



GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

2018-19 BUDGET REQUEST

W. Jeffrey Booker
Superintendent

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GASTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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W. Jeffrey Booker
Superintendent

Vision

The vision of Gaston County Schools is to inspire success and a lifetime of learning.

Mission Statement

Through outstanding employees and community partners, Gaston County Schools provides innovative educational opportunities for all students in a safe and nurturing learning environment.

Our Goals

- Every student will graduate prepared for post-secondary opportunities.
- Every member of our diverse student population has the opportunity for individualized instruction.
- Every employee is capable and committed to the education of the whole child.
- Every school has up-to-date technology to support teaching and learning.
- Every student has the opportunity to learn in a safe school environment.

Board of Education



Kevin Collier
Chairman
Riverbend Township



Jeff Ramsey
Vice Chairman
At-Large Member



Dot Cherry
At-Large Member



Justin Davis
South Point Township



Lee Dedmon
Gastonia Township



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Brent Moore
Crowders Mtn. Township



Catherine Roberts
Dallas Township



Terry Usery
Cherryville Township

We Believe In

Diversity Innovation Collaboration
Excellence Safety

Gaston County Schools
943 Osceola Street
P.O. Box 1397
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Phone: 704-866-6100 GCS 21 Education Station
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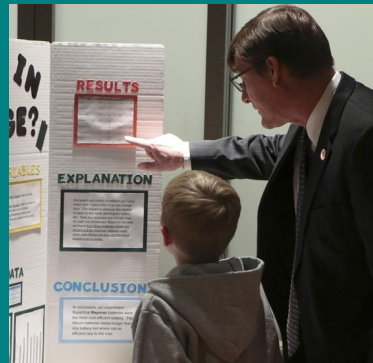
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OVERVIEW

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Gaston County Schools has this year's recipient of the coveted Milken Educator Award. Meghan LeFevers, assistant principal at Bessemer City High School, received the prestigious national honor during a school assembly program in December. The 2017 Milken Educator Award is presented by the Milken Family Foundation to recognize promising educational leaders. It comes with a \$25,000 prize. The award honors LeFevers for her diligent work with students with special needs and students who are considered 'at-risk.'

"I am surprised, overwhelmed, and very appreciative," said LeFevers, who accepted the award from State Superintendent Mark Johnson and Milken representative Jane Foley. Johnson was among a full slate of elected officials, dignitaries, and others who attended

the presentation, which was promoted as a visit from the State Superintendent to ensure that the award was kept a secret.

The Milken honor is the second significant recognition for LeFevers. In November, she was named the 2018 North Carolina Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year, an award presented by the North Carolina Principals and Assistant Principals' Association (NCPAPA).

"We have known it for some time, but now everyone knows that Meghan LeFevers is one of the best public school educators in our State and our country," stated Gaston County Superintendent Jeff Booker. "We are extremely proud of her, and we are grateful to the Milken Family Foundation for its commitment to honoring exemplary educators across our great nation."

Booker added, "The Milken Educator Award recognizes Ms. LeFevers' outstanding talent and contributions to

the education profession and her ability to motivate students, be an effective advocate for them, and bring about change that is beneficial. She is to be commended for her efforts to ensure that all students experience success regardless of the challenges they face."

LeFevers joined Gaston County Schools in 2007 and has served as an assistant principal at Bessemer City High School since 2014. Prior to becoming an assistant principal, she was a science, math, and social studies teacher at W.C. Friday Middle School and spent the

2013-2014 academic year completing a North Carolina Principal Fellows internship at Bessemer City High School.

A native of Cherryville, LeFevers graduated from Cherryville High School in 2003. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from Appalachian

State University in 2007 and a Master of School Administration from UNC-Charlotte in 2014. She completed her undergraduate and graduate coursework with 'summa cum laude' academic status and was inducted into the Kappa Delta Pi National Honor Society at Appalachian State. She also received the North Carolina Teaching Fellows scholarship.

The Milken Educator Awards program began in 1987, and it is often referred to as the "Oscars of Teaching." The program's goal is to reward, retain, and support the highest caliber professionals for the nation's schools. Nationally, more than 2,700 K-12 teachers, administrators, and other school personnel have been named Milken Educators, and they make up the Milken Educator Network, which provides expertise and serves as a valuable resource for educators, school boards, legislators, and others in determining the future of education.





AT A GLANCE

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NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

Total Number of Schools	55
Elementary Schools	29
Intermediate Schools	1
Middle Schools	11
High Schools	11
Special Needs School	1
Alternate School	1
Virtual School	1



ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION

White	58.1%
Black	22.2%
Hispanic	13.2%
Multiracial	4.7%
Asian, American Indian, Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	1.8%



CLASS OF 2017

Number of Graduates	2,321
Approximately 1,300 academic, athletic and merit scholarships offered, totaling \$45 million.	
Graduation rate	88.3%



TRANSPORTATION

Total Number of Students	
Transported Daily	16,700
Miles Traveled Daily	12,000
(that's 2½ trips to and from California)	
Yellow Buses	210
Activity Buses	45
Gallons of Fuel per week	15,000



ENROLLMENT

Total Number of Students	31,581
Grades K-5	14,583
Grades 6-8	7,056
Grades 9-12	9,703
Early College	239



ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Met or Exceeded Growth	84%
22 of our schools exceeded academic growth	
Gaston County Schools SAT Scores	1,053



SCHOOL NUTRITION

Breakfasts Served Daily	8,800
Breakfasts Served Annually	1.5 million
Lunches Served Daily	21,500
Lunches Served Annually	3.7 million
Students who receive meals at no cost or reduced price	65%



EMPLOYEES

Total Number of Employees (Part and Full Time)	3,998
Total Number of Teachers	1,950
Average Years of Experience for Teachers	13



May 7, 2018

**To: Gaston County Board of Commissioners
Gaston County Citizens**

The 2018-2019 Budget Request includes the sufficient local funds necessary to maintain essential instructional programs, operate safe schools, and provide the resources and personnel needed to operate at a level consistent with the policies of the State of North Carolina and the Gaston County Board of Education. The Budget Request also includes funds necessary to support the critical maintenance and capital replacement needs of our aging facilities.

The vision of Gaston County Schools is "to inspire success and a lifetime of learning." We are committed to providing full and equitable educational opportunities for all children in a safe and nurturing learning environment. We believe this is what the citizens of Gaston County expect us to do. This Budget Request provides needed funding to support the vision, mission statement and goals of Gaston County Schools.

We have many reasons to celebrate Gaston County Schools. Our students continue to garner praise and honors in academics, athletics, the fine arts, extracurricular activities, and other areas. The state, regional, and national recognition that our students and employees receive is a reflection of their hard work, creativity, and commitment to excellence. Listed below are a few of our most significant achievements:

- Bobbie Cavnar, an English teacher at South Point High School, received the NEA Foundation's National Award for Teaching Excellence. The award recognizes Mr. Cavnar as the NEA Foundation's top teacher in the United States for 2018-2019.
- Meghan LeFevers, an assistant principal at Bessemer City High School, received the 2017-2018 Milken Educator Award for North Carolina. The national awards program honors one educator in each state who has made significant contributions to the profession. Additionally, Ms. LeFevers was named the 2018 North Carolina Secondary Assistant Principal of the Year.
- The Highland School of Technology earned the 2017 National Blue Ribbon School award from the U.S. Department of Education. The honor recognizes the school for consistent high academic performance. Highland was one of only six schools in North Carolina and 342 across the country to receive the coveted distinction for 2017.

- The Class of 2017 earned more than \$45 million in academic, athletic, military, and fine arts scholarships to attend the most prestigious colleges and universities in our state and nation. Among our outstanding graduates were two students who received full-tuition scholarships to attend Ivy League schools, Brown and Princeton.
- Our graduation rate has increased again; the dropout rate has decreased; and we continue to rank as one of the safest large school districts in North Carolina. Additionally, our school crime rate for the 2016-2017 academic year is the lowest among the 11 school districts in the Charlotte region.
- Already this school year, we have four student-athletes who are State champions, two students who qualified to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair in Pittsburgh, and a group of middle school and high school students that captured 38 awards in the highly-competitive Mid-Carolina Scholastic Art and Writing Awards program.

As part of the budget process that began in December, we surveyed a number of stakeholders to gain a better understanding of the funding needs of our school system. These stakeholders including students, parents, teachers, principals, district administrators, and community/business leaders, identified increasing teacher supplements, providing more choice options for students and expanding and upgrading technology in the schools as top funding priorities.

Our Budget Request includes approximately \$4.25 million in additional funding from the county to cover costs associated with ongoing expenditures and new initiatives.

