Gaston County Schools
Board of Education Retreat
January 18, 2019
Immediately Following Board of Education Meeting

Minutes

The Gaston County Board of Education held its annual retreat on Friday, January 18, 2019 immediately following the Board of Education Meeting in the Linda Rader Staff Development Center, 240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC. Those Board members in attendance were: Chairman Brent Moore, Vice Chairman Kevin Collier, Dot Cherry, Justin Davis, Lee Dedmon, Dot Guthrie, Steve Hall, Jeff Ramsey, and Terry Usery.

Additional attendees include: Superintendent W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Dr. Melissa Balknight, Gary Hoskins, Assistant Superintendent Cindee Matson, Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Chairman Moore thanked everyone for attending the Board Retreat.

Strategic Plan Progress

Superintendent Booker recognized Ms. Rebekka Powers who presented a PowerPoint on Strategic Plan Update.

(View PowerPoint)

Student Data and Accountability

Ms. Rebekka Powers presented a PowerPoint on Accountability Update.

(View PowerPoint)

Curriculum and Instruction
Educational Options 2019-2020

Superintendent Booker recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who briefly reviewed school choice information. Dr. Balknight shared that approximately 300 families attended the School Choice Information Session on January 12 at Gaston College. There seemed to be a lot of outside interest in our school choice options.

Board Members were given an opportunity to participate in a Gallery Walk to gain information from principals at school choice booths on their individual academy.

Curriculum and Instruction
Digital Platform
Chairman Moore recognized Dr. Cristi Bostic who introduced Ms. Terri Surbeck, Director of Student Services, and Mr. Dax Coan from Scribbles. Mr. Coan presented a PowerPoint on Online School Enrollment & Choice Made Simple.

(View PowerPoint)

Curriculum and Instruction
Digital Learning
Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. James Montgomery and Mrs. Carrie Minnich who presented a PowerPoint on Digital Learning.

(View PowerPoint)

Finance and Operations
Budget
Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on Budget Discussion for FY 2019-2020.

(View PowerPoint)

Finance and Operations
Capital
Superintendent Booker introduced Dr. Morgen Houchard who presented a PowerPoint on Capital Presentation.

(View PowerPoint)

Technology
Superintendent Booker introduced Mrs. Cindee Matson who presented a PowerPoint on Technology Journey.

(View PowerPoint)

iReady Performance
Superintendent Booker introduced Ms. Rebekka Powers who presented a PowerPoint on iReady Performance.

(View PowerPoint)

Chairman Moore thanked staff for all of their work that went into preparing for the retreat.

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Approved:

Brent Moore, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]

W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

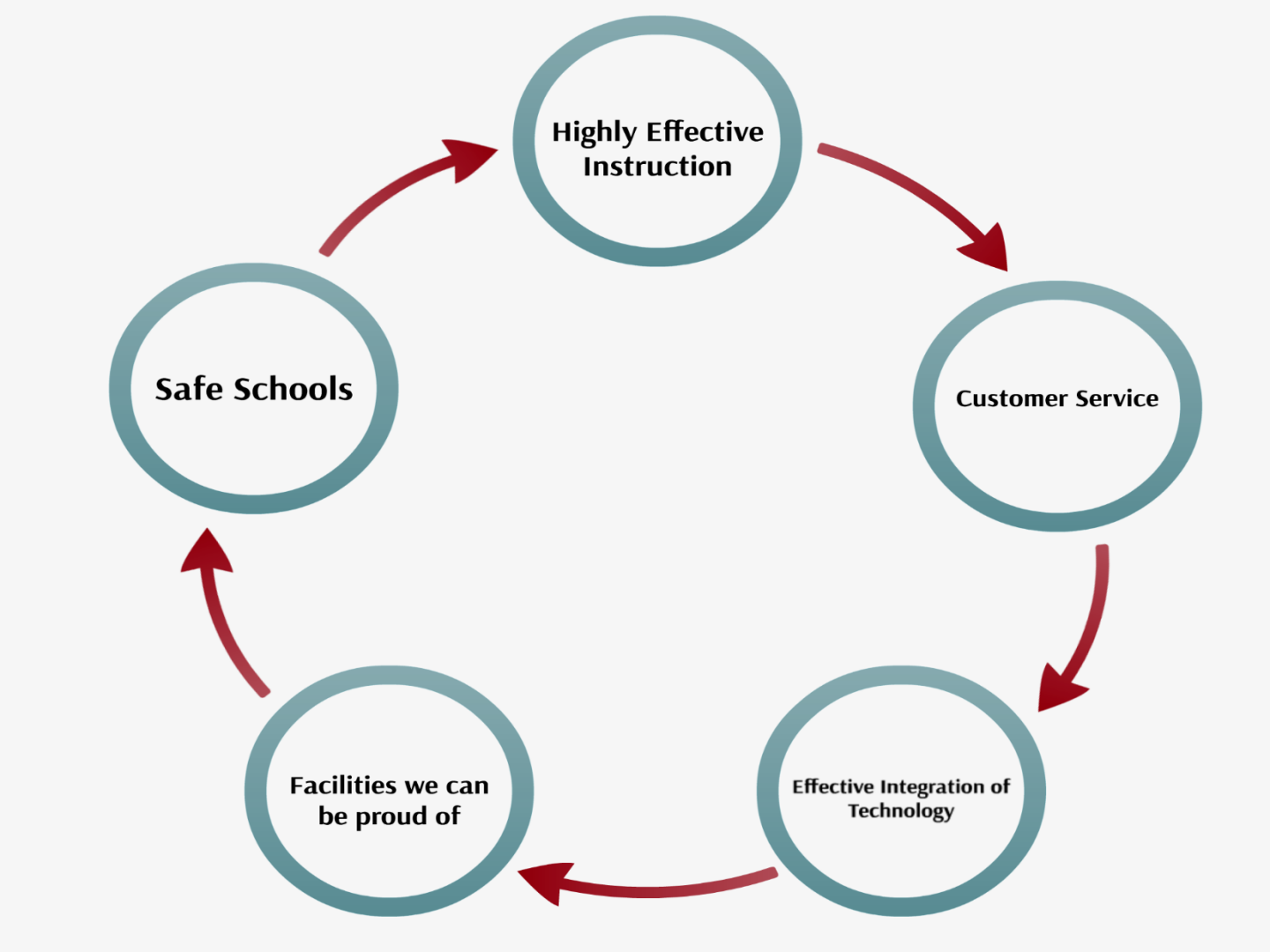
Date Approved:

2/18/19

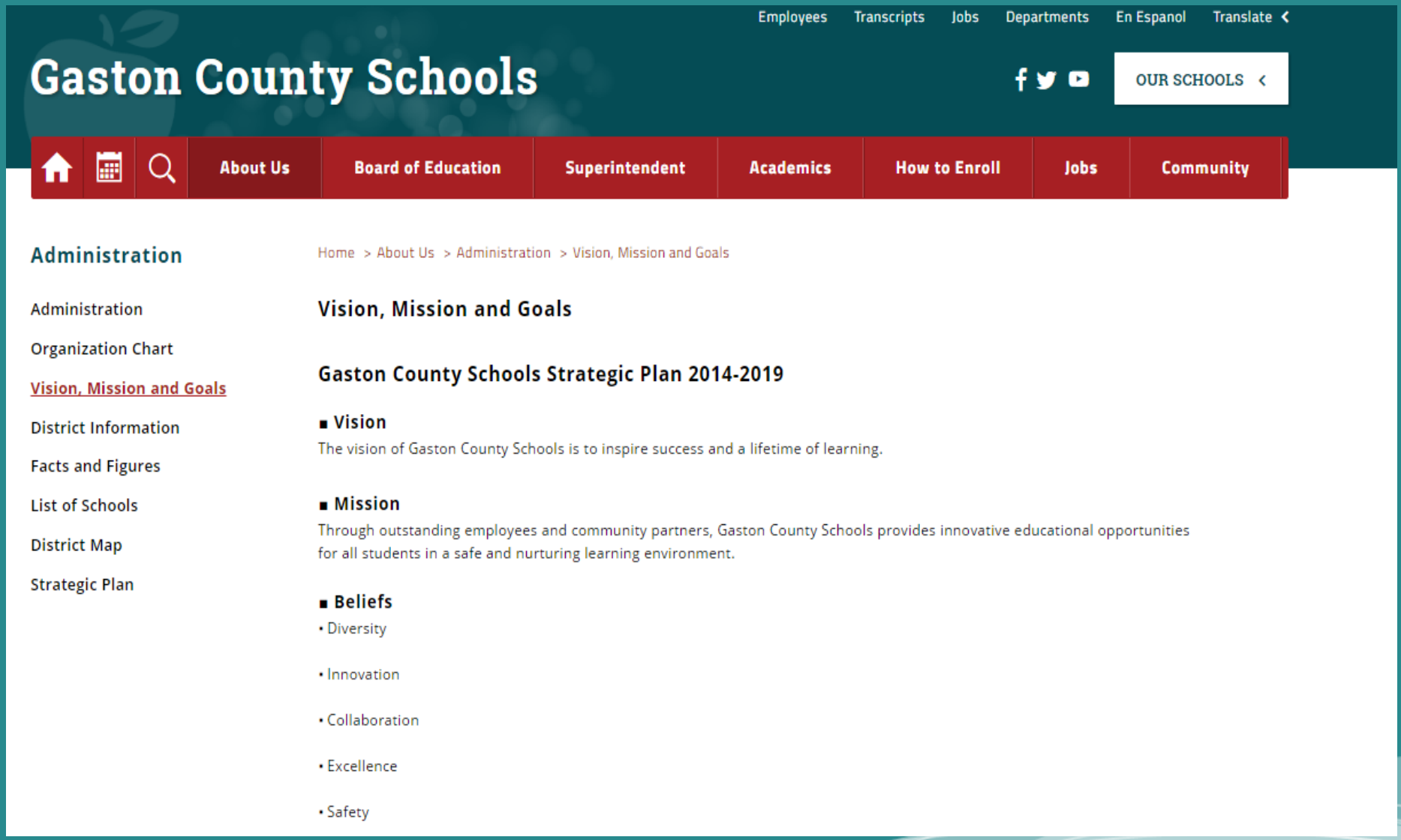
Gaston County Schools Strategic Plan Update

Board of Education
January 18, 2019

Diversity
Innovation
Safety
Collaboration
Excellence
Communication
Community
Commitment
Choice
Safe Schools
Technology Integration
College or Career Ready
Individualized Instruction
Effective Employees
VISION
The vision of Gaston County Schools is to inspire success and a lifetime of learning.
MISSION
Through outstanding employees and community partners, Gaston County Schools provides innovative educational opportunities for all students in a safe and nurturing learning environment.


Highly Effective Instruction
Customer Service
Effective Integration of Technology
Facilities we can be proud of
Safe Schools

Strategic Plan



Employees Transcripts Jobs Departments En Espanol Translate

Gaston County Schools

OUR SCHOOLS

About Us | Board of Education | Superintendent | Academics | How to Enroll | Jobs | Community

Administration

- Administration
- Organization Chart
- Vision, Mission and Goals
- District Information
- Facts and Figures
- List of Schools
- District Map
- Strategic Plan

Home > About Us > Administration > Vision, Mission and Goals

Vision, Mission and Goals

Gaston County Schools Strategic Plan 2014-2019

Vision

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

Mission

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

Beliefs

- Diversity
- Innovation
- Collaboration
- Excellence
- Safety

Stakeholder Input

652

700+

Stakeholder Input

Academics

Safety

Facilities

Choice

Stakeholder Input

Teacher Retention

Professional Development

Technology

College and Career Ready

What's Ahead

What's Ahead

GASTON COUNTY SCHOOLS' STRATEGIC PLAN

2019-2024

shaping our future

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

Thank you

GCS
Accountability Update

Board of Education
January 18, 2019

Agenda

- District Performance
- School Improvement Plans
- Data Support in our Schools

District Performance

District Performance

District Performance

District Name	State Board Region	Percent Proficient	Percent of Economically Disadvantaged Students
State of North Carolina	**State**	**58.8**	**59.37**
Cumberland County Schools	Sandhills	56.4	74.56
Guilford County Schools	Piedmont-Triad	54.2	64.82
Gaston County Schools	**Southwest**	**56**	**64.03**
Durham Public Schools	North Central	48.3	63.97
Forsyth County Schools	Piedmont-Triad	52.7	63.54
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	Southwest	59.9	59.84
Johnston County Schools	North Central	53.4	44.66
Cabarrus County Schools	Southwest	62	41.75
Wake County Schools	North Central	65.8	34.29
Union County Public Schools	Southwest	71.9	33.37

District Performance

District Name	State Board Region	GLP	% EDS
Anson County Schools	Southwest	42.8	98.97
Kannapolis City Schools	Southwest	45	94.32
Cleveland County Schools	Southwest	59.6	72.45
Rowan-Salisbury Schools	Southwest	43.7	66.23
Gaston County Schools	**Southwest**	**56**	**64.03**
Stanly County Schools	Southwest	54.2	54.62
Catawba County Schools	Northwest	63.6	50.77
Lincoln County Schools	Southwest	68	47.31
Davidson County Schools	Piedmont-Triad	60.8	44.76
Cabarrus County Schools	Southwest	62	41.75

School Improvement Plans

Preparation

Indistar®
Getting Better Together®

NCStar
Lighting the Path to Student Success

Goals

- Reading
- Math
- Science

Alignment

- State Strategic Goals
- GCS Strategic Goals
- Title I Plan
- AdvancED Accreditation

Strategic Plan

Individualized Instruction

Healthy, Safe and [illegible]nsible

College and Career Ready

Capabl[illegible] Committed Educators

[illegible]nication and Technology

Indicators

Indicators

Individualized Instruction

Healthy, Safe and [illegible]nsible

College and Career Ready

Capabl[illegible] Committed Educators

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Continuous Improvement

Continuous Improvement

School Improvement Plan Review Meeting Checklist

Continuous Improvement

School Improvement Plan Review Meeting Schedule

Continuous Improvement

School Improvement Plan Monitoring

Continuous Improvement

Year One Timeline

Date	Action	Responsible
June-August	Training on New SIP Platform	Accountability
September 12th	Initial Draft of Plan Due	Principals and SIT
September 17th-28th	Review of Plans	Academic Services and Accountability
October 3rd, 2018	Present Plans to BOE	Assistant Supt. Of Administration and Chief Accountability Officer
October 15th, 2018	Present Plans to BOE for Approval	Assistant Supt. Of Administration and Chief Accountability Officer
November 1st, 2018	Post SIP to Website	Accountability and Communications
January 31st-February 14th, 2019	Mid-Year Monitoring Review	Executive Director for K-12 Instruction and Chief Accountability Officer
June 18th-June 27th, 2019	End of the Year Review Update Goals and Indicators	Executive Director for K-12 Instruction and Chief Accountability Officer

Year Two Timeline

Date	Action	Responsible
June-August	Year One Final Monitoring Updated Goals and Indicators SIT Team Elections District Level Feedback on Updated Plan	Executive Director for K-12 Instruction and Chief Accountability Officer
August 31, 2019	Updated SIP Plan Posted to Website	Communications and Accountability
January 28th-February 6th, 2020	Mid-Year Monitoring Review	Executive Director for K-12 Instruction and Chief Accountability Officer
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Data Support

Data Support: Who

- Board of Education
- Senior Leadership
- Principals
- Teachers
- Students

Data Support: How

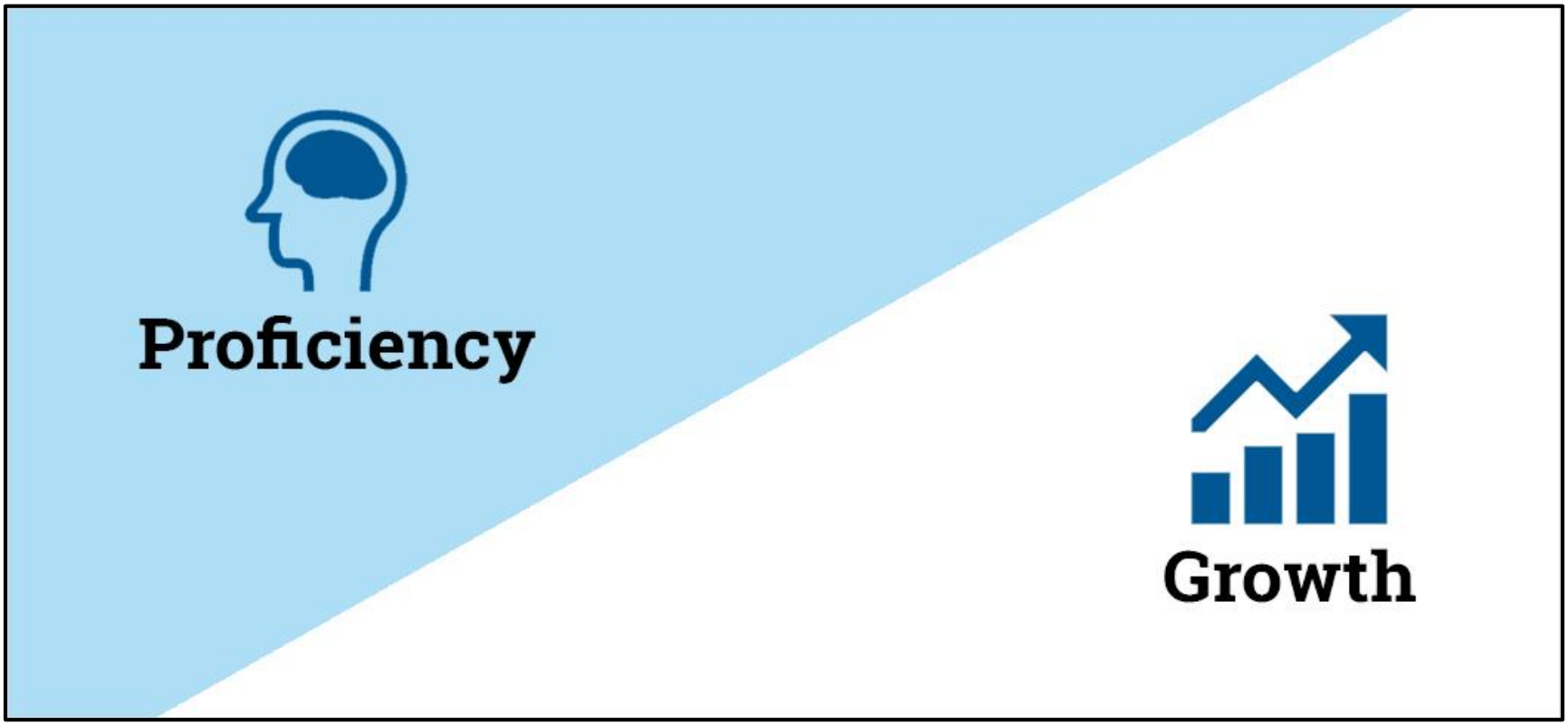
i-Ready

NC Check-ins

EVAAS

Data Support: What

Data Support: Results



Thank you

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Board of Education
January 18, 2019

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District Performance

District Performance

3

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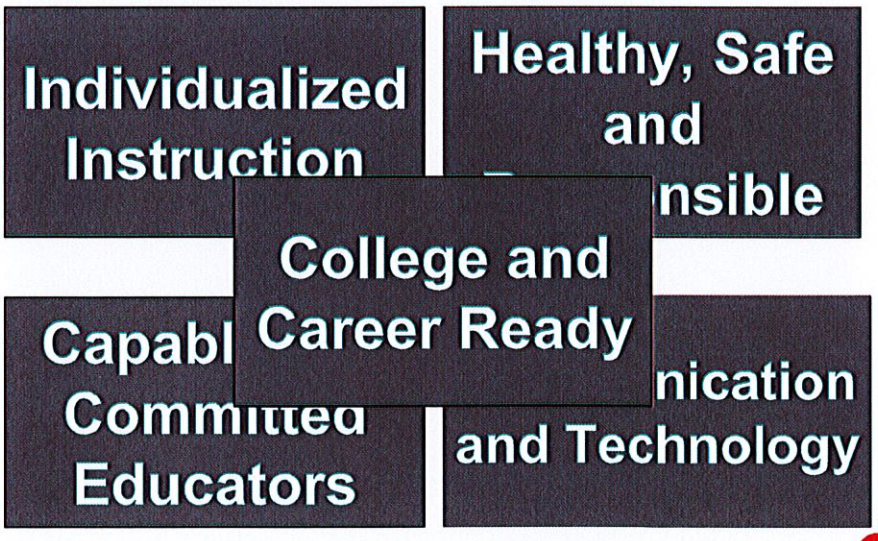
Strategic Plan



