

GCS Information Ambassador Newsletter



March 17, 2023

Governor Cooper Visits Northern High, Emphasizes Budget Priorities



A day after announcing his proposed budget, Governor Roy Cooper visited Northern High to celebrate North Carolina Teacher of the Year Leah Carper and reiterate his plans to make historic investments in public education.

Cooper's [proposed budget](#) would raise North Carolina teacher pay to 16th in the nation (up from 32nd) and first in the Southeast, with a starting salary of at least \$46,000 per year plus local supplements. The budget also calls for a 9.5% pay increase for non-certified school personnel, including bus drivers, and would expand the Department of Motor Vehicle's capacity to train school bus drivers to address bus driver shortages.

"North Carolina has the best teachers in the country," said Governor Roy Cooper. "We must provide educators with the pay and respect they deserve so we can keep and attract more of them and my budget makes those critical investments."

The Governor's proposed budget aligns with Guilford County Schools' [legislative priorities](#), which call on elected officials to provide a substantial increase in pay for teachers and fair and competitive wages for classified staff.

Superintendent Dr. Whitney Oakley said, "I want to express my appreciation to Governor Roy Cooper for his commitment to supporting public education as he released his recommended budget yesterday that included historic investments in public education. Now, more than ever, our students need champions who continue to show up for them — not slowing down, not giving up, not losing hope, but pressing forward. The future of our students and our community depends on it."

During his visit to Northern High, Governor Cooper toured several classrooms with Oakley, Principal Louis Galiotti and Carper, who taught English at the school before being named the North Carolina Teacher of the Year in 2022. Cooper also experienced one of the district's learning hubs, which have been linked to higher graduation rates, higher attendance rates and are helping students recover academically from the impact of school closures during the pandemic.

GPA Family Resource & Career Fair Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m. Peeler Recreation Center

Spring is in the air, and Guilford Parent Academy (GPA) is celebrating by joining with community partners to help families get a fresh start.

The Spring into Action Family Resource and Career Fair is approaching. At the event, families can learn more about FREE resources available in the community for career guidance, continuing education, childcare options, health and wellness and much more.

Recruiters from Guilford County Schools and the City of Greensboro will be on-site with information about rewarding careers available for individuals of all backgrounds.

Chick-Fil-A lunch boxes will be provided for the first 300 guests on a first-come, first-served basis. There will also be vegetarian options available. Community organizations represented include GuilfordWorks, Guilford Technical Community College, Goodwill, StepUpGreensboro and more.

To learn more about this event or other GPA offerings, visit www.gcsnc.com, email parentacademy@gcsnc.com or call 336.279.4924.

Spring into Action Family Resource and Career Fair
Saturday, March 18, 10 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Peeler Recreation Center
1300 Sykes Ave., Greensboro NC 27405

Non-Traditional Calendar Options Now Open for Public Comment

Now that the traditional academic calendars for Guilford County Schools have been approved for the next three years, the district is asking families to weigh in on proposed calendars for the remaining schools, which include extended-year schools and early and middle colleges and academies. Beginning in 2023-24, Restart schools will follow the traditional academic calendar.

The proposed non-traditional calendars for 2023-24 can be reviewed using the links below:

- [2023-24 Extended Year Schools Calendar](#)
- [2023-24 Early and Middle Colleges and Academies Calendar](#)
- [2023-24 Early College at Guilford, Middle College at UNCG, Greensboro College Middle College Calendar](#)

Draft non-traditional calendars for 2024-25:

- [2024-25 Extended Year Schools Calendar](#)
- [2024-25 Early and Middle Colleges and Academies Calendar](#)
- [2024-25 Early College at Guilford, Middle College at UNCG, Greensboro College Middle College Calendar](#)

Draft non-traditional calendars for 2025-26:

- [2025-26 Extended Year Schools Calendar](#)
- [2025-26 Early and Middle Colleges and Academies Calendar](#)
- [2025-26 Early College at Guilford, Middle College at UNCG, Greensboro College Middle College Calendar](#)

The public may offer feedback for a 10-day period through March 24, 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.

Greensboro College, Guilford College, and UNC-Greensboro have not yet published academic calendars for 2024-25 and 2025-26, so the designated March spring break is tentative, and district leaders will bring revised calendars to the board if necessary to align with the higher education partners' calendars once available.

Board of Education Approves Policies as Policy Committee Moves Revised Policies Forward

The Guilford County Schools Board of Education voted to approve five revised policies relating to school safety, school admission, student transportation, board member conflict of interests and energy and natural resource conservation and management at Tuesday's board meeting.

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. The policy also 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 in which they have leadership roles.

The revised School Admission [Policy 4120](#) updates the language regarding requirements for admission into and matriculation through the school district to reflect state law.

The Revised Student Transportation [Policy 6300](#) replaces the previous transportation policy. It outlines eligibility, expectations of students and protocols for transportation services.

Additionally, the Board of Education's Policy Committee voted to send the following policies out for a 30-day public comment period:

- The revised Confidential Information policy [2125/7315](#) updates the handling and dissemination of student and staff personally identifiable information to reflect best practices recommended by NCDPI.
- The revised Equal Educational Opportunities [Policy 4001](#) updates the language of the policy surrounding discrimination, harassment and bullying as well its administrative regulation.
- The revised Children of Military Families [Policy 4050](#) and Age Requirements for Initial Entry [Policy 4100](#) updates language to support the transition and enrollment of military children in accordance with the Interstate Compact on Educational Opportunity for Military Children. Policy 4050 also defines what is considered a military family.
- The revised Discretionary Interdistrict Admission [Policy 4130](#) updates the language surrounding qualifications for enrollment of potential students who do not live in Guilford County. The revised policy also outlines the timeline of a decision on admission from the Superintendent or the Board of Education.
- The revised Student Insurance [Policy 4220](#) updates language in a previously established accident insurance policy. The updated language outlines payment responsibility for insurance premiums. The proposed policy update also establishes responsibility for the Board of Education to purchase catastrophic insurance to cover students and school system employees while they are participating in or responsible for supervising high school athletic activities.

The public can mail comments to the GCS Central Office at 712 N. Eugene Street or email them to boardclerk@gcsnc.com. After taking comments for 30 days, which ends on April 13, the Board will consider the policies at their next board meeting.

GCS Students Named Finalists in Cheerwine Design Competition

Two students from GCS have been named as finalists for the Cheerwine Festival t-shirt design contest. They, along with eight other students, made the list out of more than 100 submissions. Please support our GCS scholars and vote!



**Abigail Ludwig (12th grade),
Grimsley High School**



**Taylor Claassen (10th grade),
Northern Guilford High School**

Vote Now Through March 27, 2023

Guilford Parent Academy: Introduction to Special Education

Children with known or suspected disabilities have unique educational needs that need extra support and services through Individualized Education Program (IEP). [Click here to Register](#) and learn more about IEP and how to advocate for your child at school.