- **Ongoing Expenditures:** Of the \$4.25 million requested in additional funding, \$1.25 million would be used to cover state-mandated increases in employer-paid benefits, the replacement of end-of-life mobile computing devices, an increase in charter school enrollment, and the elimination of ERate reimbursements for school technology.
- **New Initiatives:** Of the \$4.25 million requested in additional funding, \$3 million would be used for enhanced school security, salary/supplement increases for certified and classified employees, the expansion of school choice programs, updating information technology (IT) infrastructure for central office department buildings; and achieving the one-to-one student/mobile computing device ratio.

As challenging as it has been to manage the district's operating budget, it has been more difficult to find adequate capital funding to maintain approximately 5.2 million square feet of space. In recent years, we have received \$1.2 million in annual capital funding for upkeep and repairs – this equates to less than \$0.25 per square foot to maintain facilities. Without question, more capital funding is necessary to address the substantial maintenance needs of our aging facilities. Therefore, we are requesting that the County increase our annual capital maintenance budget to \$5.9 million.

As we prepare our 2018-2019 Budget Request, we would like to express our appreciation to the County Commission for providing a \$2.4 million increase in last year's budget. These funds were used to increase teacher salary supplements and adjust classified employee salaries, hire additional teachers needed to comply with the new State K-3 class size changes, replace end of life Chromebooks, fund additional school choice opportunities and cover the State-mandated increases in employer provided benefits.

Additionally, we are grateful for the commitment from the county to provide funding from the 2007 school bond referendum for the construction of Pleasant Ridge Elementary School and Stanley Middle School. Further, we are pleased with efforts to replace Belmont Middle School with a new facility, and we believe the \$250 million school bond referendum, if approved by voters on May 8, will continue to move our county forward in the areas of new school construction, school additions, and critical school renovations and repairs.

The Gaston County Schools' Budget Request for 2018-2019 in the amount of \$52 million contains the sufficient funding to improve academic objectives, operate safe schools on a daily basis, and provide resources and personnel that will ensure our children acquire the knowledge and skills needed to be successful in college, the military and the workforce after they graduate from high school.

We believe the leadership of our community – County Commissioners, civic leaders, business owners, and others – understands the importance of addressing the funding needs of Gaston County Schools. Our Budget Request for local operating and capital funds reflects this community-wide belief and supports the goals and beliefs of Gaston County Schools.

As approved by the Gaston County Board of Education, we respectfully submit the 2018-2019 Budget Request to the Gaston County Board of Commissioners for review, consideration and approval.

Sincerely,



W. Jeffrey Booker
Superintendent



Kevin L. Collier
Chairman

Gaston County Schools
Budget Calendar
FY 2018-19

January 2018

- Ongoing Funding Needs Survey – Stakeholders, Fund Managers and Directors
- Ongoing Initial Budget discussions – Fund Managers submit budget requests to Finance Department
- January 20 Board of Education receives the Budget Calendar and the results of the Funding Needs Survey

February 2018

- Ongoing Budget discussions – Cabinet and Finance Department direct budget discussions to formulate a budget request
- Ongoing Superintendent develops a budget request

March 2018

- March 5 Board of Education work session – Budget public hearing to review and discuss funding needs and initial funding request
- March 19 Budget discussion with the Board of Education

April 2018

- April 16 Formal presentation of “2018-19 Superintendent’s Budget Request” to the Board of Education for review and discussion

May 2018

- May 7 Board of Education work session - adoption of Budget Request
- May 15 “2018–19 Board of Education Budget Request” delivered to County Commissioners

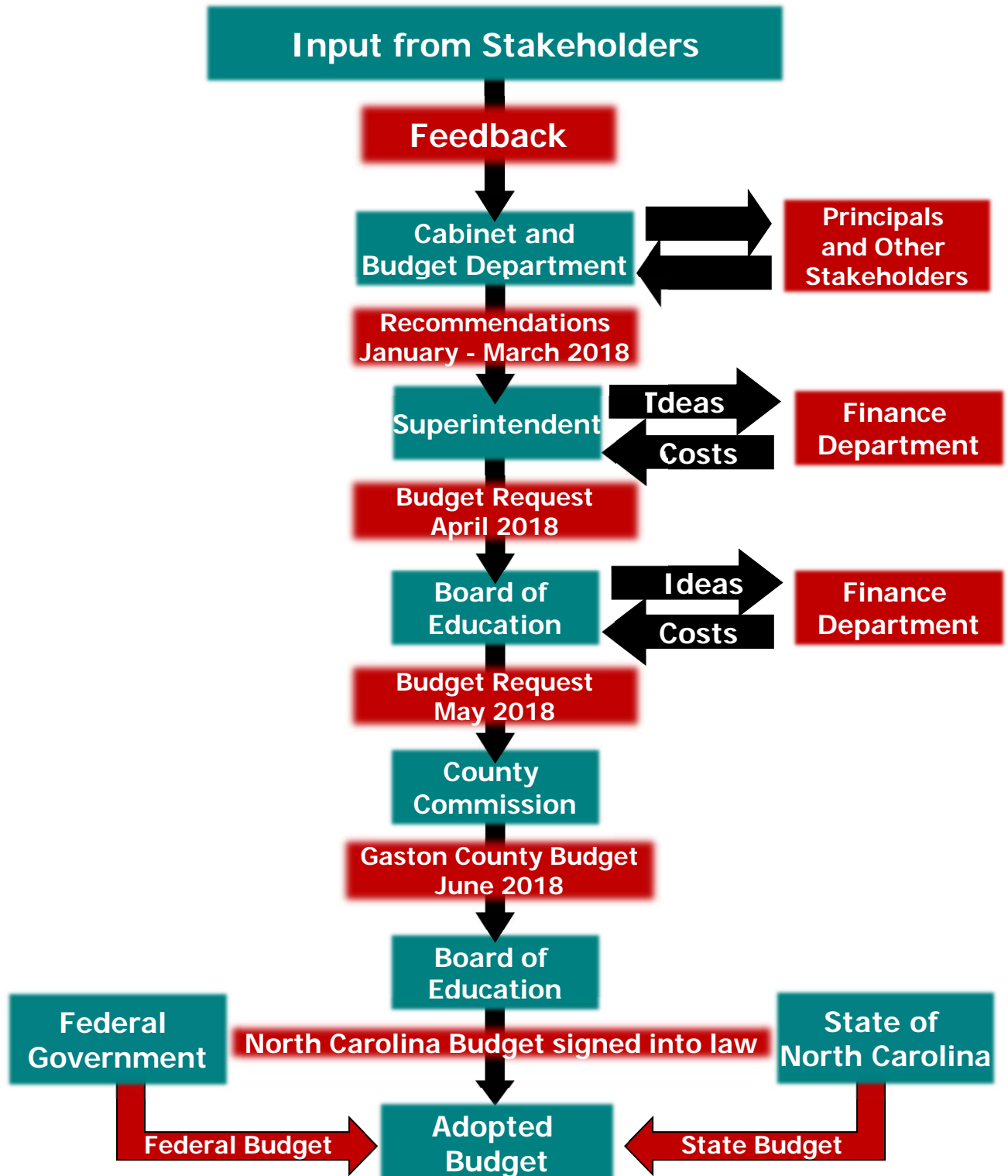
June 2018

- June 12 County Commissioners adopt a County budget ordinance – notifies Board of Education of local budget allocation
- June 18 Board of Education adopts 2018-19 Interim Budget

Open

- North Carolina Budget signed into law
- Superintendent recommends such budget revisions as may be required by State and County budget allocations
- Board of Education adopts “2018-19 GCS Budget Resolution”
- Final budget compiled, typed, proofed and printed