Indicators

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College and Career Ready

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- Students

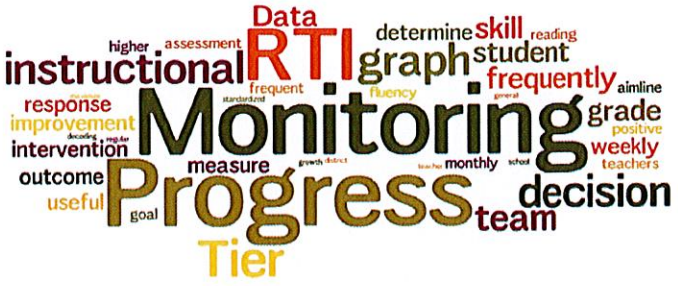
Data Support: How

i-Ready

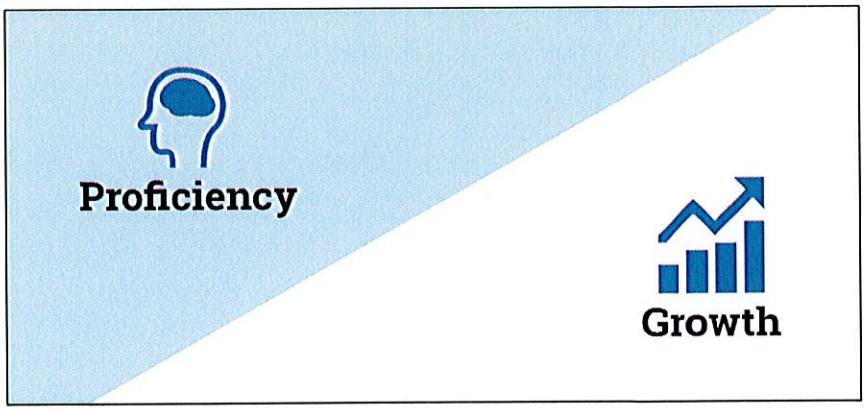
NC Check-ins

EVAAS

Data Support: What



Data Support: Results



Thank you

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

ONLINE School Enrollment & Choice Made Simple

Scribbles software

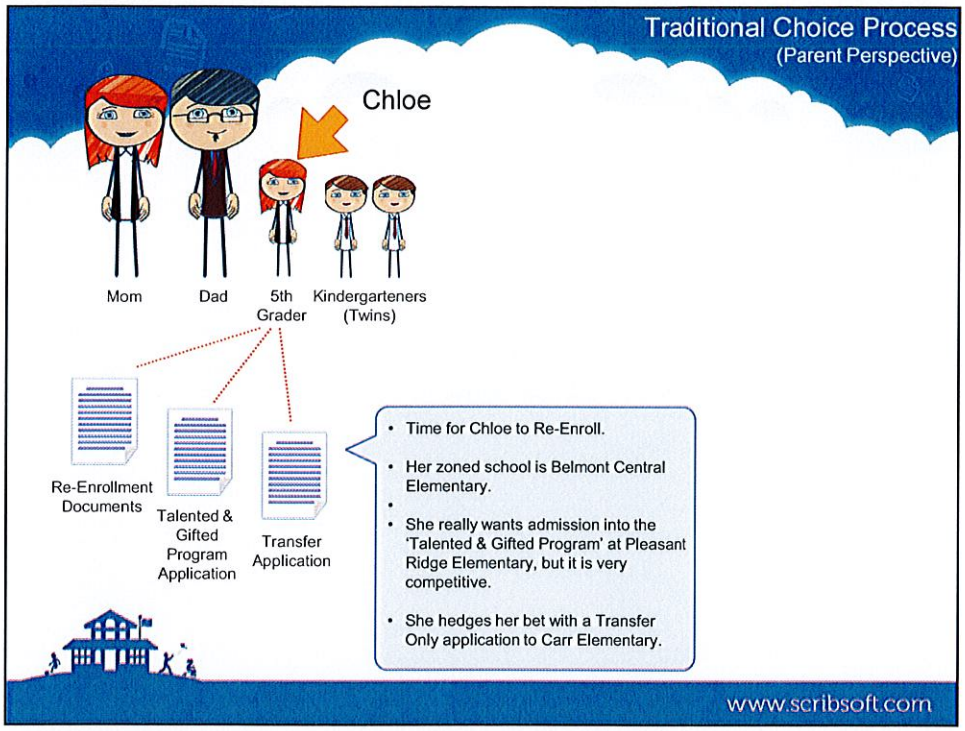
Traditional Choice Process
(Parent Perspective)

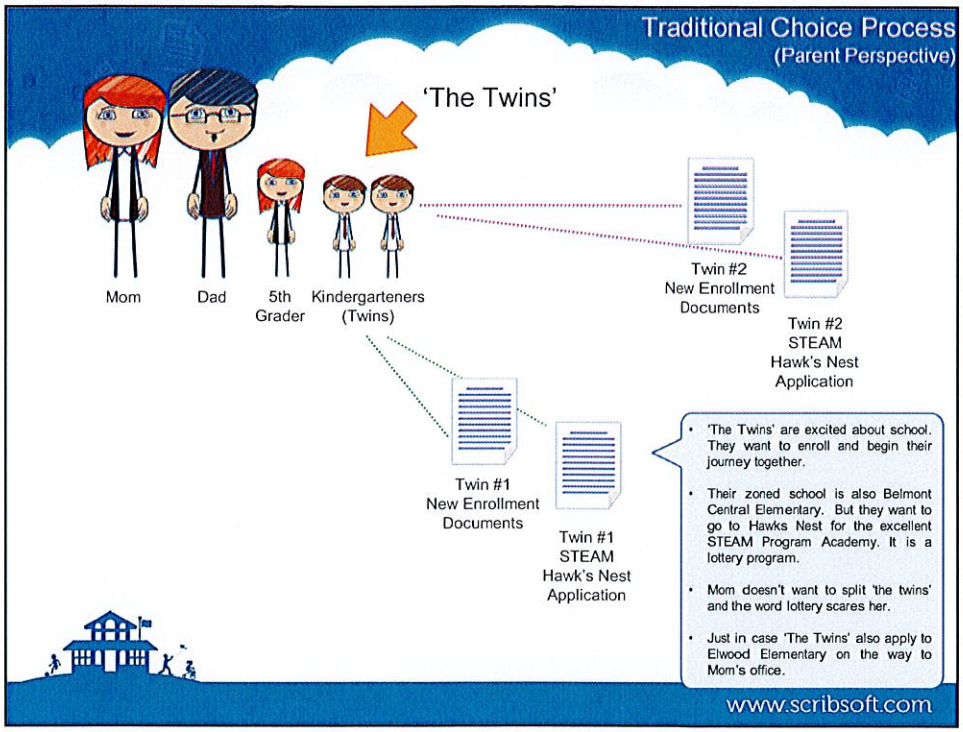
The School Enrollment & Choice process can be a stressful endeavor for any family.

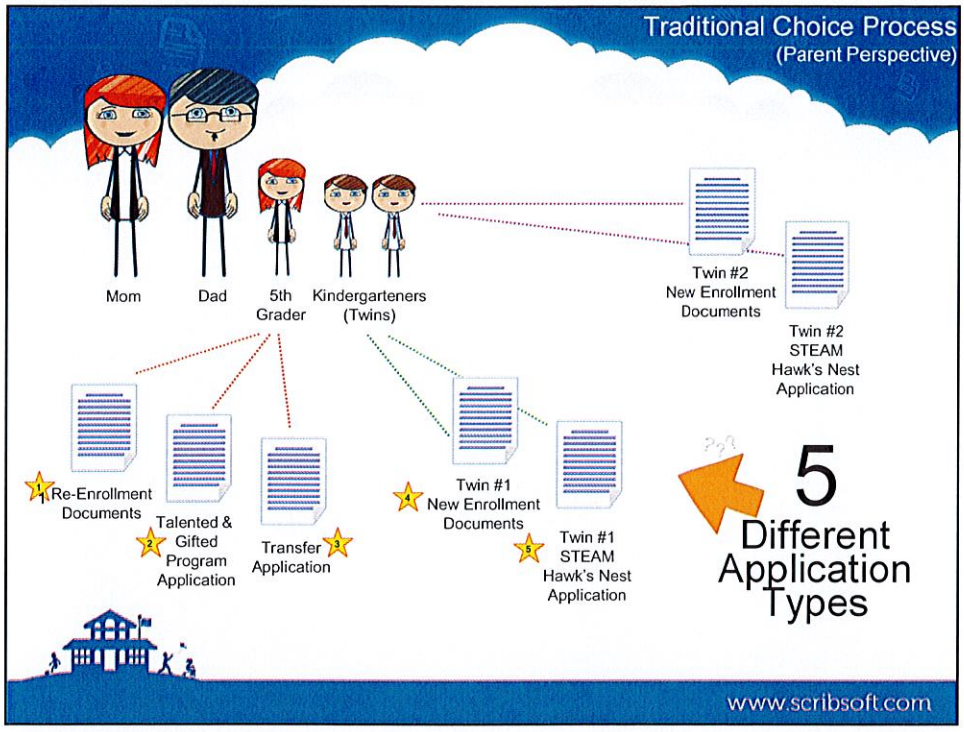
Let us walk you through one family's traditional experience

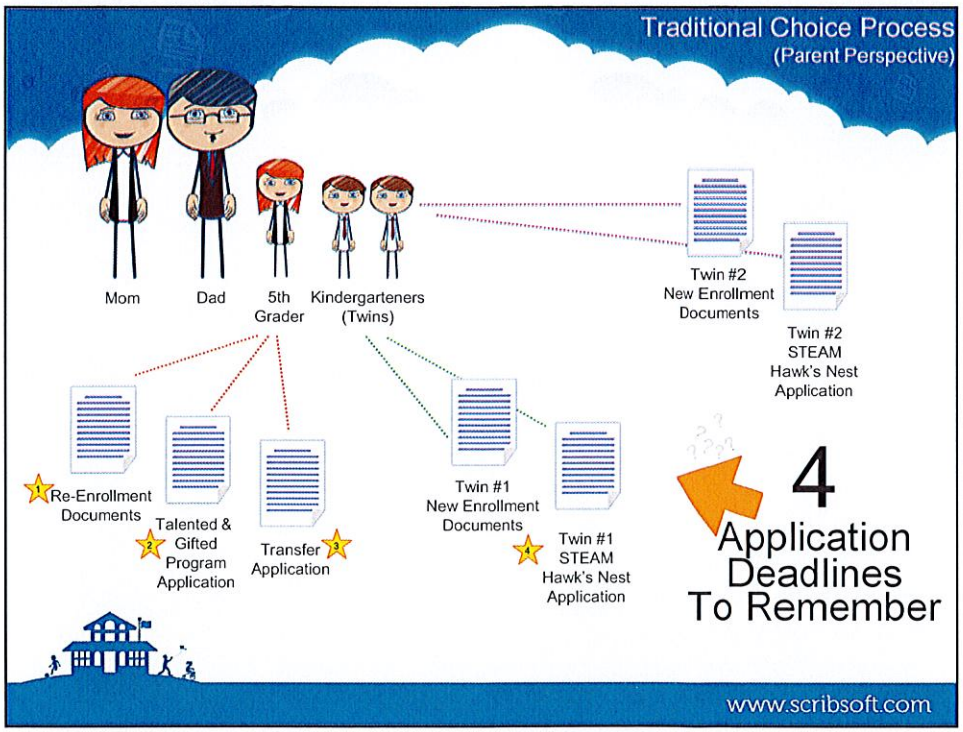
The Smith Family

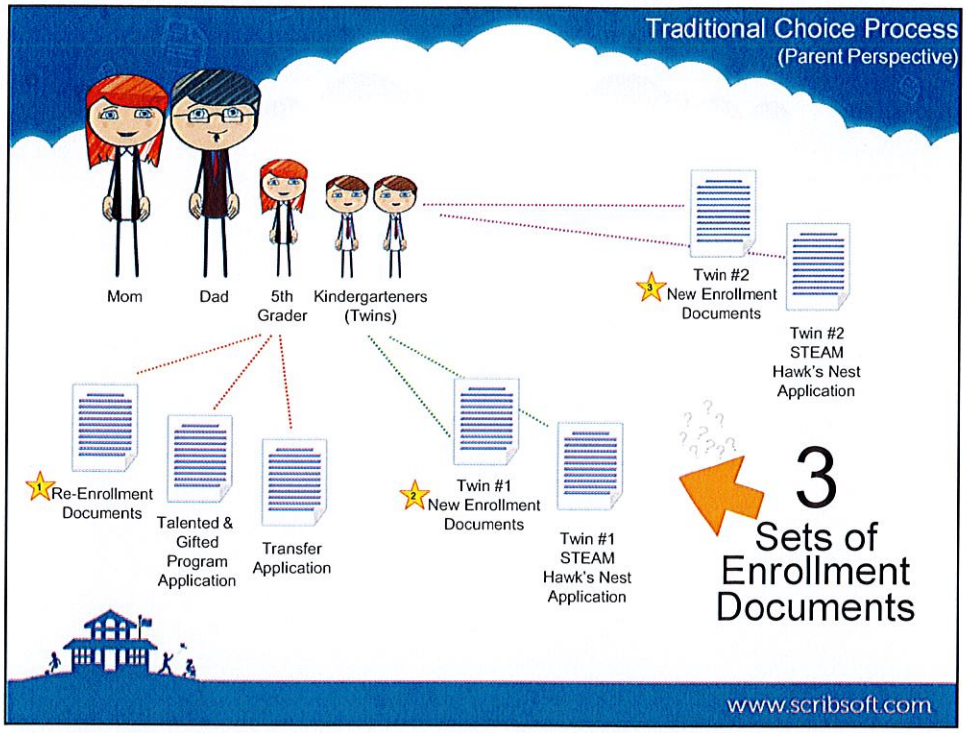
www.scribsoft.com

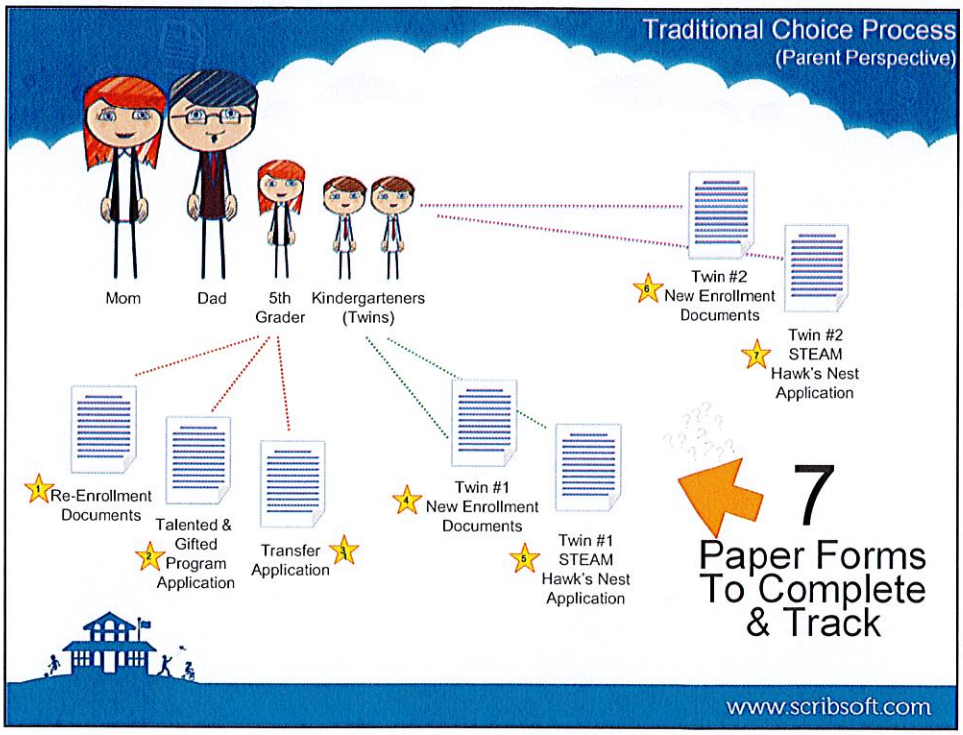

Traditional Choice Process
(Parent Perspective)
Chloe
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
Re-Enrollment Documents
Talented & Gifted Program Application
Transfer Application
• Time for Chloe to Re-Enroll.
• Her zoned school is Belmont Central Elementary.
•
• She really wants admission into the 'Talented & Gifted Program' at Pleasant Ridge Elementary, but it is very competitive.
• She hedges her bet with a Transfer Only application to Carr Elementary.
www.scribsoft.com

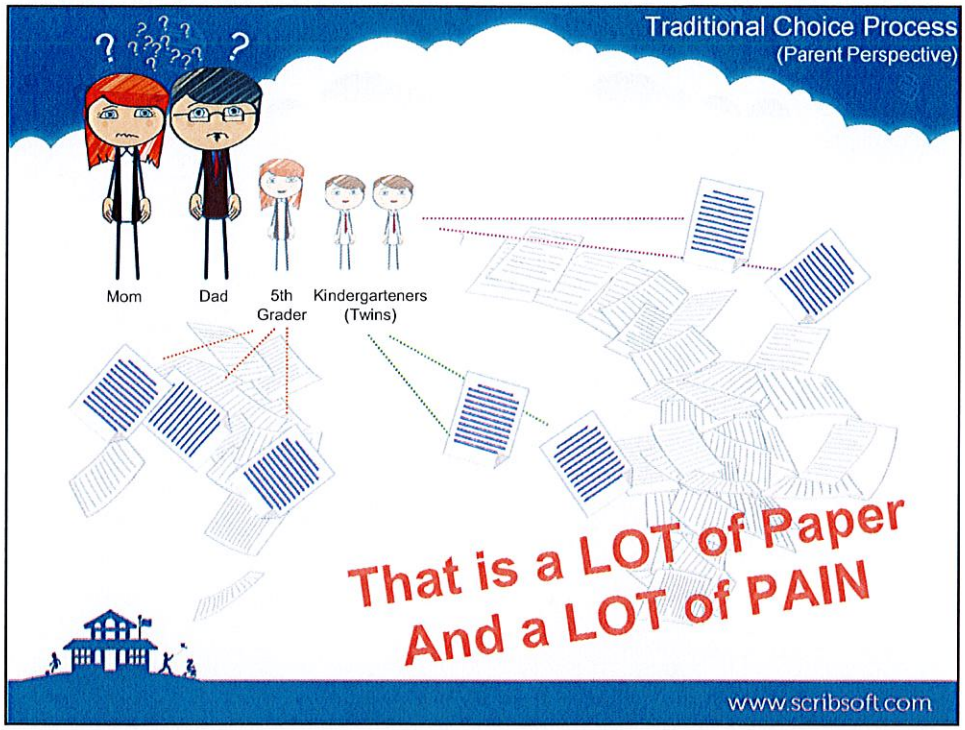

Traditional Choice Process
(Parent Perspective)
'The Twins'
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
Twin #2 New Enrollment Documents
Twin #2 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
Twin #1 New Enrollment Documents
Twin #1 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
• 'The Twins' are excited about school. They want to enroll and begin their journey together.
• Their zoned school is also Belmont Central Elementary. But they want to go to Hawks Nest for the excellent STEAM Program Academy. It is a lottery program.
• Mom doesn't want to split 'the twins' and the word lottery scares her.
• Just in case 'The Twins' also apply to Elwood Elementary on the way to Mom's office.
www.scribsoft.com

