



Dear GCS Family,

As your superintendent, neighbor and fellow American, I want to assure you that all students and families, regardless of nationality, immigration status, race, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, religion, creed, political belief, socioeconomic status or any other characteristic that makes them who they are, are welcome in Guilford County Schools.

Bullying and harassment is not and will not be tolerated in our schools, and I encourage any student to report any issues they may be facing to school staff. Our district offers bullying prevention tips on our website, and anyone suffering from or witnessing bullying, harassment or discrimination in school is encouraged to file a report. ([click here](#))

Our purpose as a school district is to help all children realize their potential and accomplish incredible things. We work to provide a safe and caring space for every student because we know that experiencing diversity will help all students succeed in life.

GCS is made up of more than 73,000 Pre-K to 12 students, who speak 124 world languages and dialects, represent dozens of faith traditions and cultures, and who, through their differences, enrich our school communities every day.

We as educators are driven by one passion – to help prepare students for life and to help them reach their potential. That’s what the American dream is all about, regardless of how a student came to us. That is why I and more than 1,500 other education leaders joined [a petition requesting the continued protection from deportation for “DREAMers,”](#) that’s why GCS’ school board passed a [resolution](#) reaffirming its commitment to our students of all national origins, and that’s why school districts around the country are echoing this support for students.

When we look at children in their classrooms, what we see are future scientists, doctors, lawyers and teachers. We see children full of potential, and we cannot begin to imagine why anyone would want to deny them the promise of hope and a future.

To our students and families who are worried about their future – Please know that Guilford County Schools is on your side. We are here to support you and to help you soar to greatness.

In the interest of all children,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon L. Contreras".

Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D.

Superintendent