**Gaston County Schools
 Budgetary Process Flow Chart
 FY 2018-19**





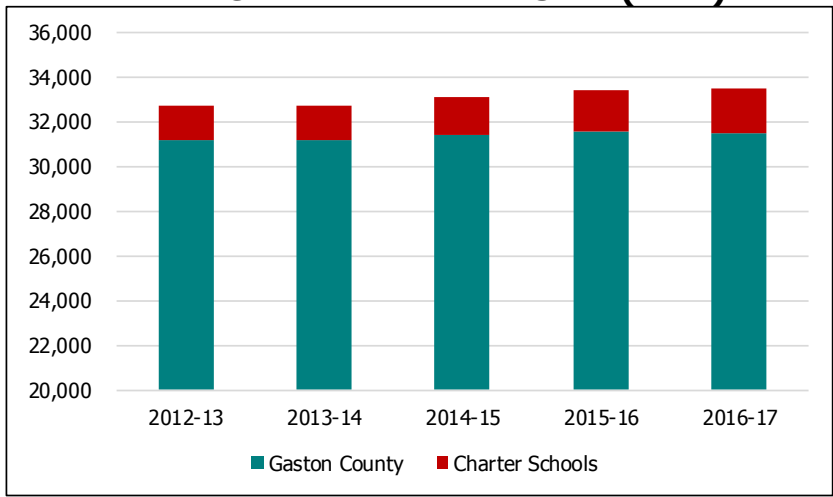
5 Years of Facts and History

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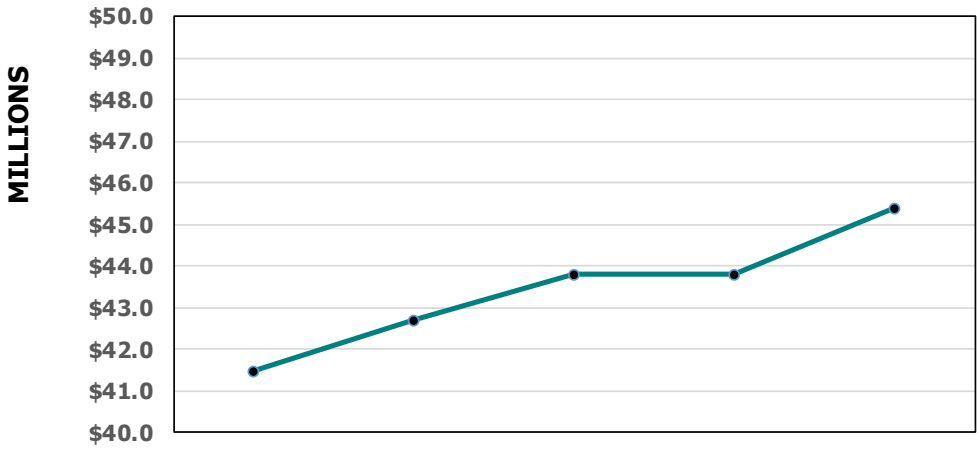
AVERAGE DAILY MEMBERSHIP (ADM)



	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Gaston County	31,189	31,152	31,421	31,555	31,499
Charter Schools	1,524	1,610	1,728	1,898	2,011
TOTAL	32,713	32,762	33,149	33,453	33,510

SOURCE: Principal's Monthly Report - Month 01
 * These numbers do not include Pre-Kindergarten students

COUNTY APPROPRIATION



2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
\$ 41,526,704	\$ 42,726,704	\$ 43,816,704	\$ 43,816,704	\$ 45,351,704



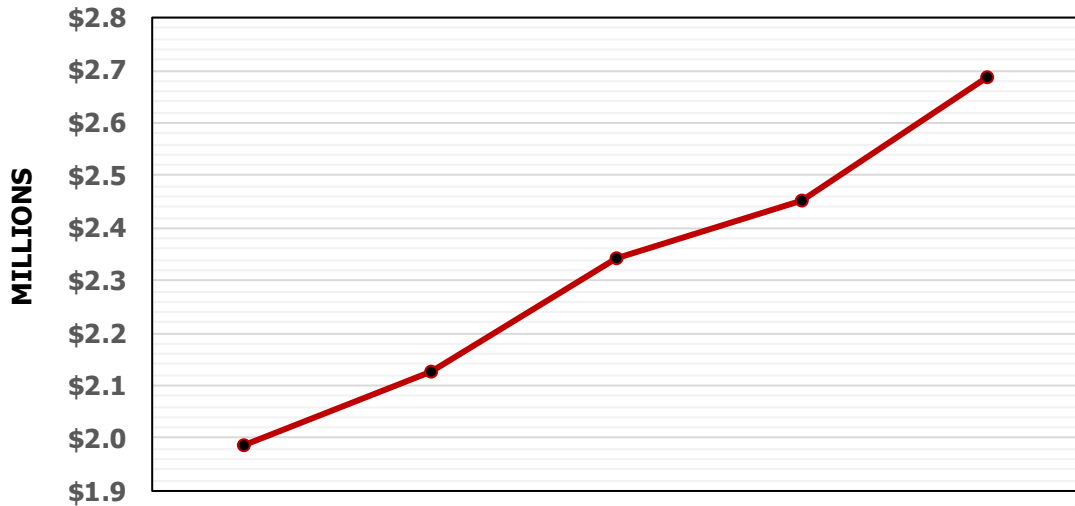
5 Years of Facts and History

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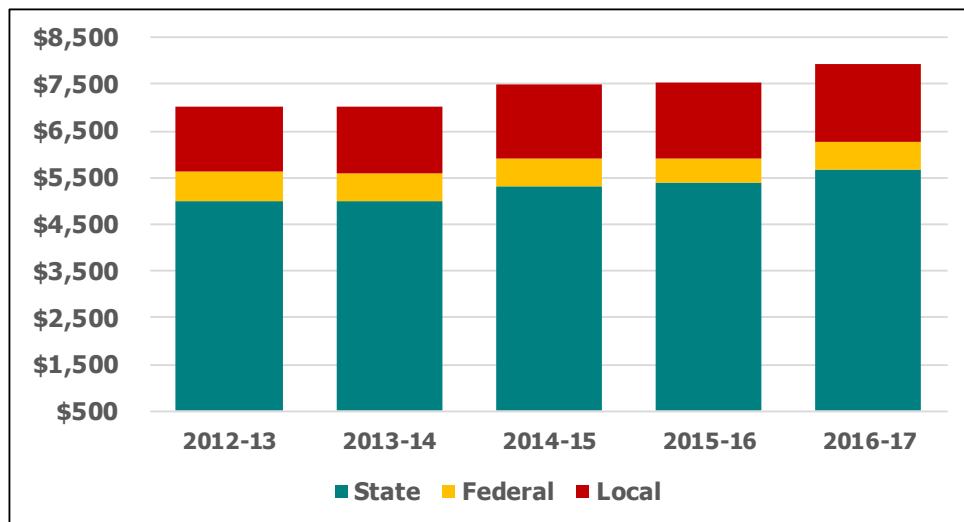


CHARTER SCHOOL PAYMENTS



2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
\$ 1,987,052	\$ 2,126,207	\$ 2,342,018	\$ 2,450,606	\$ 2,686,064

PER PUPIL EXPENDITURES



	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
State	\$ 4,986	\$ 4,989	\$ 5,327	\$ 5,395	\$ 5,668
Federal	640	596	589	533	591
Local	1,377	1,423	1,579	1,621	1,687
TOTAL	\$ 7,003	\$ 7,008	\$ 7,496	\$ 7,549	\$ 7,946

State Rank out of 115 LEAs	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
	114	113	110	114	109

Gaston County Schools
Budget Summary Narrative
Financial Position – Current Expense

The North Carolina schools, counties, and the State are required to operate under a balanced budget (deficit financing is not allowed). The budgeted revenues included, represent our best approximation of the funding we will receive from the County. In addition to the County Appropriation, we expect to receive State and Federal funding and once the State and Federal revenues are set, the budget is then adjusted to the corresponding revenue and expense amount. A conservative stance is taken when projecting revenues.

Fund balances are appropriated as deemed necessary based upon the amounts available as set forth in North Carolina General Statutes.

As prescribed by the North Carolina General Statute 115C-432, the following directions and limitations shall bind the Board of Education in adopting a budget:

1. The school budget resolution shall conform to the County budget ordinance.
2. The full amount of any lawful deficit from a prior fiscal year shall be appropriated.
3. Contingency appropriations in a fund may not exceed five percent of the total of all appropriations in that fund.
4. Sufficient funds to meet the amounts to be paid during the fiscal year under continuing contracts previously entered into shall be appropriated.
5. The sum of estimated net revenues and appropriated fund balances in each fund shall be equal to the appropriations in that fund.
6. No appropriation may be made that would require the levy of supplemental taxes in excess of the rate of tax approved by voters.
7. Revenues realized from levying school supplemental taxes may not exceed the percentage of that tax actually realized in cash during the preceding fiscal year.
8. Amounts realized from the collection of supplemental taxes levied in prior fiscal years shall be included in estimated revenues.
9. No appropriation may be made to or from the capital outlay fund or to or from any other fund, except as permitted by the North Carolina General Statutes.

A formal presentation of the proposed budget is made to the Board and public hearings will be scheduled as the Board deems appropriate. Approval of the budget request by the Board of Education and submission to the County Commissioners is anticipated by May 15, as required by the North Carolina School Budget and Fiscal Control Act.