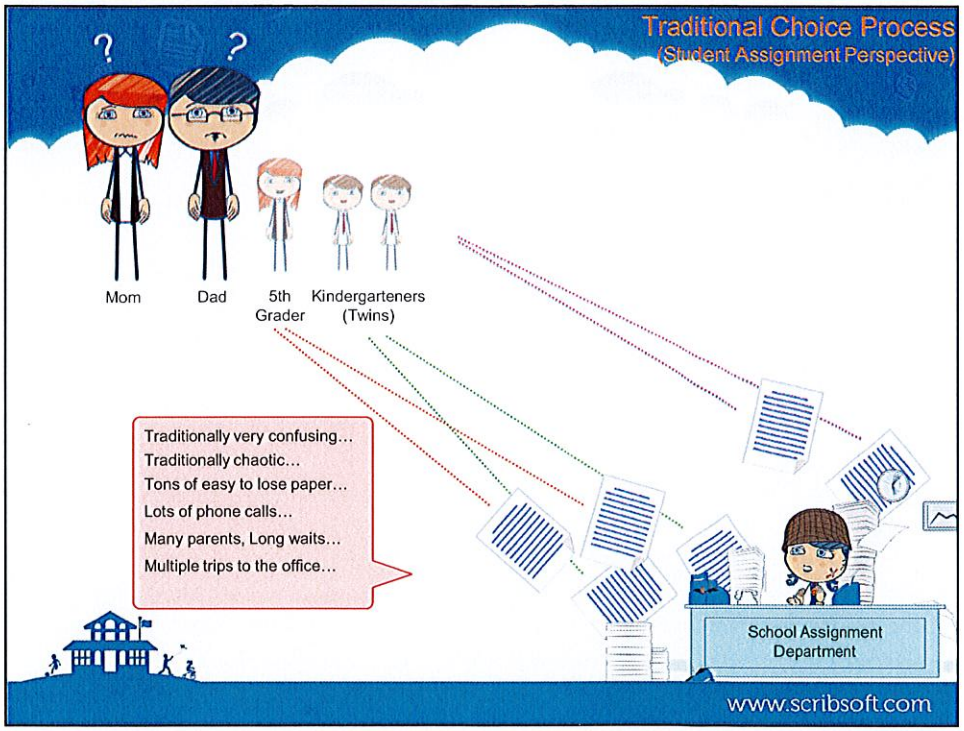

Traditional Choice Process
(Parent Perspective)
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
Twin #2 New Enrollment Documents
Twin #2 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
1 Re-Enrollment Documents
2 Talented & Gifted Program Application
3 Transfer Application
4 Twin #1 New Enrollment Documents
5 Twin #1 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
5 Different Application Types
www.scribsoft.com

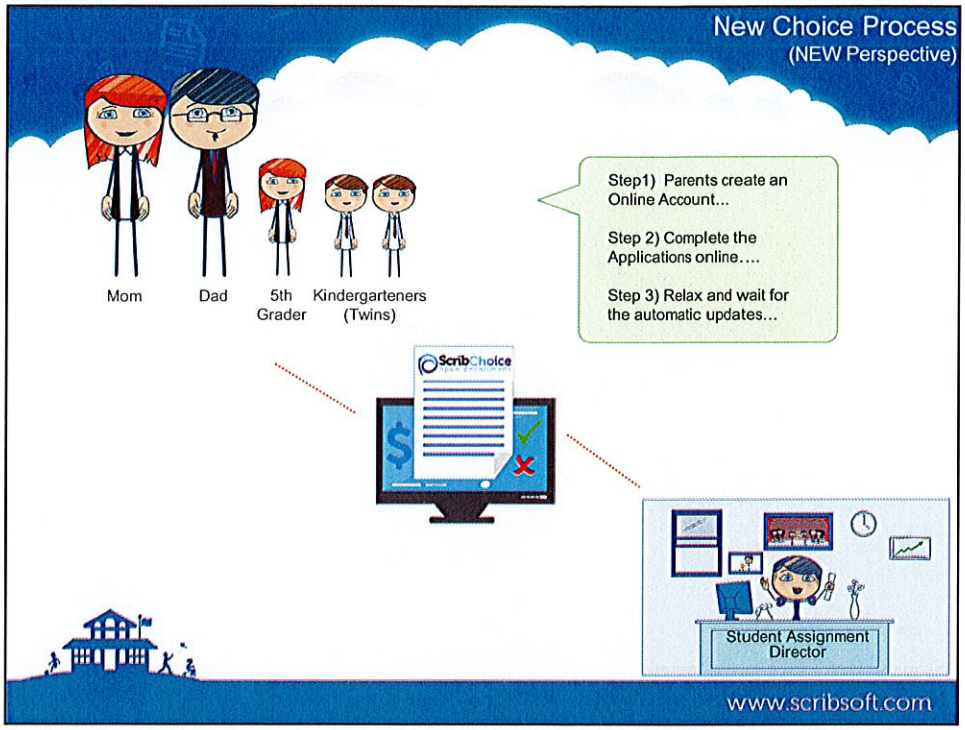

Traditional Choice Process
(Parent Perspective)
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
Twin #2 New Enrollment Documents
Twin #2 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
1 Re-Enrollment Documents
2 Talented & Gifted Program Application
3 Transfer Application
Twin #1 New Enrollment Documents
4 Twin #1 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
4 Application Deadlines To Remember
www.scribsoft.com


Traditional Choice Process
(Parent Perspective)
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
1 Re-Enrollment Documents
Talented & Gifted Program Application
Transfer Application
2 Twin #1 New Enrollment Documents
Twin #1 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
3 Twin #2 New Enrollment Documents
Twin #2 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
3
Sets of Enrollment Documents
www.scribsoft.com


Traditional Choice Process
(Parent Perspective)
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
1 Re-Enrollment Documents
2 Talented & Gifted Program Application
3 Transfer Application
4 Twin #1 New Enrollment Documents
5 Twin #1 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
6 Twin #2 New Enrollment Documents
7 Twin #2 STEAM Hawk's Nest Application
7
Paper Forms To Complete & Track
www.scribsoft.com

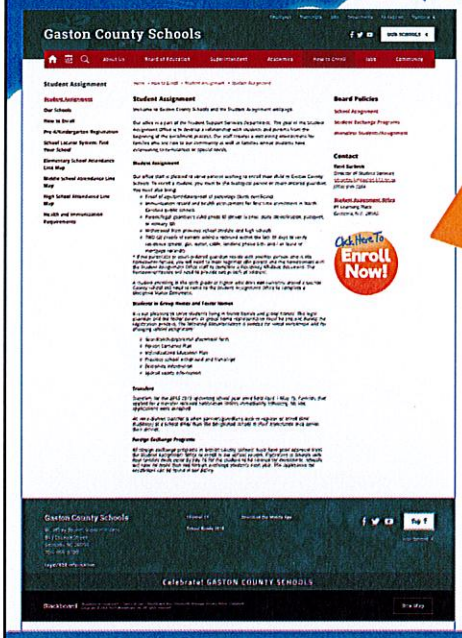

Traditional Choice Process
(Parent Perspective)
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
That is a LOT of Paper
And a LOT of PAIN
www.scribsoft.com


Traditional Choice Process
(Student Assignment Perspective)
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
Traditionally very confusing…
Traditionally chaotic…
Tons of easy to lose paper…
Lots of phone calls…
Many parents, Long waits…
Multiple trips to the office…
School Assignment Department
www.scribsoft.com


New Choice Process
(NEW Perspective)
Mom
Dad
5th Grader
Kindergarteners (Twins)
Step1) Parents create an Online Account...
Step 2) Complete the Applications online....
Step 3) Relax and wait for the automatic updates...
ScribChoice
Student Assignment Director
www.scribsoft.com

Lets see the details…
www.scribsoft.com

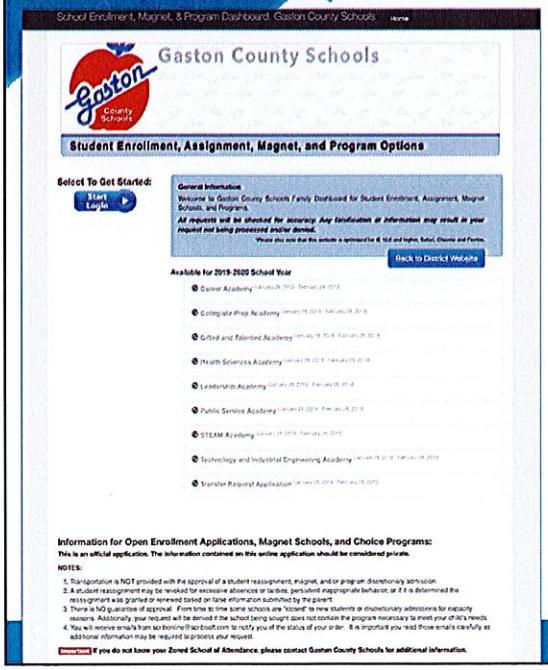
NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process



1. Parents visit the Gaston County Schools Student Assignment Website
2. Click to begin the process

www.scribsoft.com

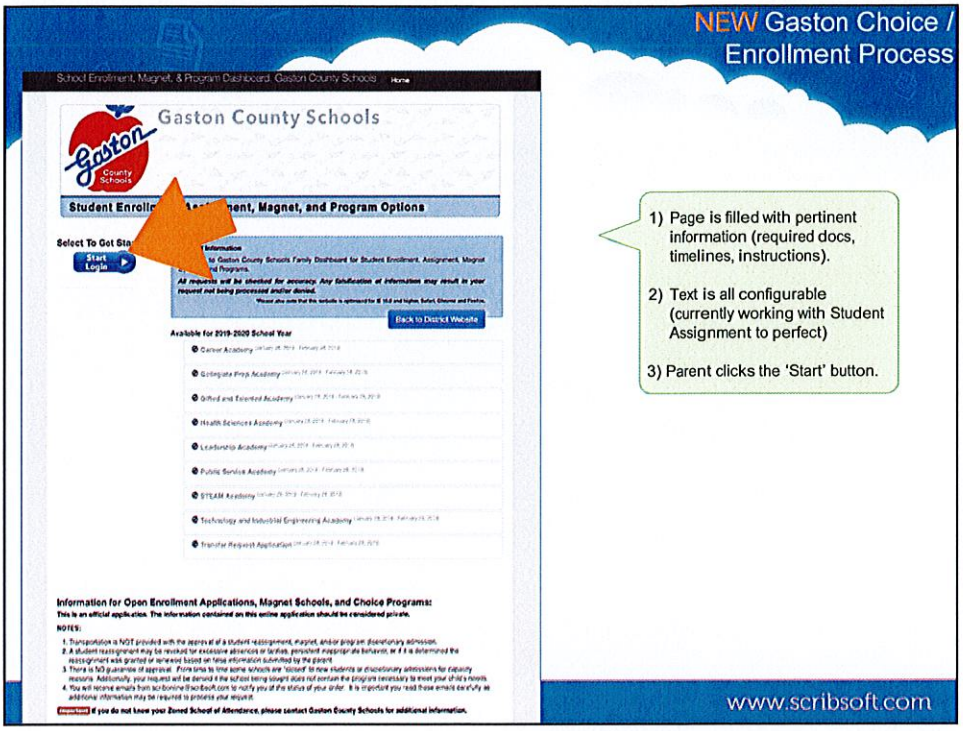
NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process



1. New Dashboard for:
   1. New Enrollment
   2. Re-Enrollment
   3. Choice / Programs
   4. Transfer
   5. Magnet
2. The goal is to give the Parent a Uniform Interface for most Assignment Activities.

www.scribsoft.com

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process



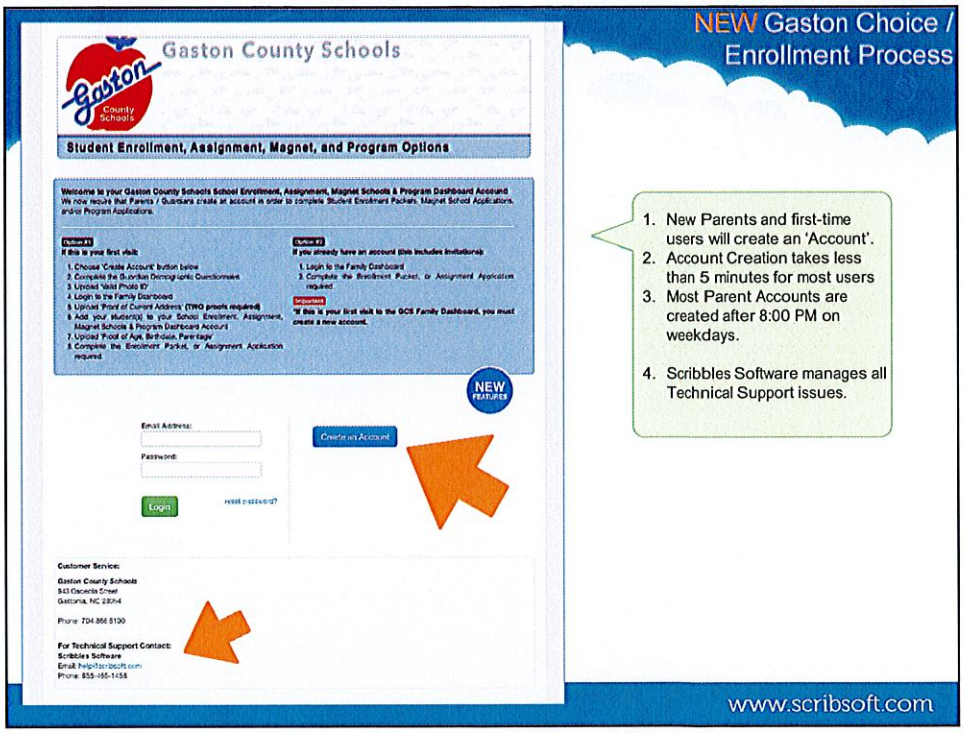
1) Page is filled with pertinent information (required docs, timelines, instructions).

2) Text is all configurable (currently working with Student Assignment to perfect)

3) Parent clicks the 'Start' button.

www.scribsoft.com

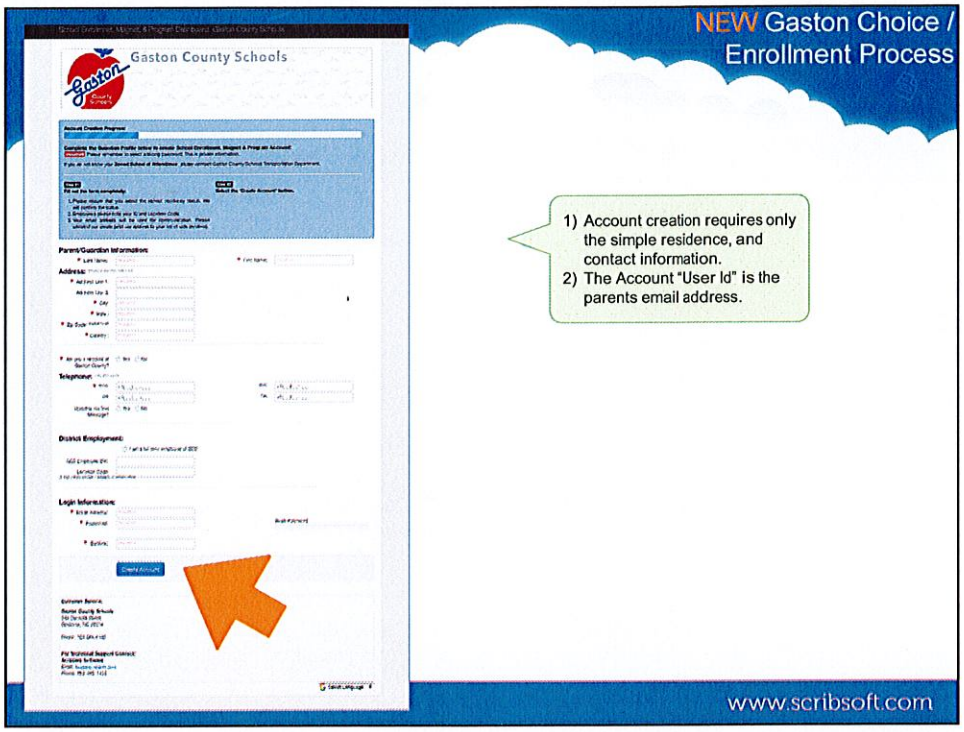
NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process

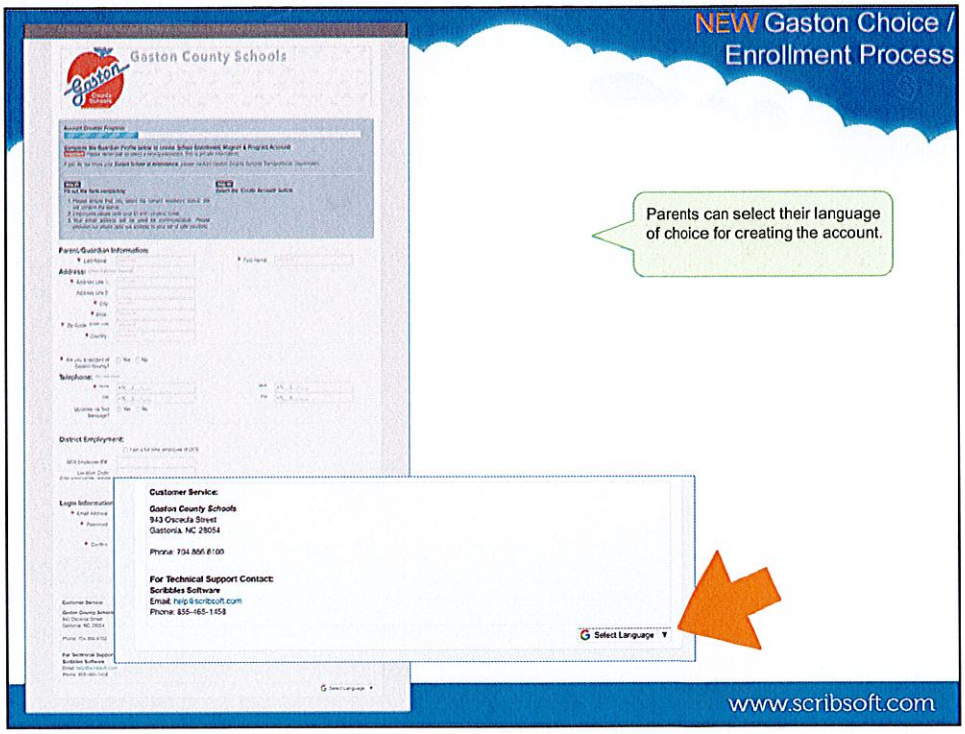


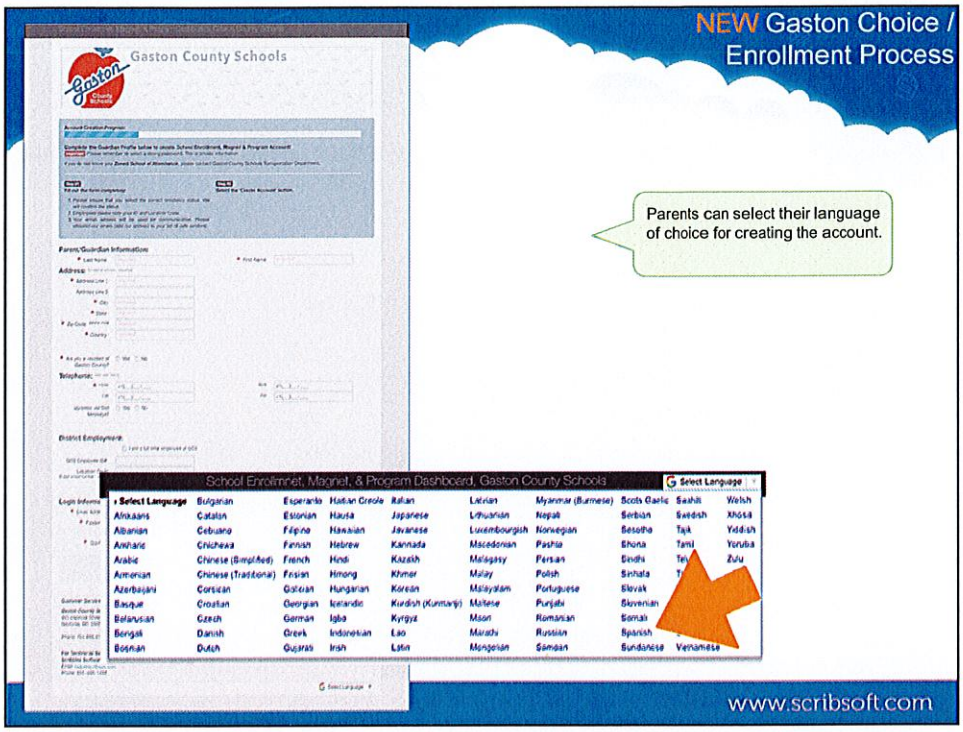
1. New Parents and first-time users will create an 'Account'.
2. Account Creation takes less than 5 minutes for most users
3. Most Parent Accounts are created after 8:00 PM on weekdays.

