, NC 27401.

Guilford Parent Academy will host three virtual engagement sessions about the calendars later this month, two in English and one in Spanish. English-language sessions will be held on Monday, Jan. 23, 5:30-6:30 p.m., and Thursday, Jan. 26, 12-1 p.m. A Spanish-language session will be held on Monday, Jan. 30, 5:30-6:30 p.m. More information and registration can be found on the GPA [Calendar of Events](#).

Policy Committee Moves Revised Policies Forward

The Guilford County Schools Board of Education Policy Committee voted at Tuesday's board meeting to send a revised school safety policy and board member conflict of interest policy out for a 30-day public comment period.

The revised School Safety [Policy 1510-4200-7270](#) includes updated language requiring middle and high school employees to receive training on operating the school's anonymous safety tip line. Additionally, the policy requires middle and high school students to be informed of the anonymous safety tip line and encourages students to use the tool to report anything that may be a risk to the school population.

The revised Board Member Conflict of Interest [Policy 2121](#) updates regulations on instances where School Board members must recuse themselves from votes, deliberations or the administration of contracts regarding organizations they have leadership roles in.

The public can mail comments to the GCS Central Office at 712 N. Eugene Street or email them to boardclerk@gcsnc.com. After comments for 30 days, the Board will then consider the policy at their March board meeting.

Facilities Naming Committee Moves Revised Names of two Facilities Forward

The Guilford County Schools Board of Education Facilities Naming Committee voted at Tuesday's board meeting to send nominations pertaining to the renaming of two district

facilities out for a 20-day public comment period.

The first nomination is to name the High Point Central High School baseball field the “Andrew T. Harper Memorial Field.” Harper taught social studies at Kearns Academy for seven years and served as the head baseball coach at High Point Central before his passing in 2021.

The second nomination is to rename The Kearns Academy at High Point Central “The Kearns Academy” as the school is no longer housed on the campus of High Point Central High School.

The public can mail comments to the GCS Central Office at 712 N. Eugene Street or email them to boardclerk@gcsnc.com. After comments for 20 days, the Board will then consider the policy at their February board meeting.

Board of Education Approves Revised Policies

The Guilford County Schools Board of Education voted at Tuesday’s meeting to approve a revised student attendance policy and a federal grant administration policy after a 30-day public comment period.

The revised Student Attendance [Policy 4400](#) includes updated language to reflect attendance requirements for virtual learning. The policy also contains updates for late arrivals, early departures, absences and make-up work.

The revised Federal Grant Administration [Policy 8305](#) outlines how the board intends to administer federal grant awards efficiently, effectively and in compliance with all requirements imposed by law, the awarding agency and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