**Gaston County Schools
Revenue History and
FY 2018-19 Funding Request**

Operating Revenue	Adopted Budget					Proposed
REVENUE	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
Gaston County Appropriation	\$ 42,726,704	\$ 43,816,704	\$ 43,816,704	\$ 45,351,704	\$ 47,751,704	\$ 52,006,204
Other Miscellaneous Revenue	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000	750,000
Fund Balance Appropriated	1,200,000	1,200,000	2,849,000	3,149,000	1,200,000	-
TOTAL	\$ 44,676,704	\$ 45,766,704	\$ 47,415,704	\$ 49,250,704	\$ 49,701,704	\$ 52,756,204
EXPENDITURES	\$ 44,676,704	\$ 45,766,704	\$ 47,415,704	\$ 49,250,704	\$ 49,701,704	\$ 52,756,204

Capital Outlay Revenue	Adopted Budget					Proposed
REVENUE	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	18-19
County Funds	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 5,900,000
State Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 5,900,000
EXPENDITURES	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 5,900,000

Gaston County Schools
Proposed Local Current Expenses and Funding Request
FY 2018-19

Description	FY 2017-18		FY 2018-19		Increase(Decrease) Over FY 2017-18
	Adopted Budget	Per Pupil Funding	Funding Request	Per Pupil Funding	
Sources of Expenses:					
Instruction, System Wide Support and Development, Services, Admin., Other Operating Expenses	\$ 33,012,537	\$ 1,046	\$ 35,301,537	\$ 1,110	\$ 2,289,000
Facilities Maintenance	3,308,986	105	3,308,986	104	-
Utilities	6,725,400	213	6,725,400	211	-
Technology	3,834,781	122	5,640,281	177	1,805,500
Charter School Allocation	2,820,000	89	2,980,000	94	160,000
Total Current Expenses	\$ 49,701,704	\$ 1,575	\$ 53,956,204	\$ 1,696	\$ 4,254,500
Adjusted For Exp. Reduction Funded from FY18 Fund Bal.	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (1,200,000)	\$ (38)	\$ (1,200,000)
Adjusted Current Expenses	\$ 49,701,704	\$ 1,575	\$ 52,756,204	\$ 1,658	\$ 3,054,500

Sources of Revenues:

County Appropriation	\$ 47,751,704	\$ 1,513	\$ 52,006,204	\$ 1,634	\$ 4,254,500
Other Local Revenues (fines/forfeitures/interest)	750,000	24	750,000	24	-
Fund Balance	1,200,000	38	-	-	(1,200,000)

Total Revenues	\$ 49,701,704	\$ 1,575	\$ 52,756,204	\$ 1,658	\$ 3,054,500
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Average Daily Membership (ADM)

31,559 (1)

31,804

245

Notes:

(1) Based on NCDPI FY 2017-18 Allotment Adjustments for Higher of 1st or 2nd Month ADM calculation

(2) Based on NCDPI FY 2018-19 Planning Allotment ADM



Projected Average Daily Membership (ADM) Fiscal Year 2018-19

Enter LEA#

360

	<u>PROJECTED</u>
KINDERGARTEN	2,399
GRADE 1	2,461
GRADE 2	2,360
GRADE 3	2,400
GRADE 4	2,522
GRADE 5	2,488
GRADE 6	2,524
GRADE 7	2,529
GRADE 8	2,428
GRADE 9	2,525
GRADE 10	2,490
GRADE 11	2,378
GRADE 12	2,300
TOTAL	<u><u>31,804</u></u>



GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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OPERATING REQUEST

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He already has county, regional, and state Teacher of the Year honors. Now, Bobbie Cavnar has a national one.

Cavnar received the NEA Foundation's national award for teaching excellence during the organization's Salute to Excellence in Education Gala in Washington, D.C., on February 9. The award includes a \$25,000 prize.

Cavnar discovered he was a finalist for the teaching excellence award in August when he and four other finalists from across the country were announced.

The honor is officially called the 2018 NEA Member Benefits for Teaching Excellence Award. For Cavnar, it is a prestigious recognition that gives him an opportunity to bring more attention to public education and be a bigger voice for students and teachers.

"Receiving this award is an incredible honor," Cavnar said. "It is a privilege to represent teachers not only in Gaston County and North Carolina, but also to represent educators all across the country and be an advocate for public education on a national level."

Cavnar is an English teacher at South Point High School. His journey to being the nation's best teacher began in 2014 when he was chosen as the school's Teacher of the Year. He was named the Gaston County Teacher of the Year in May 2015, the Southwest Region Teacher of the Year in December 2015,

and the North Carolina Teacher of the Year in April 2016.

As the 2016-2017 North Carolina Teacher of the Year, Cavnar spent time traveling the state and country as a proponent for teachers, students, and public schools, speaking to educators, elected officials, community leaders, and others. He also served as an adviser to the North Carolina State Board of Education and the State Superintendent's Advisory Council.

Cavnar, who began his teaching career in 1999 in Florida and has been at South Point for 15 years, stressed the importance of public education in his acceptance speech.



"Many of our great artists, thinkers, and inventors were born into poverty and were given the opportunity to let their genius show," said Cavnar. "That's how a public education equalizes life."

The Washington ceremony was a celebration of the men and women who work in America's public schools. There were more than 40 awards given to exceptional educators, but Cavnar's honor was the ceremony's grand finale.

Despite having the spotlight on him in Washington Friday night, Cavnar made it back home to Gaston County in time to attend a Sweetheart Ball with his daughter, a student at Belmont Central Elementary. For this teacher, the focus is always on the children.

Gaston County Schools

Factors Impacting the FY 2018-19 Budget Costs

The proposed FY 2018-19 local budget totaling \$52.8 million is impacted by internal and external factors which could impact costs. Some expenditures are calculated based on estimated cost of inputs, others are estimated based on previous years' expenditure increases as well as possible proposed cost increases such as for salary and benefit increases. Other external factors may arise at a later time depending on decisions made by the Governor and General Assembly. This uncertainty with State funding increases the risks facing Gaston County Schools local budget in FY 2018-19, since any reductions in State funding may have to be offset by local dollars.

Some of the external factors impacting the FY 2018-19 budget include:

1. Retirement Contribution and Health Insurance Rates:

The General Assembly may approve changes to the employer matching retirement contribution and health insurance premiums. The Superintendent's Proposed Budget includes estimated increases in these rates. The estimated rate used to calculate the FY 2018-19 retirement cost is 18.44%, an 8% increase over the FY 2017-18 average rate of 17.13%. This will result in approximately \$217,000 in additional costs to the budget.

The estimated cost used for the employer-paid health insurance premium in the proposed budget is \$6,104, a 4% increase over the average cost of \$5,869 for FY 2017-18. It is estimated this will result in an additional \$46,000 in costs to the budget.

The rate increase proposed for the employer retirement contribution and the increase proposed for the employer-paid health insurance premium is based on the guidance provided in the 2017 NC State budget and from the NC Department of Public Education.

2. Salary Adjustments:

The Superintendent's Proposed Budget includes a proposed 3% increase in salaries for classified personnel, such as clerical, custodial, maintenance, technology, teacher assistants and administrative. It also includes an adjustment for coaching supplements which have not been adjusted since 2006. The estimated impact to the FY19 budget is \$850,000.

3. Charter Schools Growth:

For the fiscal years 2015–16 through 2017-18, there has been an average increase of 99 students or 6% (year over year) in the number of Gaston County students attending charter schools. If this growth trend continues into FY 2018-19, we are projecting that 2,195 Gaston County students will attend charter schools. The calculated charter school payment for FY 2018-19 is \$3,131,000 approximately \$160,000 more than the FY 2017-18 projected charter schools payments. The FY 2018-19 calculation is as follows: Average Daily Membership (ADM) x per pupil daily rate x school days i.e. (2,195 x \$7.925 x 180).

4. Technology Services:

Certain technology expenses which were previously funded by ERate reimbursements will now have to be funded from the FY 2018–19 budget as there has been a severe reduction in ERate reimbursements over the past five (5) years. The impact on the budget is expected to be \$308,000 (ERate phone service \$135,000 & ERate cellular service \$173,000).

Some internal factors impacting the budget include the expansion of current programs and new initiatives:

1. School Security Officers:

Gaston County Schools is ranked as one of the safest school districts in the State. However, given the recent events relating to school violence, it is essential that the requisite actions continue to be taken to ensure that our schools are safe environments for our students and school personnel. It is proposed that sixteen (16) additional full time school security positions are added to help to keep Gaston County Schools safe. The estimated impact to the FY19 budget is \$576,000.

2. Certified Employee Salary Supplement Adjustment:

Gaston County has committed to increase salary supplements and to bring supplements in line with the average of regional school districts with a comparable ADM. The impact on the budget is estimated at \$500,000 for the FY 2018-19.

3. Technology – Equipment and Supplies:

The initiative to achieve a 1:1 student to mobile device ratio and to replace 3,450 Chromebooks that are at their 'end of life' will continue in FY 2018–19. The estimated technology cost included in the budget is \$1,227,500 made up of \$517,500 for replacing 'end of life' devices and \$710,000 for new chromebooks to help move GCS students to a 1:1 student to mobile device ratio.