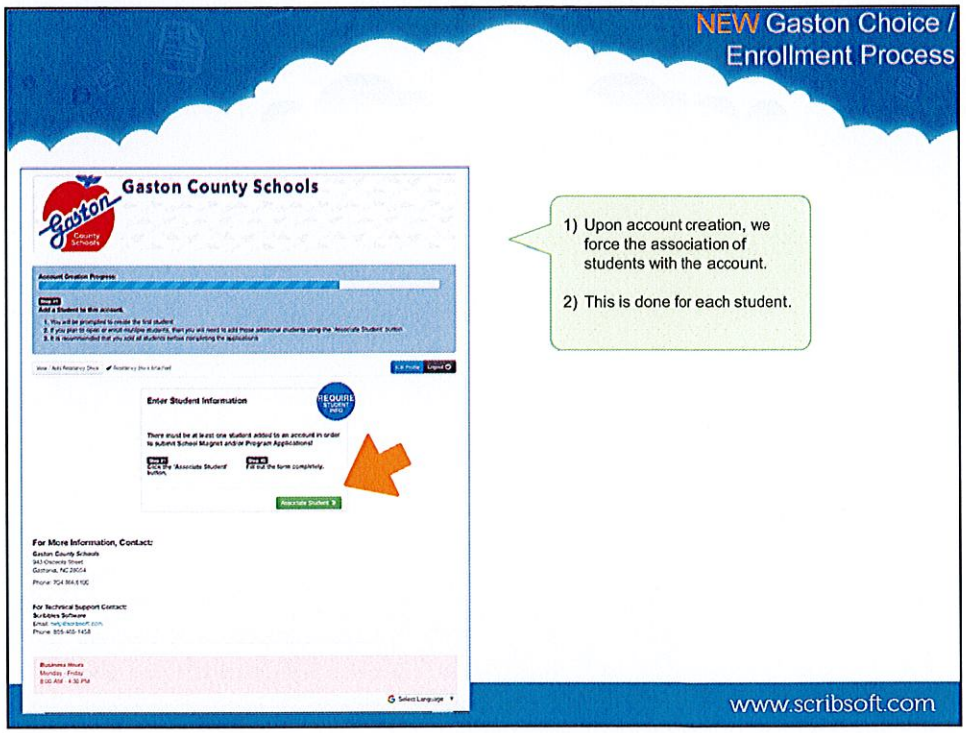
4. Scribbles Software manages all Technical Support issues.

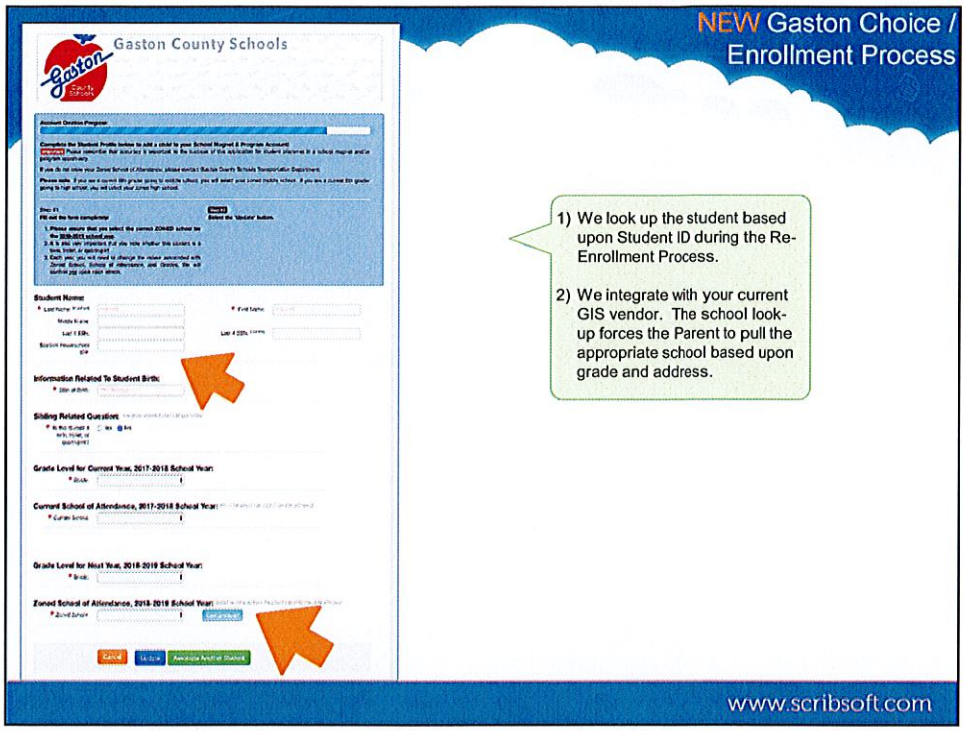
www.scribsoft.com

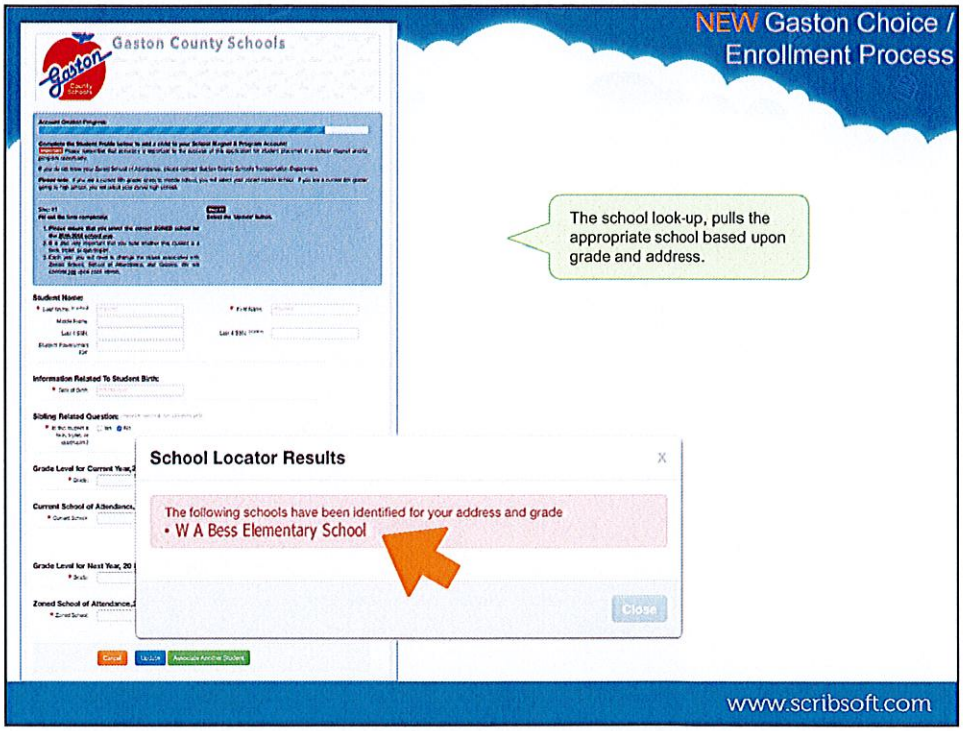

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
1) Account creation requires only the simple residence, and contact information.
2) The Account "User Id" is the parents email address.
www.scribsoft.com

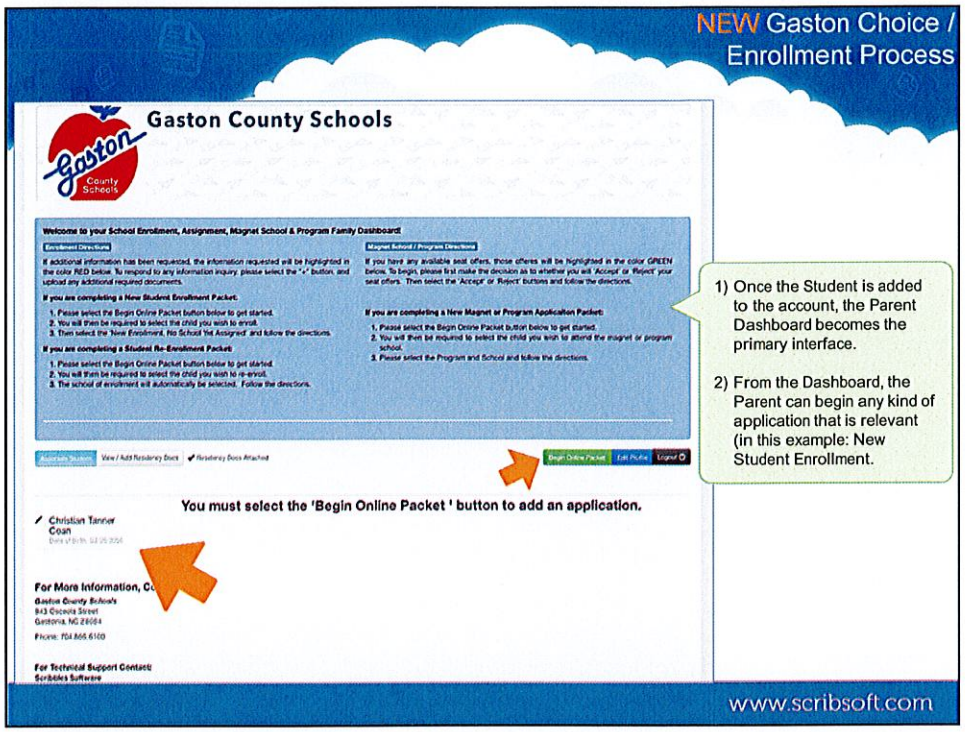

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
Parents can select their language of choice for creating the account.
Customer Service:
Gaston County Schools
943 Osceola Street
Gastonia, NC 28054
Phone: 704.866.6100
For Technical Support Contact:
Scribbles Software
Email: help@scribsoft.com
Phone: 855-465-1458
Select Language
www.scribsoft.com

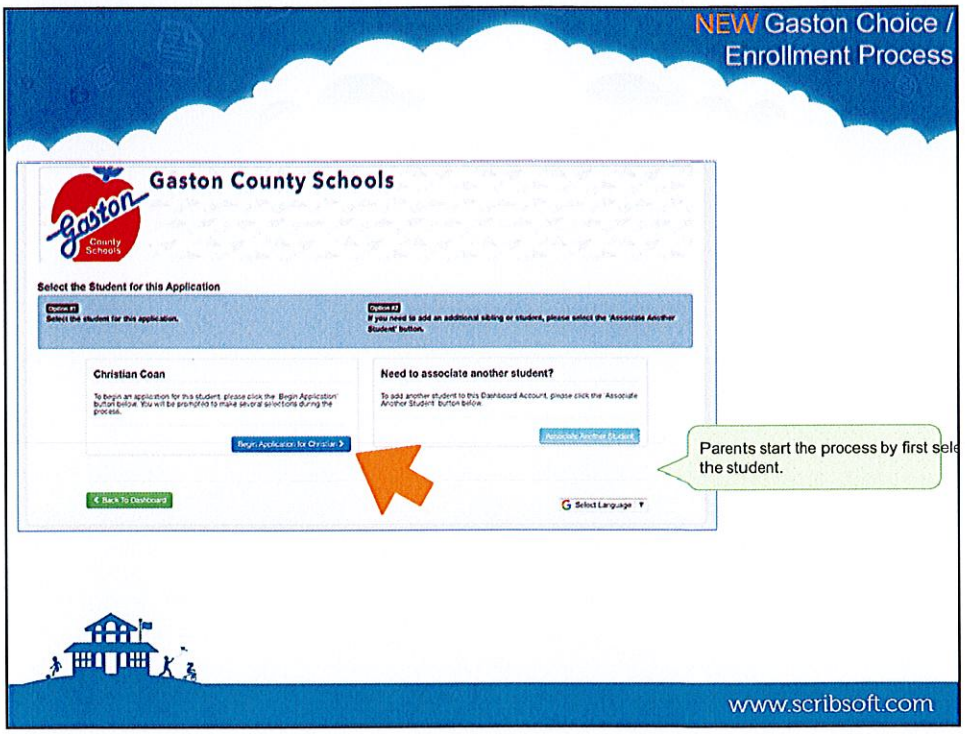

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
Parents can select their language of choice for creating the account.
School Enrollment, Magnet, & Program Dashboard, Gaston County Schools
Select Language
www.scribsoft.com

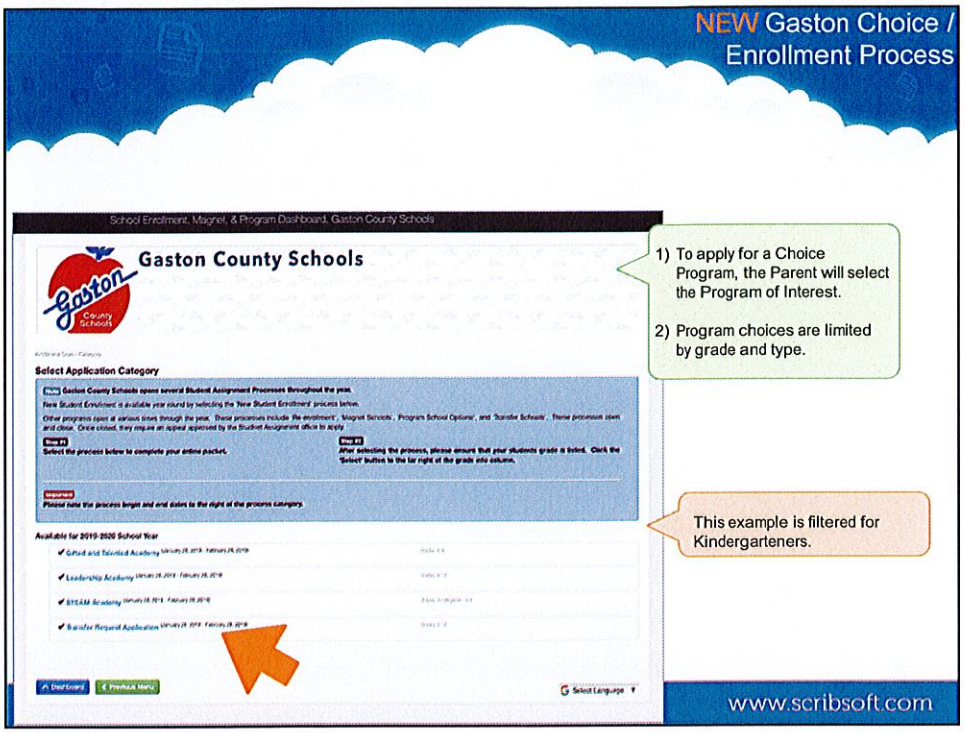

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
1) Upon account creation, we force the association of students with the account.
2) This is done for each student.
Enter Student Information
Associate Student
For More Information, Contact:
www.scribsoft.com

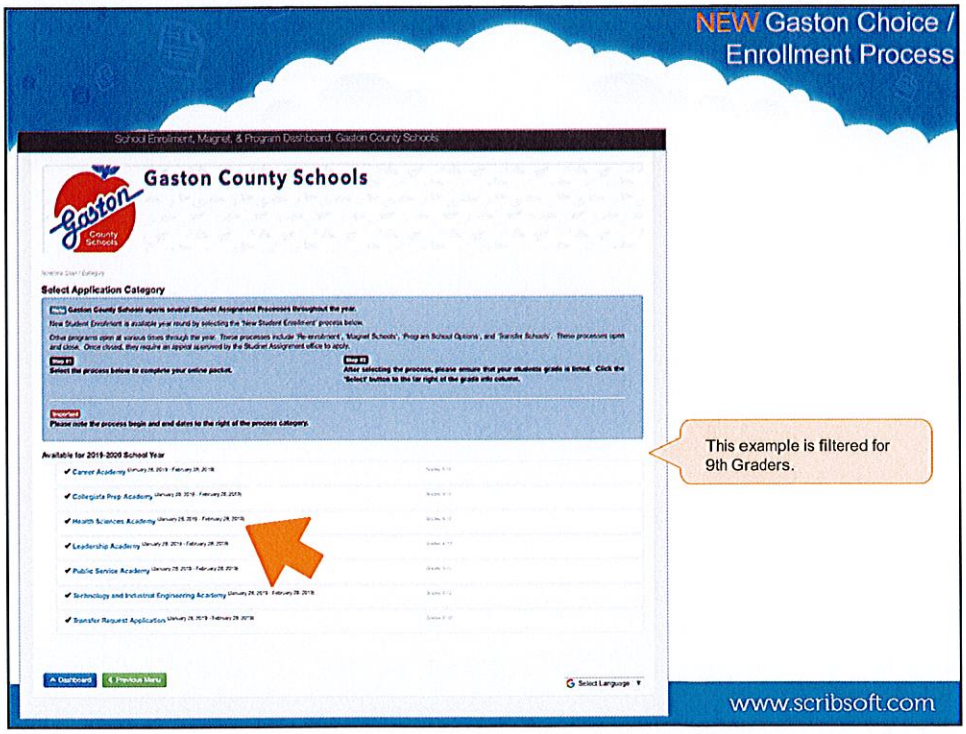

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
1) We look up the student based upon Student ID during the Re-Enrollment Process.
2) We integrate with your current GIS vendor. The school look-up forces the Parent to pull the appropriate school based upon grade and address.
www.scribsoft.com


NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
The school look-up, pulls the appropriate school based upon grade and address.
School Locator Results
The following schools have been identified for your address and grade
• W A Bess Elementary School
Close
www.scribsoft.com


NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
Welcome to your School Enrollment, Assignment, Magnet School & Program Family Dashboard!
You must select the 'Begin Online Packet ' button to add an application.
Christian Tanner Coan
For More Information, Co
Gaston County Schools
943 Osceola Street
Gastonia, NC 28054
Phone: 704.866.6100
For Technical Support Contact:
Scribbles Software
1) Once the Student is added to the account, the Parent Dashboard becomes the primary interface.
2) From the Dashboard, the Parent can begin any kind of application that is relevant (in this example: New Student Enrollment.
www.scribsoft.com


NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
Select the Student for this Application
Christian Coan
Need to associate another student?
Begin Application for Christian
Back To Dashboard
Select Language
Parents start the process by first sele
the student.
www.scribsoft.com


NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
School Enrollment, Magnet, & Program Dashboard, Gaston County Schools
Gaston County Schools
Select Application Category
Available for 2019-2020 School Year
1) To apply for a Choice Program, the Parent will select the Program of Interest.
2) Program choices are limited by grade and type.
This example is filtered for Kindergarteners.
www.scribsoft.com


NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
School Enrollment, Magnet, & Program Dashboard, Gaston County Schools
Gaston County Schools
Select Application Category
Available for 2019-2020 School Year
This example is filtered for 9th Graders.
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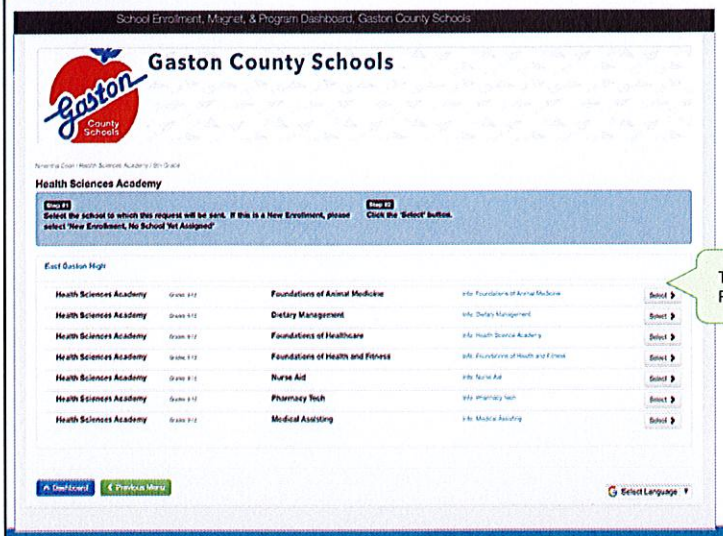
NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process



The Parent then selects the Program of interest.