4. Central Office Infrastructure:

The continuing technology upgrades require that the 'end of life' network switches and access points in Gaston County Schools Central Office locations (Main Office, Facilities, Transportation, DEC, School Nutrition, Rader Center, TRC, and Forest Heights) be replaced. The impact on the budget is estimated to be \$270,000.

5. School Choice:

Funds are being requested to support a new magnet program at Stanley Middle School FY 2018–19. The estimated amount needed is \$100,000; of this amount, \$50,000 is for chromebooks for students and \$50,000 for professional development for staff members and supplies.

Other factors impacting the FY 2018-19 budget costs (positively and negatively) include the level of inflation being experienced this fiscal year and projected for FY 2018-19. To date, this rate has been low and stable averaging 1.6% in 2017 and projected to increase to 2.0% in 2018. In the latter part of 2017 continuing into 2018 oil prices have begun to edge upward and is projected to remain above 2017 prices going forward. This will have a direct impact on transportation costs and an indirect impact on the cost of other goods and services.

The budgeted revenues and expenditures for FY 2018-19 are presented on the following pages for informational purposes.

**Gaston County Schools
Narrative of Budget Requirements
FY 2018-19**

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2018-19
Description	Adopted Local Budget	Increase	Local Budget
A. Personnel Cost: Certified	\$	\$	\$
Narrative:			
1. Certified Salary Cost			
Includes: Instructional Staff (Teachers) Instructional Support (Guidance, Counselors, Nurses and Social Workers) and School Administrators (Principals and Assistant Principals)	Salaries and Benefits	3,942,000	3,942,000
2. Salary Supplements			
To retain and attract highly qualified instructional and instructional support personnel	Salaries and Benefits	7,137,200	7,137,200
<i>New: Recurring cost to move supplement towards State Average</i>	<i>Salaries and Benefits</i>	<i>500,000</i>	<i>500,000</i>
3. Coaching Supplements			
<i>New: Adjustments to coaching supplements - to retain qualified and experienced athletic coaches</i>		<i>200,000</i>	<i>200,000</i>
4. Employer Paid Benefits			
<i>New: Projected increased cost of employer paid benefits (retirement from avg. 17.13% to 18.44%; health insurance rates from \$5,869 to \$6,104) for FY 2018-19</i>	<i>Benefits</i>	<i>105,200</i>	<i>105,200</i>
Total Personnel Cost: Certified	\$ 11,079,200	\$ 805,200	\$ 11,884,400

**Gaston County Schools
Narrative of Budget Requirements
FY 2018-19**

Description	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2018-19
	Adopted Local Budget	Increase	Local Budget
B. Personnel Cost: Non-Certified	\$	\$	\$
Narrative:			
1. Non-Certified Instructional Support			
Salaries, wages and benefits: (technology facilitators, interpreters, teacher assistants, tutors, monitors and substitutes)	Salaries and Benefits 2,305,800		2,305,800
2. Other Non-Certified Personnel			
Salaries, wages, stipends and benefits: (include leadership personnel, program directors, Supervisors, Clerical Support, Managers, Athletic Coaches, Band Assistants, Skilled Trades, Administrators and Technicians)	Salaries and Benefits 9,238,900		9,238,900
3. Classified Employee Salary Adjustment			
<i>New: Classified Salary & Benefits Adjustment Proposed 3% increase</i>		650,000	650,000
4. Employer Paid Benefits			
<i>New: This amount estimates the increased cost of employer paid benefits, based on proposed rates for retirement (from 17.13% to 18.44) and for health insurance premiums (from \$5,869 to \$6,104) for FY 2018-19</i>	Benefits	157,800	157,800
Total Personnel Cost: Non-Certified	\$ 11,544,700	\$ 807,800	\$ 12,352,500
5. Other Personnel Expenses			
Benefits Related/Extra Duty Pay	Salaries and Benefits 2,684,000	-	2,684,000
Total Personnel Cost	\$ 25,307,900	\$ 1,613,000	\$ 26,920,900

**Gaston County Schools
Narrative of Budget Requirements
FY 2018-19**

	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2018-19
Description	Adopted Local Budget	Increase	Local Budget

C. Instructional/Instructional Support Programs \$ \$ \$

Narrative:

1. School Based Support Services and System-Wide Pupil Support Services

Instructional/Instructional Support services and materials, co-curricular activities, educational media, guidance, social services, health and safety, school administration services and supplies.	Purchased Services	5,392,228		5,392,228
	Supplies and Materials			

2. System-Wide Support Services

Program leadership Support and Development Services (include planning and research, program evaluation, instructional technology and student accounting services)	Purchased Services	176,504		176,504
	Supplies and Materials			

3. Charter School Transfers

Increased amount due calculated based on projected growth in charter schools ADM		2,820,000	160,000	2,980,000
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4. School Choice

<i>New: This amount is to fund the purchase of Chromebooks for students and for staff development at Stanley Middle School STEAM Academy</i>			100,000	100,000
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5. School Resource Officers

<i>New: Funding for sixteen (16) school resource officers - security for schools not assigned a full-time security officer</i>			576,000	576,000
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Total Instructional Support Programs	\$ 8,388,732	\$ 836,000	\$ 9,224,732
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**Gaston County Schools
Narrative of Budget Requirements
FY 2018-19**

Description	FY 2017-18	FY 2018-19	FY 2018-19
	Adopted Local Budget	Increase	Local Budget

D. Operations

\$ \$ \$

Narrative:

1. Operational Support Services

Gaston County Schools' Central Office Departments (human resources, finance/risk management, safety and security, and central office administration)

Purchased Services	1,836,242	1,836,242
Supplies and Materials		

2. Technology Support Services

Central based activities, supporting and maintaining technical infrastructure, computer hardware and software

Purchased Services	3,834,781	3,834,781
Hardware & Software		

*New: Equipment to move student to mobile device ratio to 1:1 in GCS.
Replacing End of Life Chromebooks*

<i>Hardware & Software</i>	<i>710,000</i>	<i>710,000</i>
<i>Hardware & Software</i>	<i>517,500</i>	<i>517,500</i>

New: Projected technology costs previously funded from ERate reimbursement (regular and cellular)

<i>Purchased Services</i>	<i>308,000</i>	<i>308,000</i>
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New: Replacing end of life network switches and access points in Central Office

<i>Purchased Services</i>	<i>270,000</i>	<i>270,000</i>
<i>Supplies & Materials</i>		

3. Utilities

Electricity service, natural gas and water supplies

Purchased Services	6,725,400	6,725,400
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4. Facilities Maintenance

Central based activities concerned with the repair and upkeep of buildings, equipment and grounds

Purchased Services	3,308,986	3,308,986
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5. Transportation

Vehicle maintenance and repair costs, fuel and contracted transportation

Supplies and Materials	299,663	299,663
Equipment		

Total Cost of Operations

\$ 16,005,072	\$ 1,805,500	\$ 17,810,572
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Total Personnel, Program & Operating Costs

\$ 49,701,704	\$ 4,254,500	\$ 53,956,204
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Adjusted for expense reduction funded previously by FY 2017-18 fund balance

\$ -	\$ (1,200,000)	\$ (1,200,000)
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Adjusted Funding Request FY 2018-19

\$ 49,701,704	\$ 3,054,500	\$ 52,756,204
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FY 2018-19 Local Funding Expansion Request

Gaston County Funding Request

Priority	Recommendation Item	Cost		
		Ongoing	New	Total
Ongoing Expenditures				
	State Mandated Increase in Employer Paid Benefits	\$ 263,000	\$ -	\$ 263,000
	Replacing End-of-Life Mobile Devices	517,500	-	517,500
	Charter School Student Enrollment Increase	160,000	-	160,000
	Replace ERate Reimbursement Reduction for Cellular Service	173,000	-	173,000
	Replace ERate Reimbursement Reduction for Phone Service	135,000	-	135,000
New Initiatives				
1	Enhanced School Security	\$ -	\$ 576,000	\$ 576,000
2	Certified Employee Salary Supplement Adjustment	-	500,000	500,000
3	Employee Compensation Adjustment	-	850,000	850,000
4	Expand School Choice Options	-	100,000	100,000
5	Replace End-of-Life Central Office IT Infrastructure	-	270,000	270,000
6	1:1 Student to Mobile Device Ratio	-	710,000	710,000
State-Mandated Changes				
	K-3 Class Size Reductions	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Proposed County Funding Increase		\$ 1,248,500	\$ 3,006,000	\$ 4,254,500
Total Additional Local Funding Requested				\$ 4,254,500

Ongoing Expenditures (FY 2018-19)

School: All Schools
Department: Finance
Project Title: State Mandated Increase in Employer Paid Benefits
Total Cost: \$ 263,000

Project Description

State mandated increase in employer paid retirement and health insurance benefits.

Background & Justification / Status

The State budget is expected to include a health insurance premium rate increase for FY 2018-19. This increase is projected to be about 4% effective July 1, 2018. This would be comparable to last year's increase and would amount to an increase of approximately \$46,000. Also, the State is expected to approve new retirement rates of approximately 8% beginning July 1, 2018. This amount is more than twice the rate increase experienced for FY 2017-18. This would amount to an increase of approximately \$217,000.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

If not funded, the State mandated increase in employee benefits will be funded using local funds already budgeted for educational purposes.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 263,000	\$ 263,000	\$ 263,000	\$ 789,000
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-
Hardware and Software	-	-	-	-
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 263,000	\$ 263,000	\$ 263,000	\$ 789,000

Requested by: Gary F. Hoskins, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

Ongoing Expenditures (FY 2018-19)

School: All Schools
Department: Technology Support Services
Project Title: Replacing End-of-Life Mobile Devices
Total Cost: \$ 517,500

Project Description

Replace one third of the mobile devices that were put into service in FY 2014-15.

Background & Justification / Status

It is an expectation of the NC DPI initiative of Digital Teaching and Learning Competencies that school districts work towards a 1:1 environment. Currently we have about 10,350 Chromebooks that were put into service in FY 2014-15, making them at least three years old for the 2018-19 School Year. We are estimating that 1/3 of these devices, or 3,450 devices, will fail and will need to be replaced. The current cost of a replacement Chromebook is about \$150, which amounts to a cost of \$517,500 for 3,450 devices. Also, we estimate that the remaining 6,900 Chromebooks that were put into service in FY 2014-15 will need to be replaced during FY 2019-20 and an additional 8,900 Chromebooks that were put into service in FY 2015-16 that will need to be replaced in two years.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

Devices will stop functioning and schools will have fewer devices for student use.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-
Hardware and Software	517,500	1,035,000	1,335,000	2,887,500
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 517,500	\$ 1,035,000	\$ 1,335,000	\$ 2,887,500

Requested by: Cindee Matson, Assistant Superintendent for Administration

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

Ongoing Expenditures (FY 2018-19)

School: All Schools
Department: Finance
Project Title: Charter School Student Enrollment Increase
Total Cost: \$ 160,000

Project Description

Transfer of calculated per pupil funding for GCS students attending Charter Schools.

Background & Justification / Status

For the years FY 2016-17 and FY 2017-18, there has been an increase of approximately 6% each year in the number of Gaston County students attending Charter Schools. If the trend continues into FY 2018-19, this would result in an additional cost of approximately \$160,000 to our local budget.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

The local dollars used for other resources will be decreased.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-
Hardware and Software	-	-	-	-
Other Operating Expenses	160,000	168,000	175,000	503,000
Total	\$ 160,000	\$ 168,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 503,000

Requested by: Gary F. Hoskins, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

Ongoing Expenditures (FY 2018-19)

School: All Schools
Department: Technology Support Services
Project Title: Replace ERate Reimbursement Reduction for Cellular Service
Total Cost: \$ 173,000

Project Description

Replace ERate funds previously provided by Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) for cellular service that has now been eliminated.

Background & Justification / Status

In order to refocus ERate support on the high-speed broadband needed for digital learning, the ERate Modernization Order phased out support for voice services and circuit capacity dedicated to providing voice services, and eliminates support for other legacy services. The reduction in ERate reimbursement started in 2014 when USAC began gradually decreasing the amount of funding provided to school districts that previously helped supplement cellular services. The reductions increased each school year by 20%. Beginning in FY 2018-19, no reimbursement will be provided. The funds were used for data transmission services and Internet access through DPI. Our current annual cell phone costs total about \$216,000. The reimbursement amount on this was previously 80% or \$173,000. This loss has left our district with a shortfall to pay for other technology initiatives and upgrades.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

This funding was previously used to upgrade data center and to pay for additional switches and access points in our schools.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-
Hardware and Software	-	-	-	-
Other Operating Expenses	173,000	173,000	173,000	519,000
Total	\$ 173,000	\$ 173,000	\$ 173,000	\$ 519,000

Requested by: Cindee Matson, Assistant Superintendent for Administration

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

Ongoing Expenditures (FY 2018-19)

School: All Schools
Department: Technology Support Services
Project Title: Replace ERate Reimbursement Reduction for Phone Service
Total Cost: \$ 135,000

Project Description

Replace ERate funds previously provided by Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) for phone service that has now been eliminated.

Background & Justification / Status

In order to refocus ERate support on the high-speed broadband needed for digital learning, the ERate Modernization Order phased out support for voice services and circuit capacity dedicated to providing voice services, and eliminates support for other legacy services. The reduction in ERate reimbursement from USAC started in 2014 when USAC began decreasing the amount of funding provided to school districts that previously helped supplement voice services. The reductions increased each school year by 20%. Beginning in FY 2018-19, no reimbursement will be provided. The funds were used for data transmission services and Internet access through DPI. Our current district monthly phone bill is about \$168,000 annually. The reimbursement amount on this bill was previously 80% or about \$135,000. This loss will leave the district with a shortfall to pay for other technology initiatives and upgrades.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

This funding was previously used to upgrade data center and to pay for additional switches and access points in our schools.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-
Hardware and Software	-	-	-	-
Other Operating Expenses	135,000	135,000	135,000	405,000
Total	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 405,000

Requested by: Cindee Matson, Assistant Superintendent for Administration

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

New Initiatives (FY 2018-19)

School: Elementary and Middle Schools
Department: Auxiliary Services
Project Title: Enhanced School Security
Total Cost: \$ 576,000

Project Description

School Security

Background & Justification / Status

Recent events relating to school violence has highlighted the need for school districts to review and upgrade existing security measures in place at all their schools. To ensure that Gaston County Schools continue to rank as one of the safest school districts in the State, it is vital that the necessary actions continue to be taken to ensure that our schools are safe environments for our students and school personnel. Funding in the amount of \$576,000 is therefore being requested to add sixteen (16) full time school security positions to help keep Gaston County Schools safe.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

If this project is delayed or not funded, it will impact our ability to provide secure environments for students and staff in all our schools.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-
Contracted Services	576,000	576,000	576,000	1,728,000
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 576,000	\$ 576,000	\$ 576,000	\$ 1,728,000

Requested by: Gary F. Hoskins, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

New Initiatives (FY 2018-19)

School: All Schools
Department: Finance
Project Title: Certified Employee Salary Supplement Adjustment
Total Cost: \$ 500,000

Project Description

Increase local supplements paid to certified school personnel (i.e. teachers, social workers, nurses, etc.)

Background & Justification / Status

The average GCS certified salary supplement of \$2,651 for FY 2016-17 falls significantly below the State average of \$4,194. GCS's local supplement is also well below the average certified salary supplements of Union County (\$4,476) and Cabarrus County (\$3,053) which are similar in size and location to us. Last year, we proposed to increase the GCS average supplement up to the Cabarrus County average over a three year period. This required an increase of \$500,000 per year. The County agreed with the plan and increased last year's supplement by \$500,000. In order to continue to increase the average GCS salary supplement to the level of Cabarrus County, we would need to increase our salary supplement by about \$500,000 per year for the next two years.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

GCS will continue to experience difficulty in recruiting and retaining highly qualified certified staff and school administrators as well as boosting morale, if the local certified salary supplements remain uncompetitive.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,500,000
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-
Hardware and Software	-	-	-	-
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 500,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 2,500,000

Requested by: Gary F. Hoskins, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

New Initiatives (FY 2018-19)

School: All Schools
Department: Finance
Project Title: Employee Compensation Adjustment
Total Cost: \$ 850,000

Project Description

Salaries and benefits adjustments for classified employees such as cafeteria workers, clerical, maintenance, technology, etc. and adjustments to coaching supplements.