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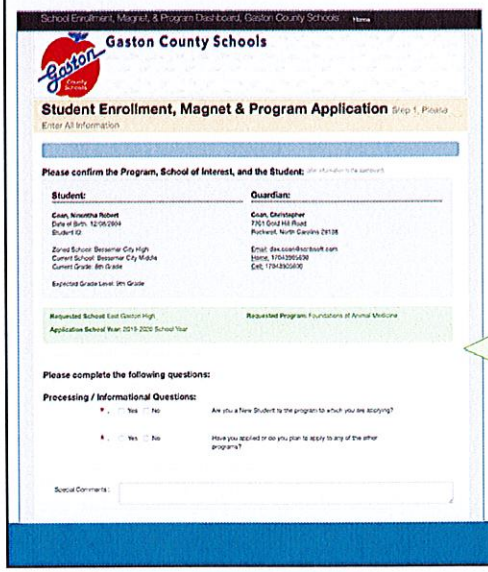
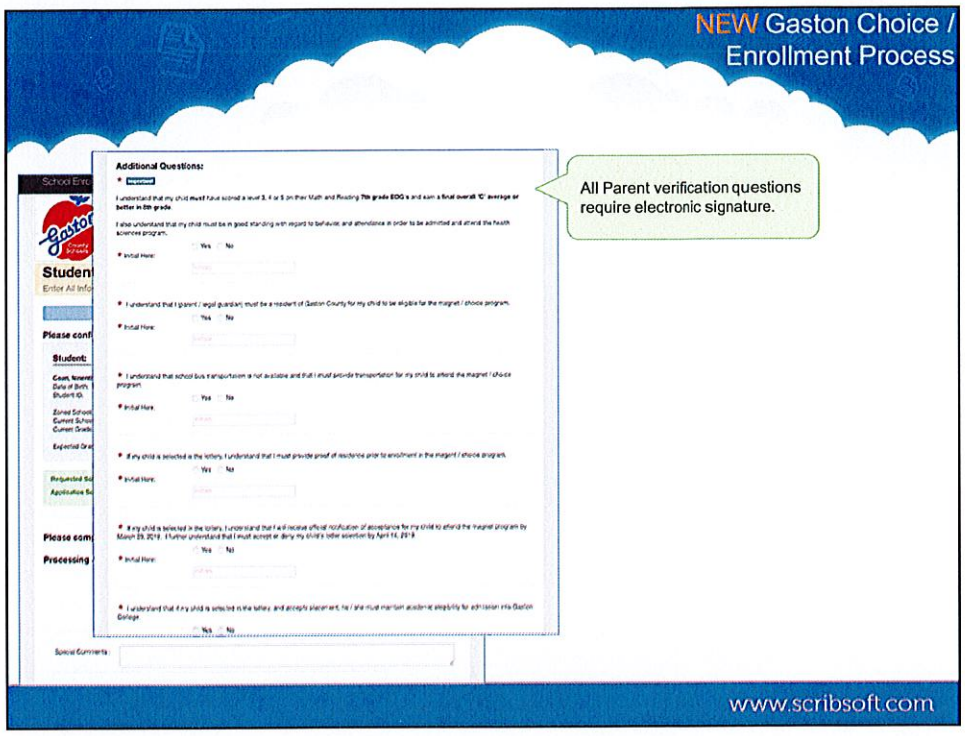
NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process

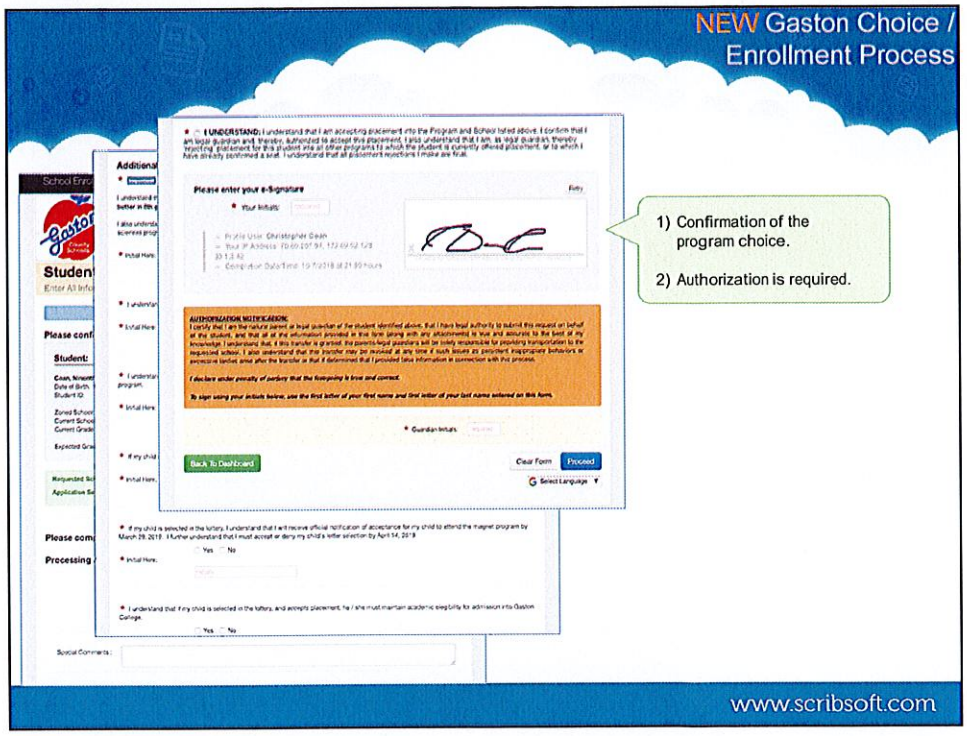


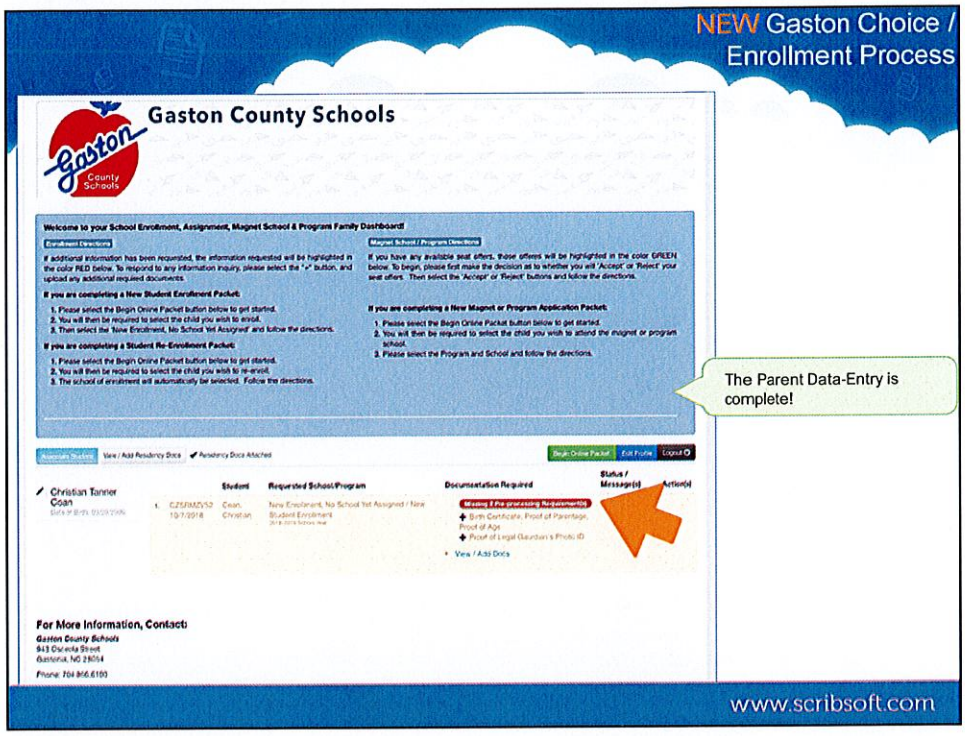
1) We begin to collect the remainder of the information required to complete the choice application.

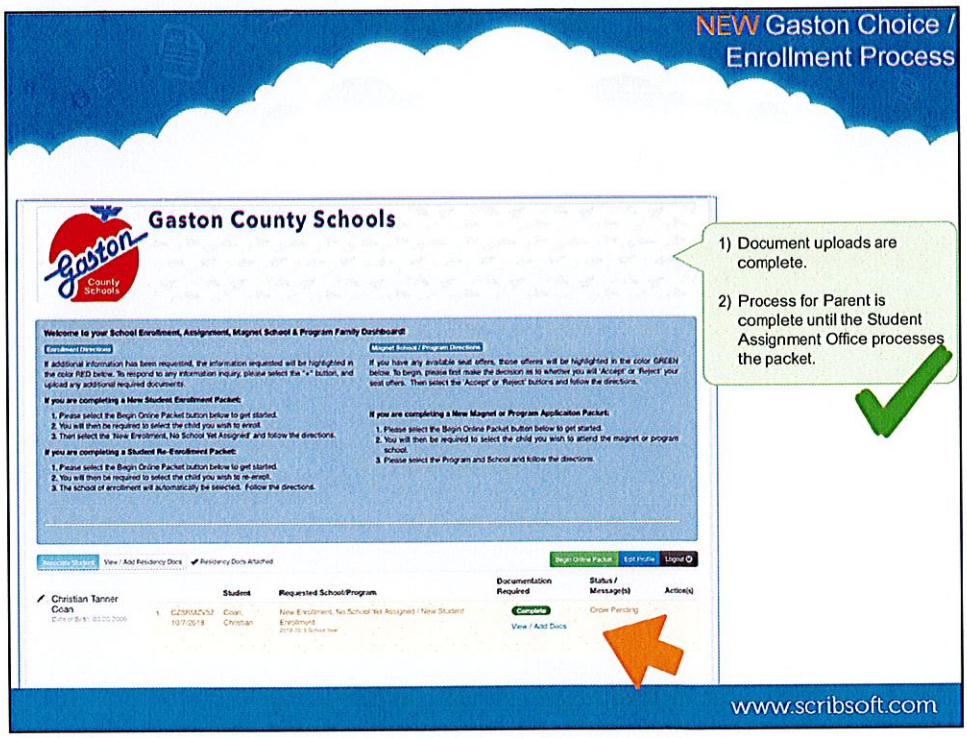
2) All questions are configured to match existing choice applications.

www.scribsoft.com


NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Additional Questions:
All Parent verification questions require electronic signature.
www.scribsoft.com


NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Please enter your e-Signature
1) Confirmation of the program choice.
2) Authorization is required.
Back To Dashboard
Clear Form
Proceed
www.scribsoft.com


NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process
Gaston County Schools
Welcome to your School Enrollment, Assignment, Magnet School & Program Family Dashboard!
Enrollment Directions
Magnet School / Program Directions
If additional information has been requested, the information requested will be highlighted in the color RED below. To respond to any information inquiry, please select the "+" button, and upload any additional required documents.
If you are completing a New Student Enrollment Packet:
1. Please select the Begin Online Packet button below to get started.
2. You will then be required to select the child you wish to enroll.
3. Then select the 'New Enrollment, No School Yet Assigned' and follow the directions.
If you are completing a Student Re-Enrollment Packet:
1. Please select the Begin Online Packet button below to get started.
2. You will then be required to select the child you wish to re-enroll.
3. The school of enrollment will automatically be selected. Follow the directions.
If you have any available seat offers, those offers will be highlighted in the color GREEN below. To begin, please first make the decision as to whether you will 'Accept' or 'Reject' your seat offers. Then select the 'Accept' or 'Reject' buttons and follow the directions.
If you are completing a New Magnet or Program Application Packet:
1. Please select the Begin Online Packet button below to get started.
2. You will then be required to select the child you wish to attend the magnet or program school.
3. Please select the Program and School and follow the directions.
Begin Online Packet
Edit Profile
Logout
Student
Requested School/Program
Documentation Required
Status / Message(s)
Action(s)
Christian Tanner Coan
Birth Certificate, Proof of Parentage, Proof of Age
Proof of Legal Guardian's Photo ID
View / Add Docs
For More Information, Contact:
Gaston County Schools
Phone: 704.866.6100
The Parent Data-Entry is complete!
www.scribsoft.com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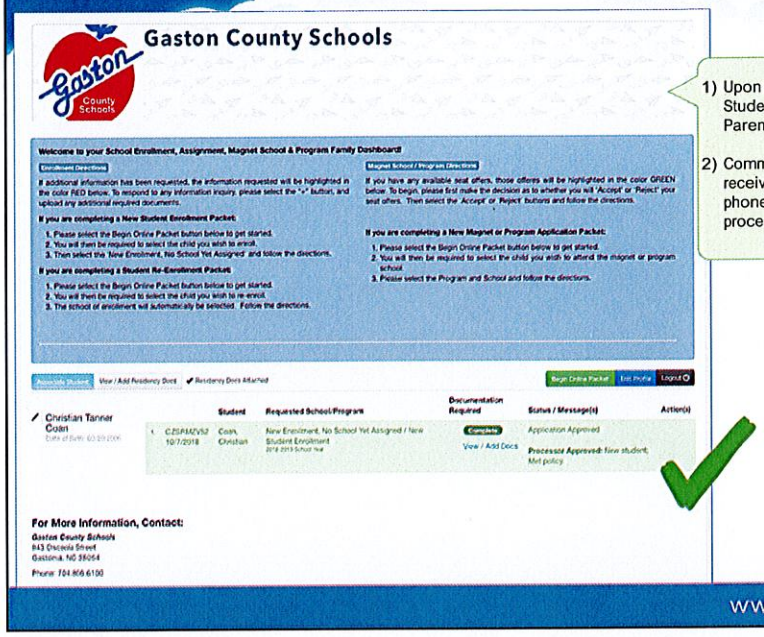
1. Please select the Begin Online Packet button below to get started.
2. You will then be required to select the child you wish to attend the magnet or program school.
3. Please select the Program and School and follow the directions.
Begin Online Packet
Edit Profile
Logout
Student
Requested School/Program
Documentation Required
Status / Message(s)
Action(s)
Christian Tanner Coan
Complete
Order Pending
View / Add Docs
1) Document uploads are complete.
2) Process for Parent is complete until the Student Assignment Office processes the packet.
www.scribsoft.com

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process



1) Upon processing by the Student Assignment Office the Parent Dashboard is updated

2) Communication is key. Parents receive texts, emails, and phone calls throughout the process. All automated.

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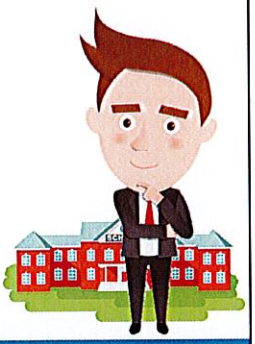
Top 5 Benefits

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process



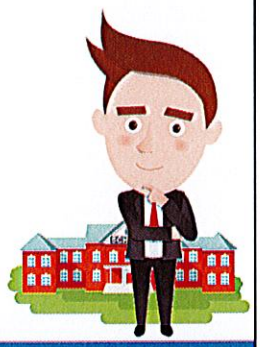
www.scribsoft.com

Top 5 Benefits

NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process

It's EASY and INSTANT

- No need for a Printer at home
- No need for a Computer at home (can use phone)
- Removes the need for parents to take-off work
- Updates to parents are real-time



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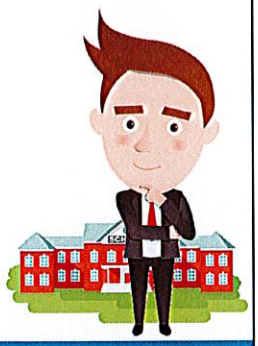
92% of adults < 49yrs
97% of households

*National Center for Education Statistics 2018



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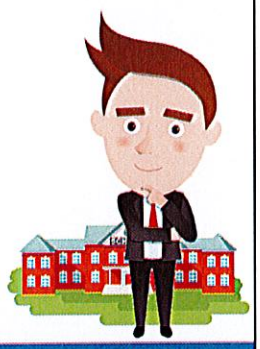
Everything STAYS TOGETHER

- **Audit Trail**
- Entire packet is online
- All notes are available for everyone to see (who has access)
- Electronic information is confidential



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This is how we begin the migration from a paper file to an Electronic File

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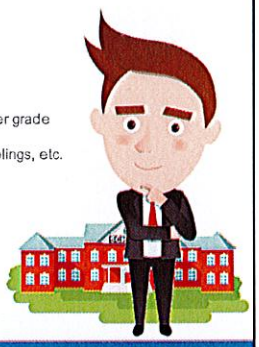
Automatic ORGANIZATION

- Eliminates the needs for spreadsheets per school, per grade
- Look at any students uploads instantly
- View rosters, view incomplete packets, search for siblings, etc.



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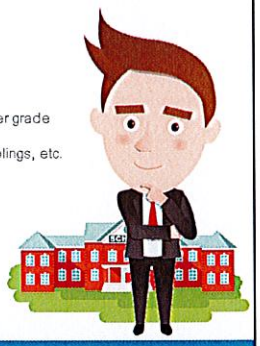
We always have purview into each school's enrollment numbers. Better planning!



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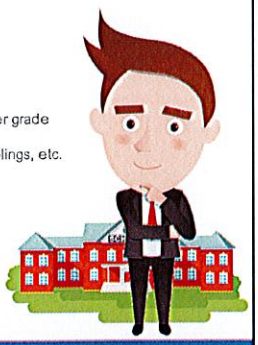
- Parents receive communication at every step in the process.
- Eliminates constant phone calls



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On average each Parent receives 5 emails, 5 text messages, and 3 phone calls. 13 Contact Points & Dashboard.

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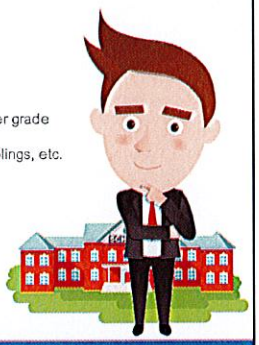

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REDUCES FRUSTRATION

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NEW Gaston Choice / Enrollment Process

We appreciate the opportunity!

Questions?

Contact Information:

Dax Coan

dax.coan@scribsoft.com

www.scribsoft.com

Gaston County Schools: Digital Learning

Board of Education
January 18, 2019

Digital Learning

- Provides Equity in Course Offerings
- Enhances Our Ability to Meet Student's Post-Graduation Plans
- Maximizes Our Resources
- Reduces Course Conflicts for Students
- Expands Opportunities for 21st Century Learning

Digital Learning

- 2018-2019: Over 7,437 enrollments in digital learning opportunities
- Opportunities Include:
  - North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS)
  - Gaston Online (*GO!*)
  - Career and College Promise (CCP)
  - Credit Recovery
  - Advanced Placement (AP)
  - Gaston Virtual Academy

Digital Learning- Gaston Virtual Academy

- GVA was created and managed by Gaston County Schools in 2017-2018

Year	Students	Grades
2017-2018	22	6-8
2018-2019	65	4-9

Digital Learning- NCVPS

- NCVPS is created and managed by the NCVPS, NCDPI
- NCVPS teachers and policies

Year	Enrollments
2016-2017	745
2017-2018	1,187
2018-2019	1,143

Digital Learning- *GO!*

- GO! was created and managed by Gaston County Schools in the Second Semester of 2015-2016
- GCS teachers and policies

Year	Enrollments
2015-2016	40
2016-2017	196
2017-2018	388
2018-2019	353

Digital Learning- Credit Recovery

- North Carolina Department of Public Instruction Policy GS-115C-81
- Recover a Course Credit From Previous Course

Year	Students
2016-2017	666
2017-2018	502
2018-2019	622

Digital Learning- CCP

- CCP was created by the NC General Assembly
- Provides dual enrollment between the School System and local Community College
- Free College- General Assembly (Gaston College) pays the tuition, Gaston County Schools pays the textbooks and fees

Year	Enrollments
2015-2016	516
2016-2017	767
2017-2018	1,089
2018-2019	1,462

Digital Learning- Advanced Placement

- Rigorous, college-level classes
- Students can participate in an AP exam to earn college credit

Year	Enrollments
2015-2016	3,089
2016-2017	3,265
2017-2018	3,420
2018-2019	2,969

4 Year Comparison

	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019
Career and College Promise (CCP)*	516	767	1,089	1,462
Advanced Placement (AP)*	3,089	3,265	3,420	2,969
Total	3,605	4,032	4,509	4,431
Percentage	50%	56%	63%	64%

*Some students may be counted more than once

Questions?