Background & Justification / Status

The FY 2017-18 NC budget included a \$1,000 salary increase for non-certified employees such as clerical staff, teacher assistants, custodians, cafeteria workers, etc. Salaried (exempt) employees were included in this increase. In FY 2016-17, there was a 1.5% salary adjustment for non-certified and central office employees. Prior to this, there had been no salary adjustments for all non-certified employees for several years. In the meantime, the State and County have both increased pay for similar type workers over the past several years. As a result, the salaries for these positions are now generally below the industry average and as a result, vacancies are more difficult to fill and qualified employees are seeking employment elsewhere. This proposal provides for a 3% compensation (salary and benefits) increase for classified employees, non-exempt and exempt, and market-based adjustments to coaching supplements.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

GCS will continue to experience difficulty in recruiting and retaining highly qualified employees without this increase in compensation.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 2,550,000
Materials and Supplies	-	-	-	-
Hardware and Software	-	-	-	-
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 850,000	\$ 2,550,000

Requested by: Gary F. Hoskins, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

New Initiatives (FY 2018-19)

School: Stanley Middle School
Department: Academic Services
Project Title: Expand School Choice Options
Total Cost: \$ 100,000

Project Description

Stanley Middle School STEAM Academy

Background & Justification / Status

Funding in the amount of \$100,000 is being requested to support the opening of the Stanley Middle School STEAM Academy in FY 2018-19. GCS currently offers various magnet programs for elementary and high school students. The Stanley Middle School STEAM Academy would be the first middle school magnet program in Gaston County. This program would provide an opportunity for elementary students to transition to a middle school that offers a STEAM focused curriculum, comparable to Hawks Nest STEAM Academy. We are requesting \$60,000 to provide additional technology and supplies for students enrolled in the STEAM Academy. The remaining \$40,000 will be used to provide Professional Development on the implementation of the Project Lead The Way. The Project Lead The Way provides engaging individual learning experiences and higher learning standards for all children enrolled in Stanley Middle School, not just those students participating in the STEAM program.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

If these projects are delayed or not funded, it will impact the ability to provide all needed components of the school choice programs as described.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials and Supplies	10,000	-	-	10,000
Professional Development	40,000	-	-	40,000
Hardware and Software	50,000	-	-	50,000
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 100,000

Requested by: Dr. Melissa Balknight, Associate Superintendent of Academic Services

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

New Initiatives (FY 2018-19)

School: Central Office Locations
Department: Technology Support Services
Project Title: Replace End-of-Life Central Office IT Infrastructure
Total Cost: \$ 270,000

Project Description

Replace end of life switches and access points in all Central Office locations - Main Office, Facilities, Transportation, Warehouse, DEC, School Nutrition, Rader, TRC, and Forest Heights.

Background & Justification / Status

A significant number of network switches and access points in our Central Office locations are outdated and considered to be end-of-life. These devices connect to a controller located in the Data Center where school access points are also joined. The Central Office access points are too old to have new code installed on them, therefore the controllers cannot be updated to the latest, most secure code. The same issue occurs with the old switches. Old switches will not support new access points. This old infrastructure could cause a vulnerability to exist within our network. Also, wireless access is not highly available at all of our central office locations. We need 40 switches costing \$190,000, 96 access points costing \$70,000 and cabling costing \$10,000 for access point drops to improve our network security and improve wireless access in our Central Office locations.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

Lack of connectivity at central office locations. Possible network vulnerability to network.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials and Supplies	10,000	-	-	10,000
Hardware and Software	260,000	-	-	260,000
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 270,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 270,000

Requested by: Cindee Matson, Assistant Superintendent for Administration

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

New Initiatives (FY 2018-19)

School: All Schools
Department: Technology Support Services
Project Title: 1:1 Student to Mobile Device Ratio
Total Cost: \$ 710,000

Project Description

To achieve a 1:1 student to mobile device ratio in the district.

Background & Justification / Status

GCS has been working towards achieving a 1:1 student to mobile device ratio. We need an additional 2,935 Chromebooks to be at a 1:1 ratio. This is also an expectation of the NCDPI initiative of Digital Teaching and Learning to be implemented in 2018 school year. Chromebooks are also necessary as the State and District move to online testing.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

The district has made a large investment in mobile devices, however currently there is a 1.3:1 student to Chromebook ratio. A 1:1 ratio will put a device in the hands of every student every day which allows for anytime access to digital content, digital assessments, creativity and preparing for college and the workplace. Failure to fund this project will result in the opposite outcome. The projected cost includes the additional Chromebooks, licenses and carts needed to achieve a 1:1 ratio.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Materials and Supplies	120,000	-	-	120,000
Hardware and Software	590,000	-	-	590,000
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 710,000	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 710,000

Requested by: Cindee Matson, Assistant Superintendent for Administration

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent

State-Mandated Changes (FY 2018-19)

School: Elementary Schools
Department: Finance
Project Title: K-3 Class Size Reductions
Total Cost: \$ -

Project Description

Revised State-mandated K-3 class size reductions that will now be implemented over a four year period.

Background & Justification / Status

Next school year will be the first year of a revised four year phase-in of the reduced class size requirements for K-3 as required by the NC General Assembly. This year, when the teacher to student ratio was reduced by one student, we added an additional seven K-3 classroom teachers and two mobile classrooms at a cost of \$430,200 which was fully funded by the County. According to the revised implementation schedule, there will be no changes in the K-3 class size ratios next year, so no additional funding is being requested for next year. However, the two following years will both require a one student reduction in the K-3 class size ratios for each year. As a result we will be making the same financial request as last year when the K-3 student ratio was decreased by one (\$430,200) for the two following years. The class size ratios will be fully phased-in during the fourth year.

Potential Impact If Not Funded or Delayed

If this item is not funded, GCS would have to find ways to reduce costs to pay for these additional teachers. This could result in the curtailment of services provided to GCS students, the cutting of program enhancement activities, increased teacher to student ratios in non K-3 classrooms, etc.

Estimated Three Year Costs

Expenditure	FY 2018-19 Request	FY 2019-20 Planning	FY 2020-21 Planning	Total Cost Three Years
Salaries and Benefits	\$ -	\$ 406,000	\$ 406,000	812,000
Materials and Supplies	-	4,200	4,200	8,400
Contracted Services	-	20,000	20,000	40,000
Other Operating Expenses	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ -	\$ 430,200	\$ 430,200	\$ 860,400

Requested by: Gary F. Hoskins, Associate Superintendent of Finance and Operations

Approved by: W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent



CAPITAL REQUEST

CELEBRATE! Gaston County Schools
get connected



Highland School of Technology has been chosen as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School, a distinction presented by the United States Department of Education.

U.S. Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos officially announced the winners, bestowing the coveted recognition upon only 342 schools in the nation. Public and private K-12 schools receiving the honor have shown either outstanding academic performance or progress in closing the achievement gap.

Highland is one of only six schools in North Carolina to earn the distinction this year. "This is a

significant award for Highland, and we are so very proud," said Denise McLean, principal. "We have always known that Highland is a model school with world-class students and teachers, and now, with this national recognition, everyone will know it."

McLean continued, "Being chosen as a 2017 National Blue Ribbon School is one of the highest, most prestigious honors a school can receive. For us, it recognizes our students, parents, teachers, staff, and this community for our unwavering commitment to high academic standards and superior student achievement."

Highland has consistently ranked as one of the most successful schools in North Carolina. The school has achieved a perfect or near perfect graduation rate every year since the state first calculated the graduation rate in 2006. The school has earned a 100 per-

cent graduation rate six times (2008, 2010, 2012, 2015, 2016, and 2017). The school's performance grade has been an A or A+ since the state began determining the grades in 2014-2015. For 2016-2017, the school had an A+ performance grade, and test results indicated no achievement gap among students.

Superintendent Jeff Booker stated, "It is a distinct pleasure to congratulate and commend the Highland School of Technology. Being named a National Blue Ribbon School is what all schools strive for, but only a few are



chosen each year. Highland is now part of an elite group, and the school takes its place among the most outstanding schools in our country."

Highland School of Technology opened in 2000 as Gaston County's first magnet high school. Students are chosen through an application and lottery process. The school's comprehensive academic program features three distinct academies: health sciences; business, legal, and information sciences; and manufacturing/engineering technology and graphics.

Highland is the third school in Gaston County Schools to earn the National Blue Ribbon School status since the recognition program began in 1982. W.A. Bess Elementary won the honor in 2006, and Arlington Elementary was named a National Blue Ribbon School in 2003. Arlington consolidated when the new Sadler Elementary School opened in August 2004.

Gaston County Schools Capital Budget Request FY 2018-19

The capital budget request is designed to provide funding for the routine repairs and end of service replacement of the school system's major capital assets such as roofs, heating and air conditioning units, furniture, equipment, vehicles, etc. The capital budget is also used for funding major renovation projects, such as media center upgrades. Funding for capital outlay is provided from various sources. These sources include a special sales tax levy authorized by the State of North Carolina and held by the County, (by statute, these amounts must go to reduce the school system's debt service or for capital needs), revenue from annual County appropriation and Capital Improvement Bond issues.

Gaston County Schools (GCS) maintains about \$5.2 million square feet of space located across 54 schools (not counting our virtual school) and various administrative buildings which are generally older, converted schools. With the exception of our newest buildings and additions, the vast majority of GCS building systems are either beyond or approaching their expected service life. In some cases, these components have been in service twice as long as their expected life cycle. This not only increases the risk of component failures, but also means that many systems are operating at minimum performance levels which significantly increases utility costs.