Board of Education Retreat
January 18, 2019

Budget Discussion for
FY 2019-2020

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Budget Overview

- Budget Calendar
- Budget Process
- Funding Review
- Operating Expenses
- Fund Balance
- Capital Request

Budget Calendar

- **January 18** – Board retreat
- **January & February** – Meet with Fund Managers and Department Directors
- **March** – Board budget work session
  – Present Superintendent's budget to Board of Education
- **April** – Board adoption of budget resolution

Budget Calendar

- **May** – Deliver Board of Education budget request to County
- **May or June** – County approves local budget
- **June** – Board of Education approves balanced interim budget
- **July or August** – General Assembly and the Governor approve State budget
- **August or September** – Board of Education approves final budget resolution

Budget Overview

- Budget Calendar
- Budget Process
- Funding Review
- Operating Expenses
- Fund Balance
- Capital Request

Budget Process

Some of the decisions that need to be made:

- What new initiatives and/or expansions should be funded?
- Which existing programs should be modified and/or eliminated?
- How do we best realize cost savings?
- How do we prioritize our capital needs?

Budget Process

- Monitor effectiveness of current budget
- Attend State budgeting seminars and read materials from trade organizations regarding budget issues
- Solicit input from stakeholders
- Identify funding priorities
- Communicate results to Superintendent and Board for further direction

Stakeholders

- District Leadership
- School Administrators
- Teachers
- Parents
- Students
- Community and Business Leaders

Budget Survey Options

Please check the box next to the initiatives listed below that you believe best supports the educational goals of the District. Please only select your top five choices (all are important):

- ☐ Increase Teacher Supplement
- ☐ Incr. Principal/AP Supplement
- ☐ Increase Classified Salaries
- ☐ Expand CTE Program Offerings
- ☐ Offer more Instructional Programs
- ☐ Expand AIG Program
- ☐ Increase the Number of AP Classes
- ☐ Offer more ESL Classes
- ☐ Increase Funding for the Arts
- ☐ Provide more Choice Options
- ☐ More Teacher Assistants
- ☐ Increase Student Support
- ☐ Increase Instructional Support
- ☐ More School Support Staff
- ☐ Provide more Computing Devices
- ☐ Increase Number of Library Books
- ☐ Expand Classroom Libraries
- ☐ Upgrade School Safety Systems
- ☐ Increase PD for Teachers
- ☐ Other

Budget Survey Results

List of Funding Priorities	% in Top 5
Increase Teacher Supplement	63%
Increase Principal/AP Supplement	19%
Increase Classified Salaries	36%
Expand CTE Program Offerings	22%
Expand Instructional Programs	22%
Expand AIG Program	8%
Increase Number of AP Classes	10%
Offer more ESL classes	3%
Increase Funding for the Arts	24%
Provide more Choice Options	29%

List of Funding Priorities	% in Top 5
More Teacher Assistants	35%
Increase Student Support	49%
Increase Instructional Support	14%
More School Support Staff	11%
Provide More Computing Devices	34%
Increase Number of Library Books	11%
Expand Classroom Libraries	14%
Upgrade School Safety Systems	41%
Increase PD for Teachers	24%
Other	6%

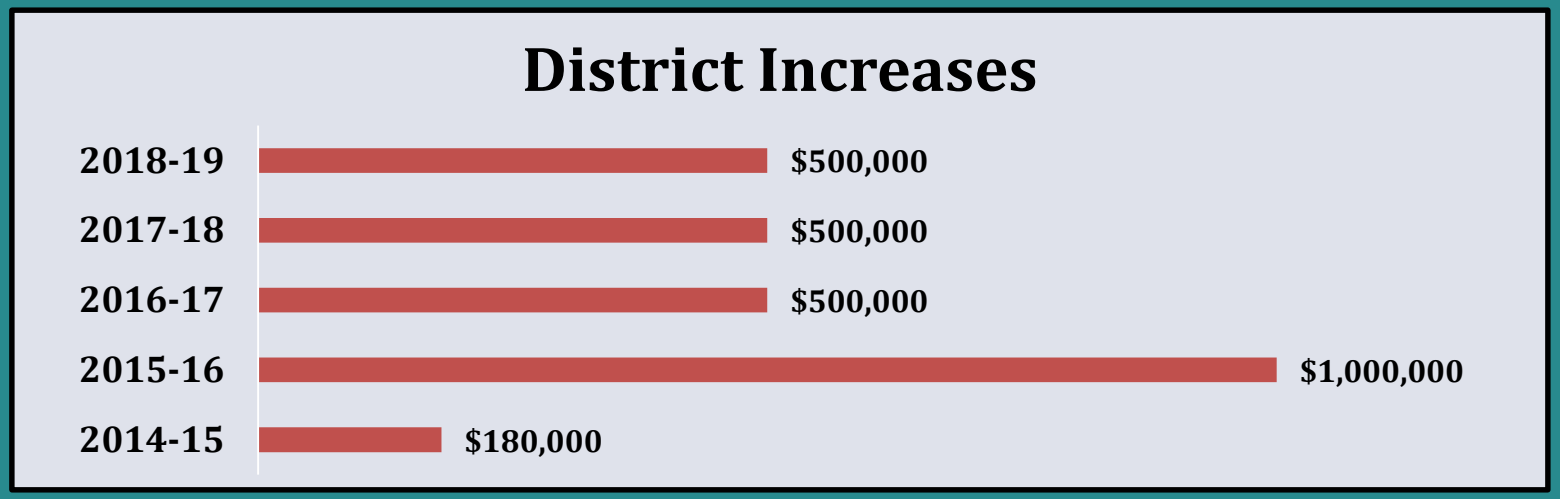
Budget Survey Results

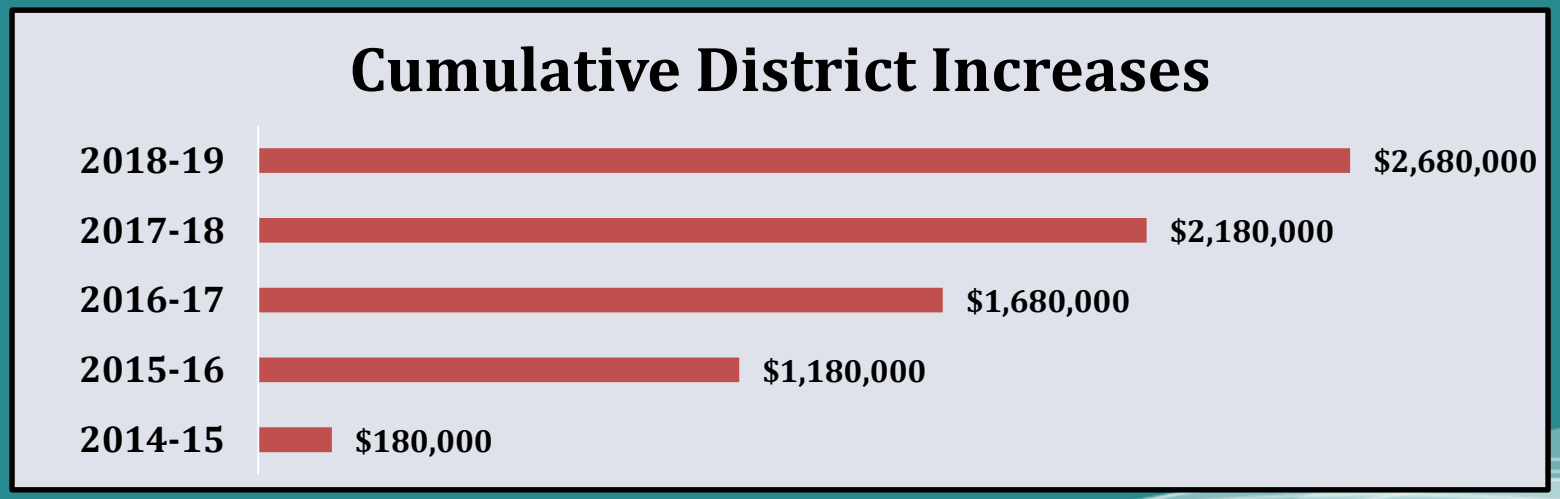
Top Funding Priorities	% in Top Five Priorities 2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 2015-19
Increase Teacher Supplement	84%	76%	68%	67%	63%	-21%
Increase Student Support	NA	11%	14%	21%	49%	NA
Upgrade School Safety Systems	NA	NA	NA	33%	41%	NA
Increase Classified Salaries	34%	38%	37%	34%	36%	2%
More Teacher Assistants	57%	38%	35%	33%	35%	-22%
Increase Computing Devices	37%	36%	36%	33%	34%	-3%
Provide more Choice Options	NA	30%	37%	29%	29%	NA
Respondents	140	169	190	251	258	118

Teacher Supplements

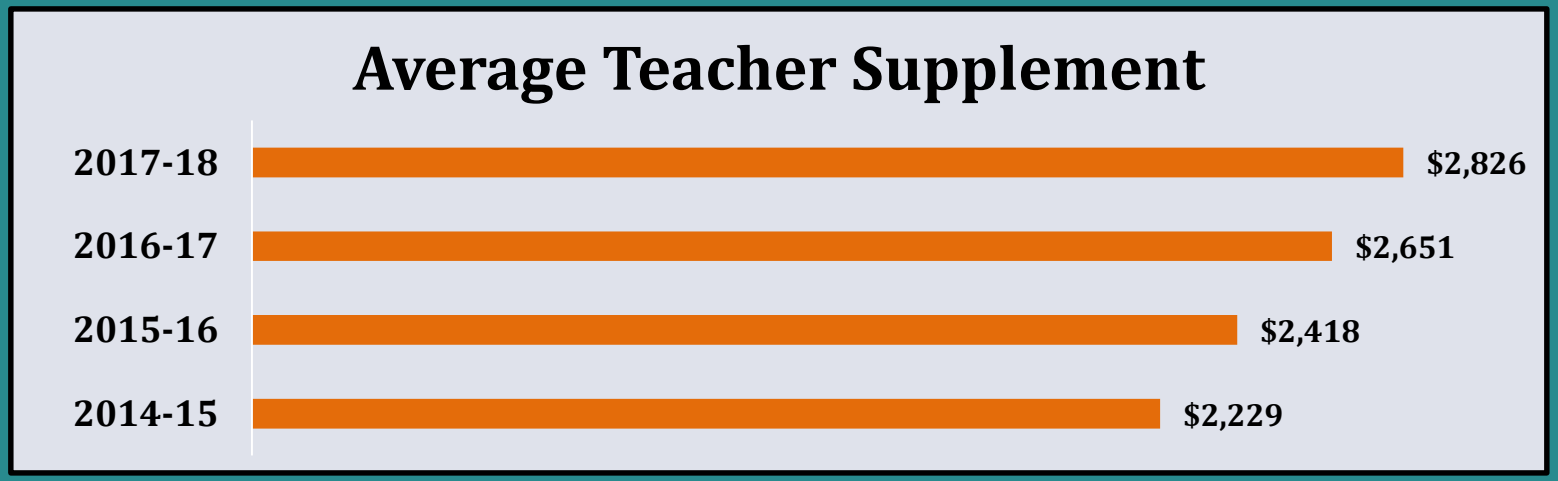
- The County has systematically increased teacher supplements over a five year period
- Over the past five years, the County has increased teacher supplements by $2.68 million
- A $500,000 increase in teacher supplements would improve average annual supplements by about $200-$250 per teacher

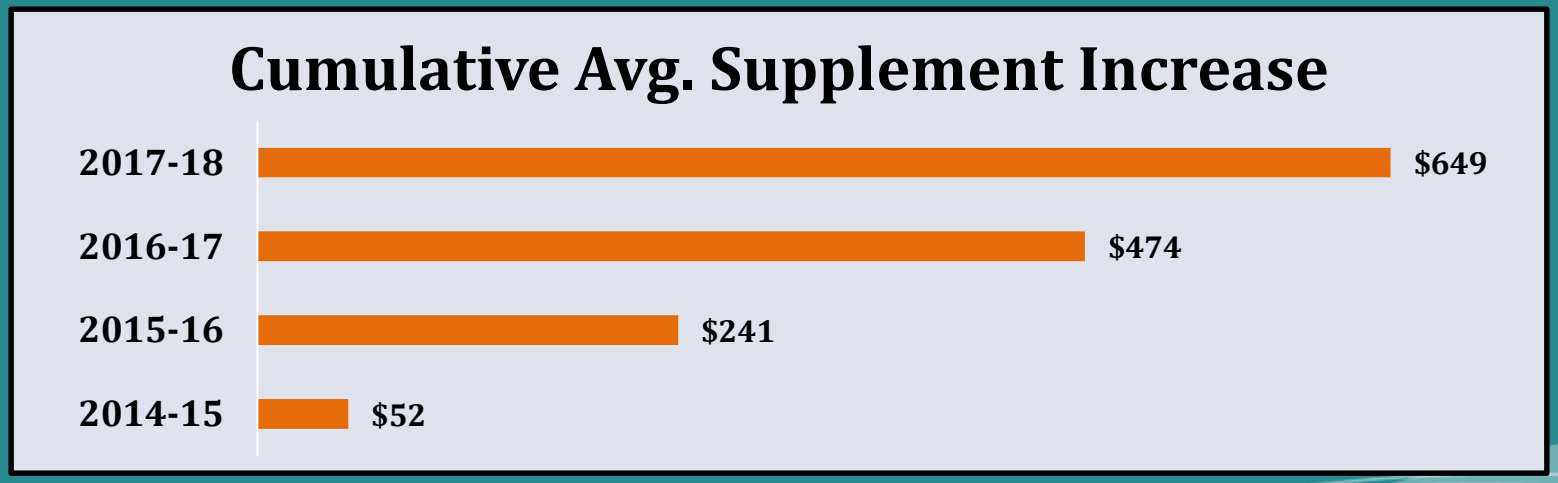
Teacher Supplements





Teacher Supplements





Teacher Supplements

LEA - Neighboring (ADM)	Average Supplement
Charlotte-Mecklenburg (147,359)	$ 7,159
Union (41,408)	4,524
State Average	4,337
Catawba (16,181)	3,755
Cabarrus (32,476)	3,140
Lincoln (11,318)	2,894
Iredell-Statesville (20,436)	2,853
Rowan-Salisbury (19,144)	2,831
Gaston (31,580)	2,826
Cleveland (14,581)	1,884

Source: DPI FY 2017-2018 Table 20 for average supplement
DPI FY 2017-2018 Table 10 for ADM

Teacher Supplements

LEA - Similar Size (ADM)	Average Supplement
Durham (33,072)	$ 6,931
Buncombe (24,033)	5,276
Johnston (35,983)	4,993
Union (41,308)	4,524
State Average	4,337
Onslow County (26,469)	4,305
New Hanover (26,213)	3,976
Cabarrus (32,476)	3,140
Gaston (31,580)	2,826

Source: DPI FY 2017-2018 Table 20 for average supplement
DPI FY 2017-2018 Table 10 for ADM

Whole School Choice

Magnet Schools:

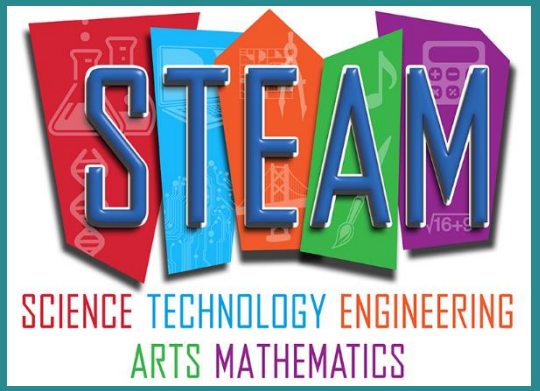
Gaston County Virtual Academy
Gaston Early College
Hawks Nest STEAM Academy
Highland School of Technology

School Choice Programs

Choice Programs

Gifted and Talented Academy at Pleasant Ridge

STEAM Academy at Stanley Middle School



School Choice Options

Expanded Magnet Options:

High School:	Academy of Health Sciences T&I Engineering Academy College Prep Academy Leadership Academy
Middle School:	T&I Engineering Academy Career Academy Leadership Academy
Elementary:	Leadership Academy

School Choice Options

- Additional instructional staff
- Additional training needed to prepare staff to teach the new curriculum
- Renovations to school buildings for new programs
- Total projected cost of $800,000

Other Considerations

- Replacement costs of out-of-date technology such as Chromebooks and SMART Boards
- Potential increases in State mandated health and retirement benefits
- Possible State mandated increases in classified employee salaries
- Inflationary costs for supplies, contracted services, books, utilities, etc.

Potential Budget Risk

- State legislative impact
- State legislated compensation & benefit rate increased beyond estimates
- Increasing charter school enrollment and/or declining GCS enrollment
- Inflationary costs for supplies, contracted services, books, etc.

Options for Funding Needs

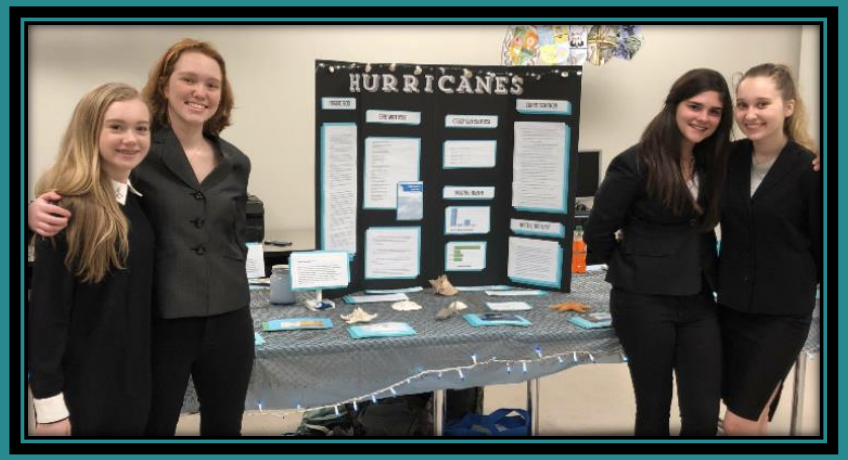
- Request additional funding from the Gaston County Commissioners
- Implement additional cost saving measures and use savings for new initiatives
- Reallocate funding from one initiative to another
- Use a portion of the GCS unassigned fund balance

County Funding Request

- Last year, we received $48.4 million of operating funds from the County; an increase of $600,000 from the previous year.
- This increased funding was used to:
  - Teacher salary supplements - $ 500K
  - Magnet program at Stanley MS - $ 100K

Budget Overview

- Budget Calendar
- Budget Process
- Funding Review
- Operating Expenses
- Fund Balance
- Capital Request



Funding Review

- **Capital** – for the construction of new schools, additions to existing schools and maintenance and repairs of existing buildings
- **Operating** – for the daily operation of GCS, for the purposes of fulfilling the vision and mission statement set forth by the Board of Education

Operating Funds

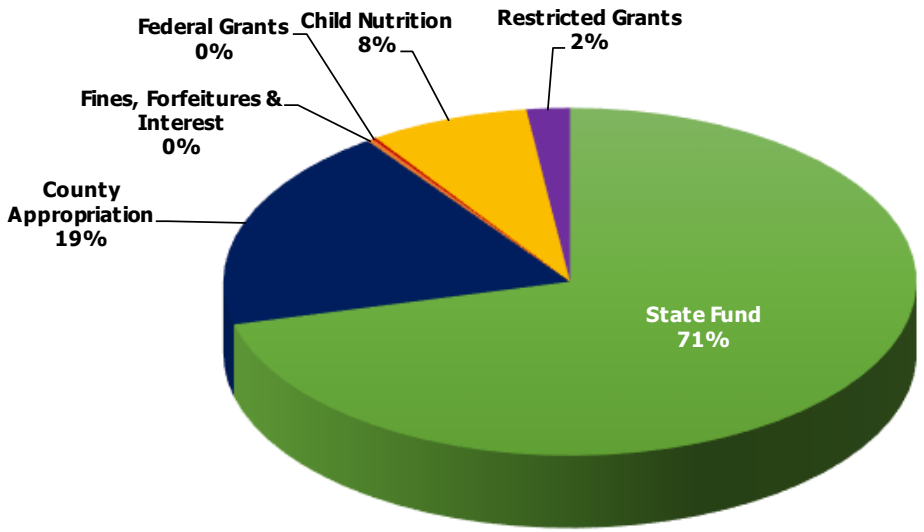
Who Determines the Level of School Funding?