The Council of the Great City Schools prepares an annual report of performance measurements and benchmarks for various expenditures for school districts. This is an organization that includes a broad range of school districts from across the country. This organization published a document in 2017 entitled, *Managing for Results in America's Great City Schools*. This report was based on data collected during the 2015-16 school year. Based on the information presented in the report, the cost per square foot for routine maintenance ranged from \$1.42 in the upper quartile to \$0.93 in the lower quartile. This equates to a range of \$7.4 million to \$4.8 million for GCS. The median cost for routine maintenance was \$1.14 per square foot, which equates to \$5.9 million for GCS.

For the past several years, GCS has received \$1.2 million in funding for maintenance and capital replacement. This amounts to about \$0.25 per square foot. Given the fact that almost 50% of our school buildings are 40 years old or older, this amount of capital funding is well short of what is needed to properly maintain our facilities. As such, we are requesting \$5.9 million, or \$1.14 per square foot, in capital funding for annual routine maintenance and capital replacement. This is consistent with the median routine maintenance rate of \$1.14 per square foot calculated by the Council of the Great City Schools.

In addition to the annual funding for routine maintenance and capital replacement, GCS has identified capital needs totaling approximately \$650 million. In an effort to address a significant portion of these capital needs, the Gaston County Commissioners have authorized a public referendum on a school bond issue in the amount of \$250 million. This vote will be held on May 8, 2018. These new school bonds, which were recommended by an independent capital needs committee, would significantly improve the school facilities in the District. If approved, GCS would use these funds to construct three new schools, expand existing school facilities and provide needed maintenance and repairs to aging buildings throughout the District.

Managing for Results in America's Great City Schools 2017

RESULTS FROM FISCAL YEAR 2015-16

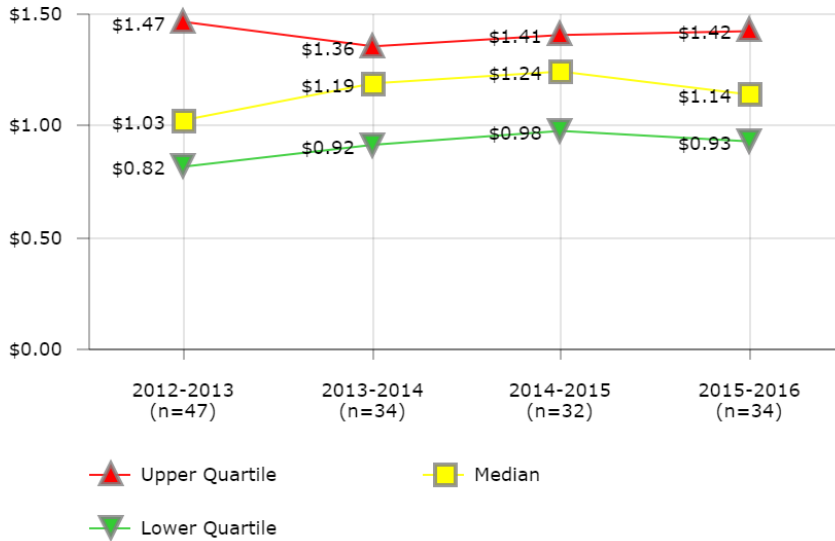


A REPORT OF THE PERFORMANCE MEASUREMENT AND BENCHMARKING PROJECT

OCTOBER 2017

MAINTENANCE & OPERATIONS

Routine Maintenance - Cost per Square Foot



Description of Calculation

Cost of district-operated maintenance work plus cost of contractor-operated maintenance work, divided by total square footage of non-vacant buildings.

Importance of Measure

This provides a measure of the total costs of routine maintenance relative to district size (by building square footage).

Factors that Influence

- Age of infrastructure
- Experience of maintenance staff
- Training of custodial staff to do maintenance work
- Deferred maintenance backlog

Districts in Best Quartile (2015-2016)

- Cleveland Metropolitan School District
- Denver Public Schools
- Des Moines Public Schools
- Guilford County School District
- Miami-Dade County Public Schools
- Milwaukee Public Schools
- Orange County Public School District
- School District of Philadelphia
- St. Louis Public Schools

District	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016
1	\$0.14	\$0.71		
2	\$0.36	\$0.65	\$0.67	
3	\$1.41	\$1.00	\$1.09	\$1.06
4	\$0.90		\$1.05	\$1.65
5	\$0.97	\$1.01	\$0.92	
6	\$1.75			
7	\$1.47	\$1.38	\$0.61	\$1.28
8	\$0.90	\$0.92	\$1.00	\$0.96
9	\$1.25	\$1.15	\$1.24	\$1.27
10	\$0.97		\$1.06	\$0.96
11	\$1.03			
12	\$1.06	\$0.92	\$0.95	\$0.59
13	\$1.02	\$1.26	\$1.52	\$1.05
14	\$1.45	\$1.30	\$1.19	\$1.24
16	\$0.77		\$1.05	\$1.35
18	\$0.59	\$0.94	\$1.42	\$1.45
19	\$1.55	\$1.34		
20	\$1.18	\$1.25	\$1.36	\$1.37
21	\$0.91	\$0.83	\$1.62	
23	\$0.96	\$1.07		
25	\$1.71			
26	\$0.87			
28	\$1.57		\$1.57	\$1.58
30	\$0.90	\$1.32	\$1.33	\$0.93
32	\$1.18			\$0.68
33	\$1.19	\$1.38		
34	\$2.59	\$1.33	\$1.32	\$1.25
35	\$1.57			
37	\$0.77	\$0.69		\$0.81
39	\$1.56	\$1.53	\$1.56	\$1.72
41	\$0.82		\$1.39	\$1.08
43	\$1.38	\$1.36		\$1.61
44	\$1.50	\$1.44	\$1.55	\$1.67
45	\$0.18			
46	\$0.87	\$1.23	\$1.26	
47	\$1.45	\$1.56	\$1.48	\$1.42
48	\$0.74		\$0.75	\$0.80
49	\$0.73	\$0.67	\$0.68	\$0.66
51				\$1.03
52	\$1.56	\$1.88	\$1.48	\$1.76
54				\$1.20
55	\$1.36	\$1.32	\$1.38	
56	\$2.16			
57		\$0.61		\$0.63
58	\$0.56	\$0.55	\$0.55	\$0.93
63	\$0.54	\$0.65	\$0.82	\$0.91
66	\$0.93	\$1.08	\$1.04	\$1.06
67	\$2.45	\$2.56		
71	\$1.07	\$1.02	\$1.24	\$1.50
74		\$1.70	\$1.31	\$1.39
76				\$1.01
77	\$0.35			

**Gaston County Schools
Capital Outlay Budget
FY 2018-19**

Revenues	Adopted Budget					Proposed 18-19
	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18	
County Funds	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 5,900,000
State Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 5,900,000

Expenditures	Adopted Budget					Proposed 18-19	
	13-14	14-15	15-16	16-17	17-18		
Computers and Technology	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 84,020	\$ 100,000	\$ 150,000	
Vehicles and Activity Buses	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	
Roofing	290,000	290,000	95,000	-	-	2,000,000	
Architect and Professional Fees	10,000	10,000	10,000	-	-	50,000	
Paving and Landscaping	52,000	52,000	102,000	-	-	300,000	
HVAC	40,000	40,000	12,000	-	-	850,000	
Plumbing	40,000	40,000	50,000	-	-	100,000	
Electrical and Electronic Systems	50,000	50,000	10,000	-	-	200,000	
General Renovations/Improvements	400,000	400,000	588,000	882,980	882,000	2,000,000	
Furniture and Equipment	95,000	95,000	110,000	110,000	95,000	100,000	
TOTAL	COUNTY CAPITAL	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 5,900,000
	STATE FUNDS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	GRAND TOTAL	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 1,227,000	\$ 5,900,000

In 2016, the Board of Education and the County Commissioners agreed to consolidate three aging elementary schools into one new elementary school and to replace one aging middle school with a new middle school. The construction of these two schools was funded from the proceeds from the sale of \$55 million in school bonds. Pleasant Ridge Elementary School opened in August 2017 and Stanley Middle School opened in March 2018.

In 2014, the Board of Education engaged a third party to conduct a comprehensive facilities study on thirteen schools located throughout the district. This study identified more than \$121 million in total capital needs for these thirteen schools. In addition, the district completed a State-mandated Facilities Needs Survey in 2016, which identified over \$661 million in total capital needs for all schools in the district. Based in part on these facilities studies, along with input from our Facilities Department, an independent capital needs committee determined in 2017 that the total capital needs of the district was \$650 million. The Gaston County Board of Education and the Gaston County Commissioners jointly agreed to a \$250 million school bond referendum that would be on the May 8, 2018 ballot. These funds would be used to address a large portion of the capital needs in this district.



GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS

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