- NC General Assembly and DPI
- Gaston County Commissioners
- Federal Agencies (Medicaid, USDA, etc.)
- Various Grant Agencies

Operating funds are largely driven by student population and identified needs (economic factors, disabilities, etc.)

Budgeted Operating Funds
FY 2018-19

SOURCES OF REVENUE		
State Fund	$	180,604,773
County Appropriation		48,351,704
Fines, Forfeitures & Interest		750,000
Federal Grants		416,814
Child Nutrition		19,001,616
Restricted Grants		5,138,670
TOTAL	**$**	**254,263,577**



Note: Does not include capital outlay
Represents the initial budgeted amounts

Peer Group Per Pupil Funding

School District Name	State	Federal	Local	Total
Durham County Schools	$6,210	$806	$3,579	$10,595
New Hanover County Schools	$5,820	$586	$3,042	$9,448
Buncombe County Schools	$5,985	$611	$2,613	$9,209
Cleveland County Schools	$6,464	$727	$1,991	$9,182
Rowan-Salisbury County Schools	$6,133	$656	$2,272	$9,061
Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools	$5,721	$564	$2,450	$8,735
Johnston County Schools	$6,046	$438	$1,830	$8,314
Union County Schools	$5,574	$442	$2,261	$8,277
Gaston County Schools	$5,908	$618	$1,718	$8,244
Iredell-Statesville Schools	$5,716	$484	$1,945	$8,145
Cabarrus County Schools	$5,724	$345	$2,043	$8,112
Catawba County Schools	$5,750	$511	$1,644	$7,905
Lincoln County Schools	$5,721	$424	$1,548	$7,693

Source: 2017-2018 DPI Table 25

Peer Group includes LEAs that are comparable in either size and/or geographic location

Local Per Pupil Funding Rank

School District Name	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Durham County Schools	5	4	5	5	5
New Hanover County Schools	16	16	14	11	12
Buncombe County Schools	30	25	20	19	15
Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools	26	24	23	25	25
Rowan-Salisbury County Schools	46	52	63	44	30
Union County Schools	38	28	32	34	31
Cabarrus County Schools	61	44	39	39	49
Cleveland County Schools	33	42	47	46	53
Iredell-Statesville Schools	18	31	74	65	57
Johnston County Schools	66	70	73	73	72
Gaston County Schools	84	76	77	72	77
Catawba County Schools	56	57	66	76	85
Lincoln County Schools	74	77	78	95	91

Source: 2017-2018 DPI Table 25
Peer Group includes LEAs that are comparable in either size and/or geographic location
There are 115 LEAs in NC

Budget Overview

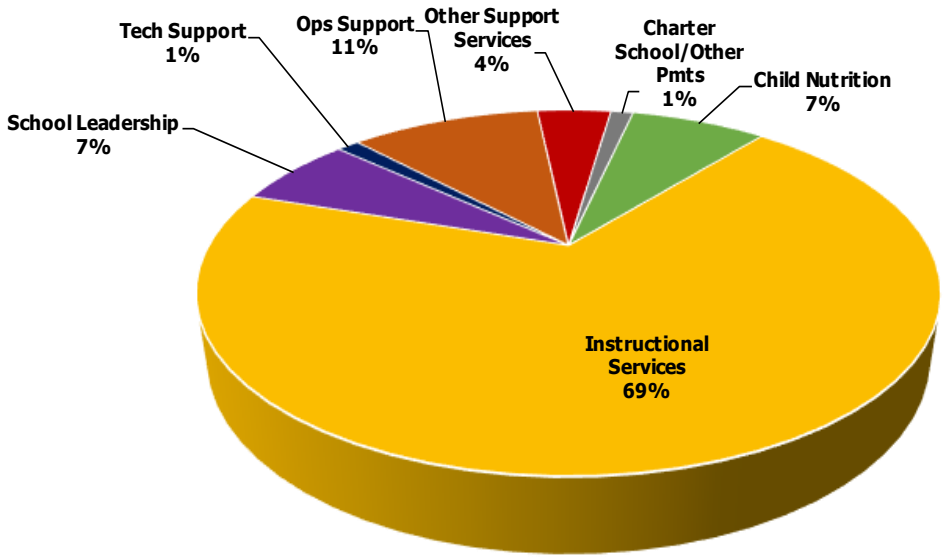
- Budget Calendar
- Budget Process
- Funding Review
- Operating Expenses
- Fund Balance
- Capital Request

Operating Expenses

What is included in Operating Expenses?

- Employee salaries and benefits
- Instructional supplies and programs
- Technology - hardware, software, wireless access, etc.
- Transportation - yellow buses, white buses, contract transportation
- School nutrition - lunch and breakfast
- Utilities

Budgeted Operating Expenses
FY 2018-19



BUDGETED EXPENDITURES

Instructional Services	$	175,172,580
School Leadership		16,516,588
Tech Support		3,109,764
Ops Support		26,768,476
Other Support Services		10,485,413
Charter School/Other Pmts		3,155,841
Child Nutrition		19,054,915
TOTAL	**$**	**254,263,577**

Note: Does not include capital outlay
Represents the initial budgeted amounts

NC Education Lottery

- **Prizes – 63%**
- **Education – 26%**
- **Retail Compensation – 7%**
- **Administration – 4%**

- Supports lower class size, Pre-K programs, scholarships and construction
- Gaston County receives about $2.2 million which is used to pay school bond debt

Based on 2017 data

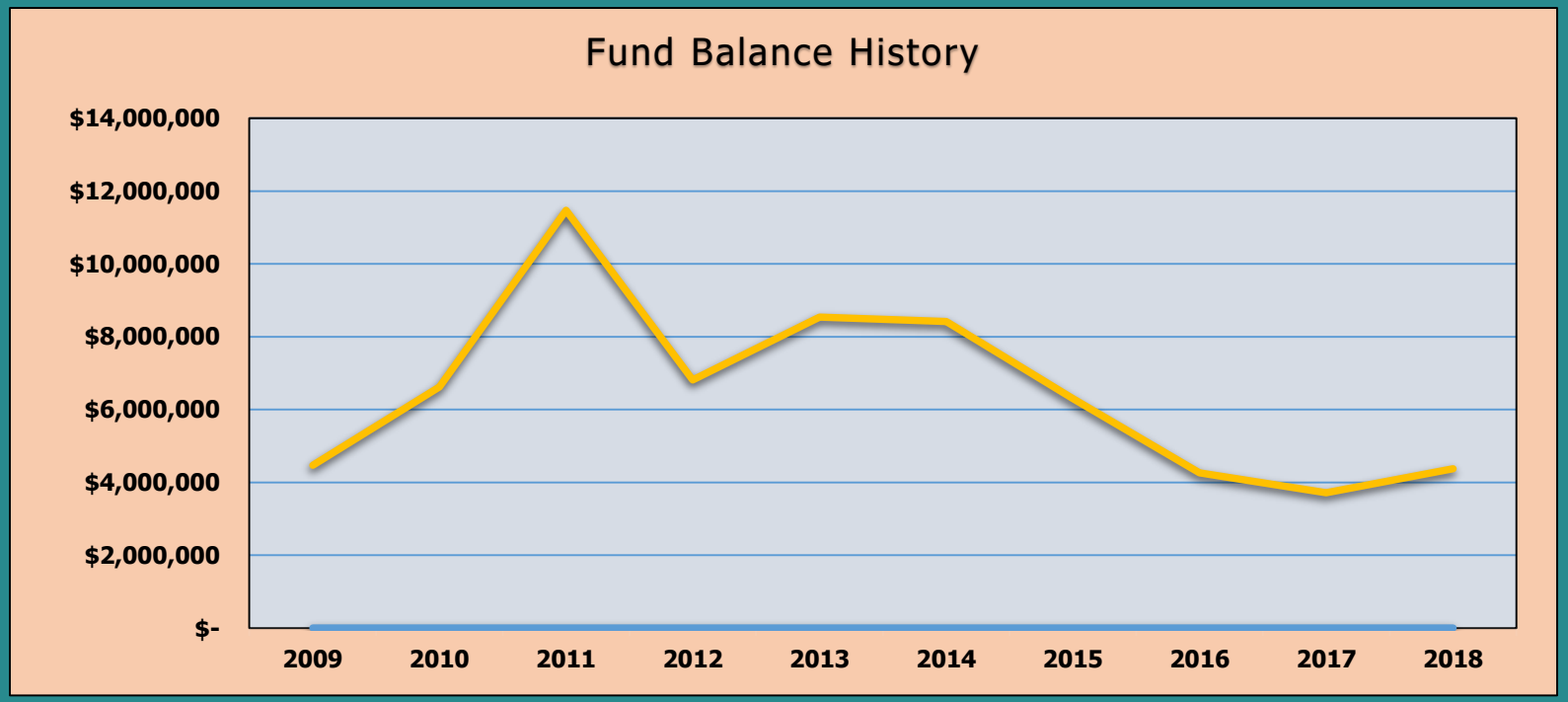
Budget Overview

- Budget Calendar
- Budget Process
- Funding Review
- Operating Expenses
- Fund Balance
- Capital Request

Fund Balance

- Use of fund balance will ensure that we address some of our primary funding priorities
- Unassigned fund balance totaled $4.4 million at June 30, 2018
- There are risks associated with funding on-going costs with fund balance

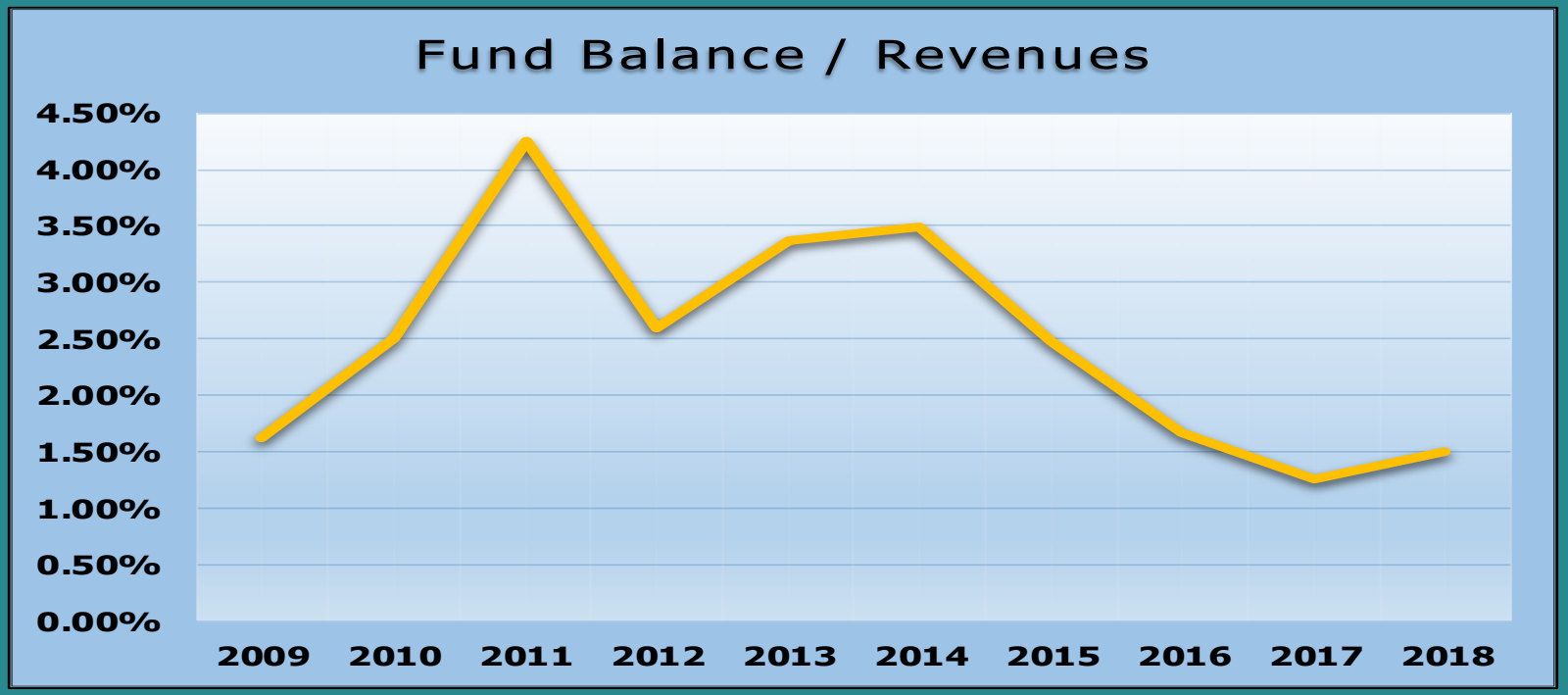
Fund Balance



Unassigned Fund Balance	4,472,775	6,619,094	11,475,596	6,810,382	8,543,572
Fund Balance / Revenues	1.62%	2.50%	4.26%	2.59%	3.37%

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unassigned Fund Balance	8,421,435	6,299,324	4,267,131	3,713,330	4,371,959
Fund Balance / Revenues	3.49%	2.47%	1.66%	1.26%	1.49%

Fund Balance



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Fund Balance / Revenues	1.62%	2.50%	4.26%	2.59%	3.37%

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Unassigned Fund Balance	8,421,435	6,299,324	4,267,131	3,713,330	4,371,959
Fund Balance / Revenues	3.49%	2.47%	1.66%	1.26%	1.49%

Fund Balance

LEA Name	ADM	Unassigned Fund Balance	Total Revenues	Fund Balance / Revenues
Buncombe County Schools	24,033	977,224	265,048,669	0.37%
Lincoln County Schools	11,318	480,007	97,148,368	0.49%
Cleveland County Schools	*14,581*	*776,771*	*144,850,915*	*0.54%*
Rowan-Salisbury County Schools	19,144	1,480,319	203,219,209	0.73%
Durham County Schools	*33,072*	*2,835,538*	*379,233,829*	*0.75%*
Johnston County Schools	35,983	2,773,752	329,921,809	0.84%
Union County Schools	41,308	5,558,160	381,916,703	1.46%
Gaston County Schools	**31,580**	**4,371,959**	**292,864,844**	**1.49%**
AVERAGE	**25,600**	**3,808,372**	**252,384,096**	**1.51%**
Catawba County Schools	16,181	2,228,269	142,069,404	1.57%
Iredell-Statesville Schools	20,436	3,609,694	181,623,537	1.99%
New Hanover County Schools	26,213	7,034,835	291,232,489	2.42%
Onslow County Schools	*26,469*	*7,220,804*	*242,928,751*	*2.97%*
Cabarrus County Schools	32,476	10,161,509	328,934,716	3.09%

Source: LEA's *2017* & 2018 CAFR (Exhibits 3 and 4) & DPI website (ADM)

Budget Overview

- Budget Calendar
- Budget Process
- Funding Review
- Operating Expenses
- Fund Balance
- Capital Request

Capital Request

Capital Outlay is used for the following purposes:

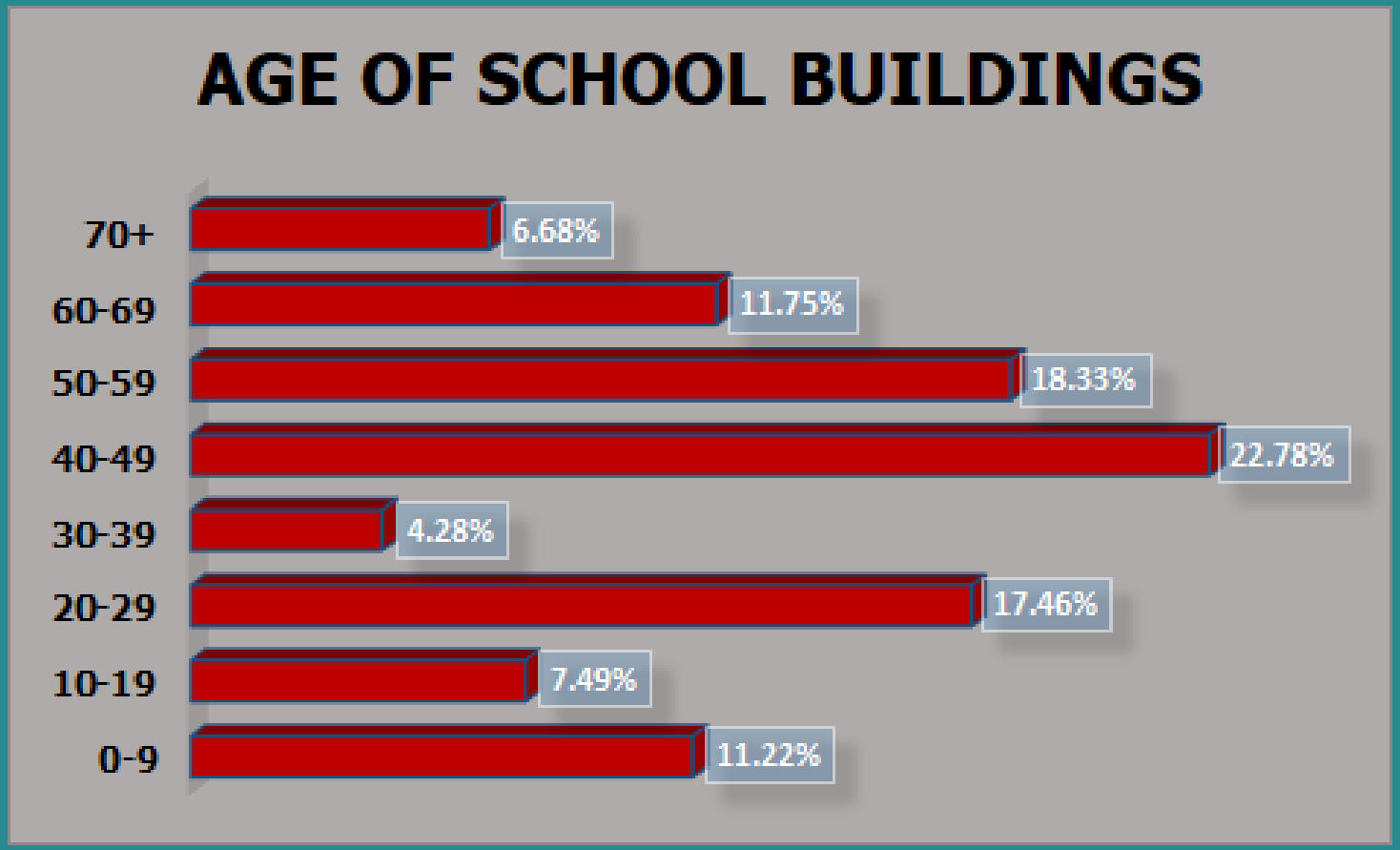
- Roofing
- HVAC
- Vehicles
- Plumbing
- Electrical
- Technology
- Furniture
- Life Safety Devices
- Other Maintenance Costs

Capital Request

Routine Maintenance costs are affected by:

- Age of the buildings
- Quality and experience of custodial staff
- Training of custodial staff
- Deferred maintenance backlog

Age of Buildings



Capital Request

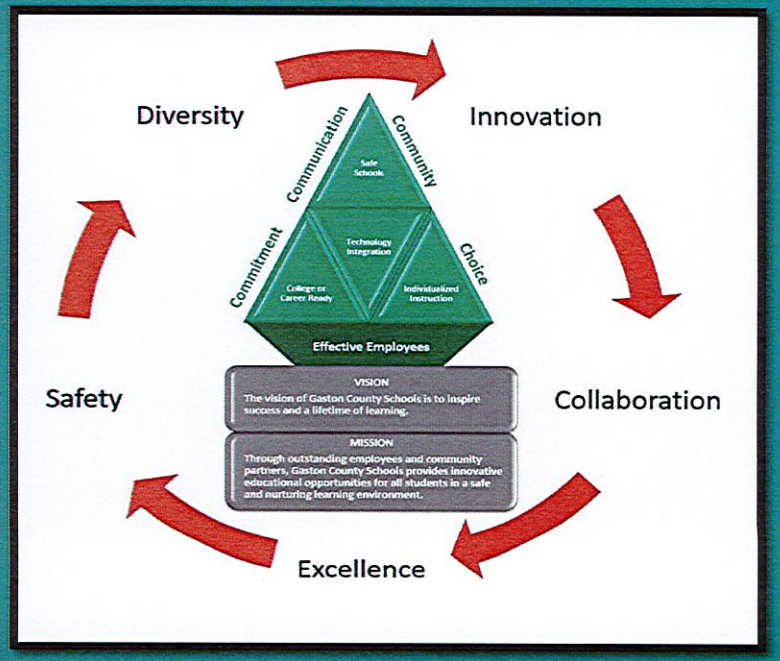
- GCS schools and central office buildings amount to approximately 5.2 million square feet.
- Last year we received $1.2 million in capital outlay, or about $0.24 per square foot.
- We requested $5.9 million in capital outlay for FY 2018-19. This request amounted to $1.14 per square foot.

In Conclusion

We should always focus on fulfilling the GCS Vision to "inspire success and a lifetime of learning" in everything we do!

Discussion

Board of Education Retreat
January 18, 2019



Auxiliary Services
Capital Presentation

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Auxiliary Services Overview

- **School Bond Funding**
  - Belmont Middle School
  - Roofing Projects
  - Life Safety Projects
- **Other Capital Projects**

School Bond Funding

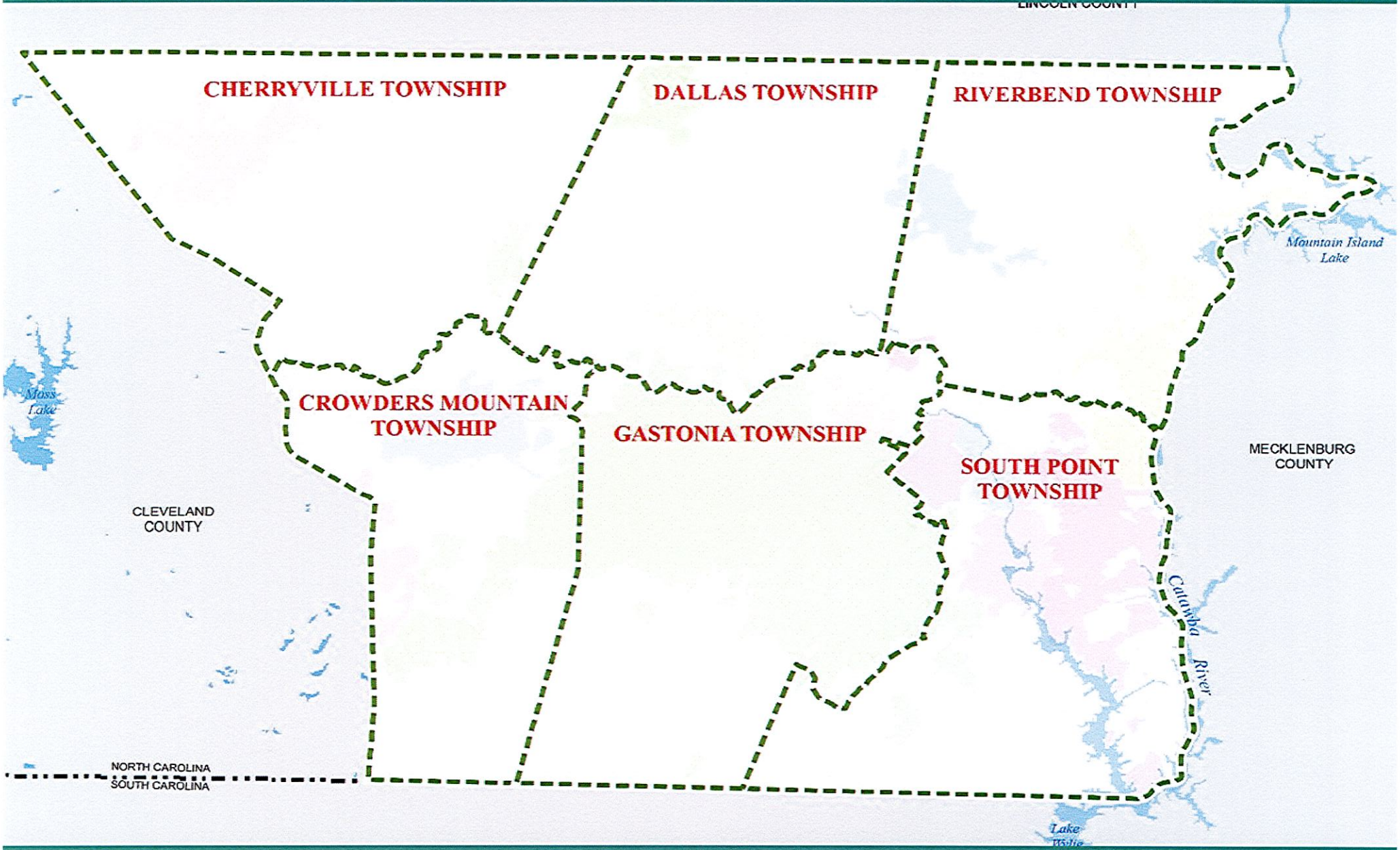
Belmont Middle School

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

School Bond Funding
Renovation/Replacement

- Life Safety
- Electrical
- Lighting
- HVAC
- Plumbing
- Roofing
- Environmental
- Paving and Parking
- Doors / Windows
- Athletic Facilities

School Bond Funding



School Bond Funding

Life Safety

- Intercom, Camera, Access Entry

W. Blaine Beam Elementary
New Hope Elementary
Holbrook Middle
Pinewood Elementary
Carr Elementary
Bessemer City Primary

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

School Bond Funding

Roof Replacement at Southwest Middle and South Point High School

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Summer 2019

Chavis Middle: School Gym

New Hope: Frontage Windows/Doors

North Gaston: Baseball Field Lights

Various Schools: Paving Repairs

Various Schools: Elevator Up Fits

School Bond Web Site

According to the unofficial results of the primary election on Tuesday, May 8, the $250 million school bond referendum was approved with 69 percent of the vote. Thank you, Gaston County, for supporting our schools!

School Bonds Update

Please check this space for updates about the 2018 School Bonds. We will post information periodically as we work to put the bond funds to good use to improve our school facilities.

May 22, 2018
Following approval of the school bond referendum, the Board of Education and the Gaston County Commissioners conducted a meeting to discuss the 2018-2019 local budget for Gaston County Schools, the 2018 school bonds, and the one-quarter of a cent sales tax. Both the school bonds and sales tax (to help pay for the bonds) were approved by voters during the May 8 primary election. Click here for an article from The Gaston Gazette.

June 12, 2018
As part of the 2018-2019 county budget, the Gaston County Commissioners approved the issuance of $60 million in school bonds. The issuance is expected in fall 2018. The $60 million will be used to build a new Belmont Middle School (to replace the current Belmont Middle School building that is more than 75 years old) and to begin addressing some of our most critical facility needs and repairs. Click here for an article from The Gaston Gazette.

August 20, 2018
The Board of Education heard a presentation from LS3P Architects about the planning and design of the new Belmont Middle School. Click here to watch the presentation to the Board of Education.

October 15, 2018
The Gaston County Board of Education voted unanimously to accept the construction bid from Beam Construction Company for the new Belmont Middle School. Click here to watch the presentation to the Board of Education. Click here for the article.

* * * * * * * * * * * *

What They Had to Say about the School Bonds

Statement from Superintendent W. Jeffrey Booker (May 9, 2018)
We are extremely pleased and grateful to our community for supporting the school bonds. All of the 'yes' votes are an investment in education, an investment in our children, and an investment in our future.

Recent Videos

VIDEO: Presentation to the Board of Education, October 15, 2018

VIDEO: Presentation to the Board of Education, August 20, 2018

Resources

VIDEO: Presentation to Board of Education, March 19, 2018

School Bonds 2018 Information Sheet

Gaston County Schools 2018 Long Range Facilities Plan

Charts: Repairs and Renovations

Cherryville Township Chart

Crowders Mountain Township Chart

Dallas Township Chart

Gastonia Township Chart

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Completed Capital Projects

Media Centers

Southwest Middle School

York Chester Middle School

HH Beam ES

Completed Capital Projects

School Gymnasiums

Hunter Huss High

Grier Middle

East Gaston High

North Gaston High

Completed Projects

Cafeterias and Kitchens

South Point High School

Carr Elementary

Completed Capital Projects

Generator Replacement

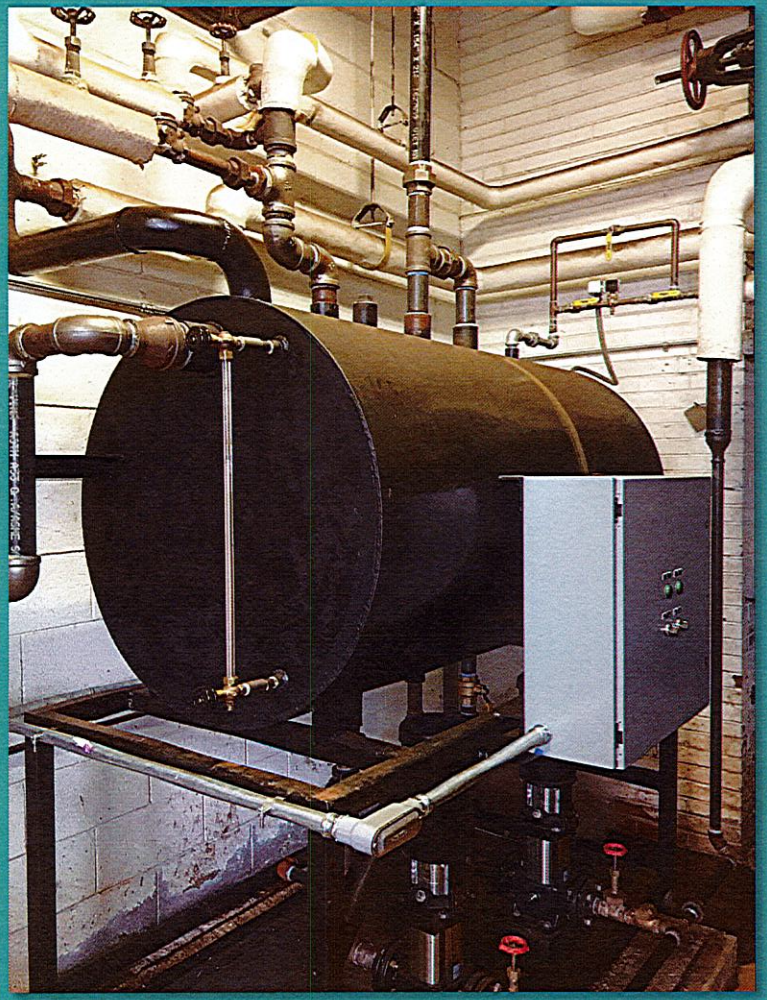
East Gaston High

North Gaston High

Ashbrook High

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Completed Capital Projects



Water Heaters and Boilers

Pinewood Elementary

Bessemer City High School

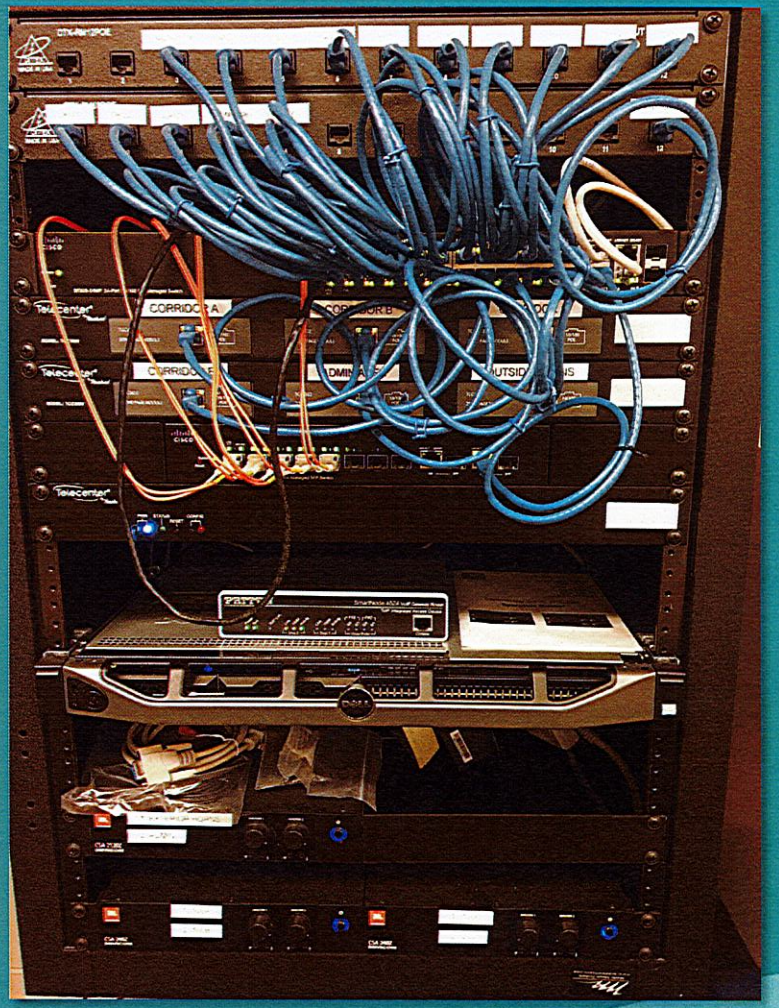
Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Completed Capital Projects

Intercoms

East Gaston High School

South Point High School



Completed Capital Projects

Access Entry and Security Fencing

Robinson Elementary

Costner Elementary

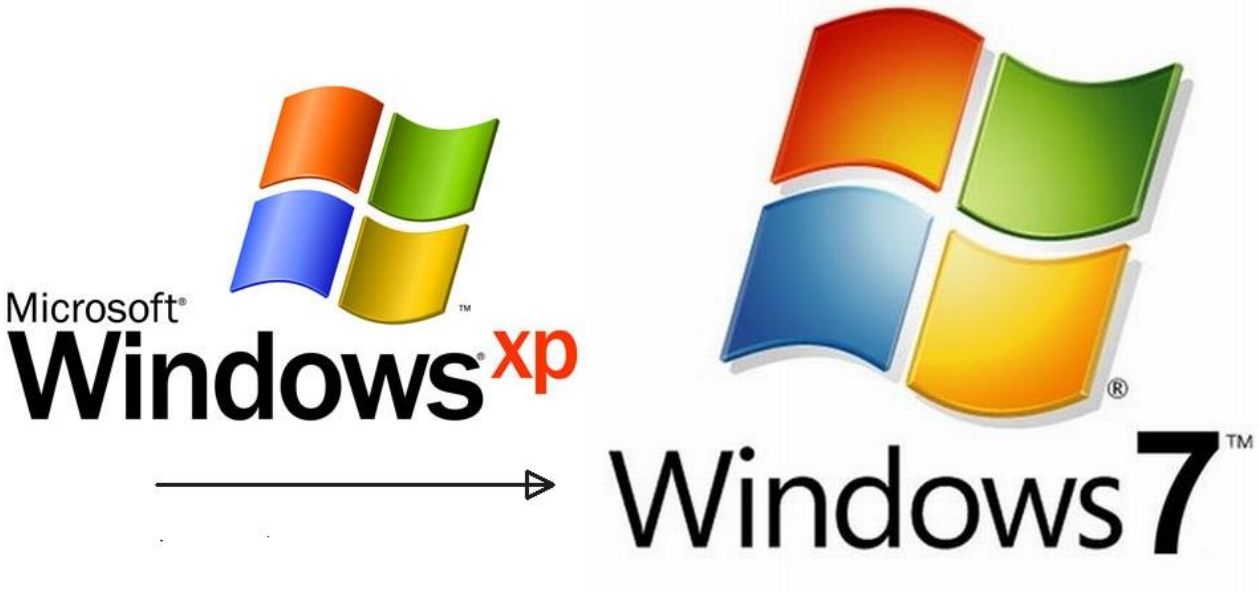
Thank You!

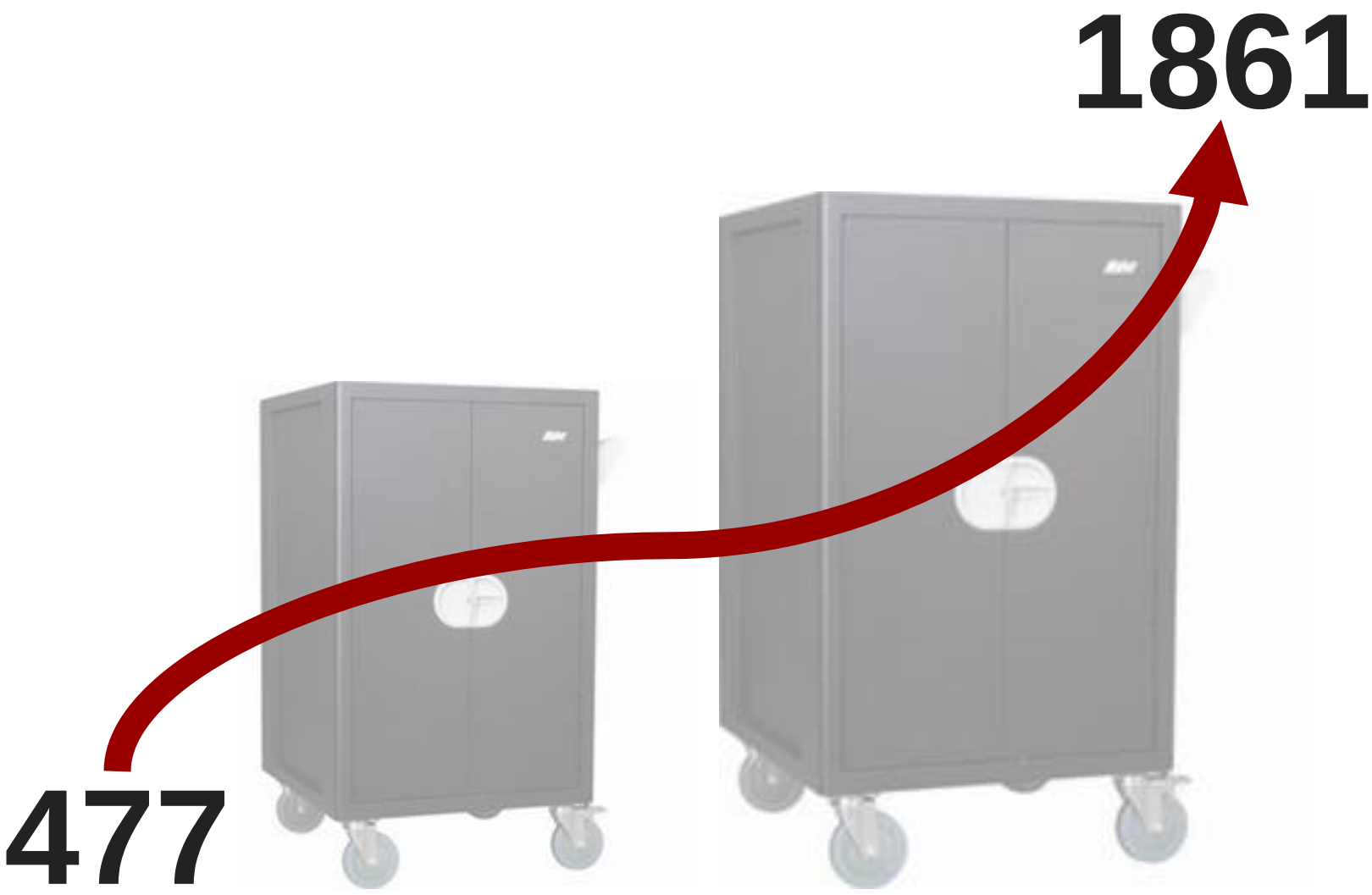
Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

Gaston County's Technology Journey

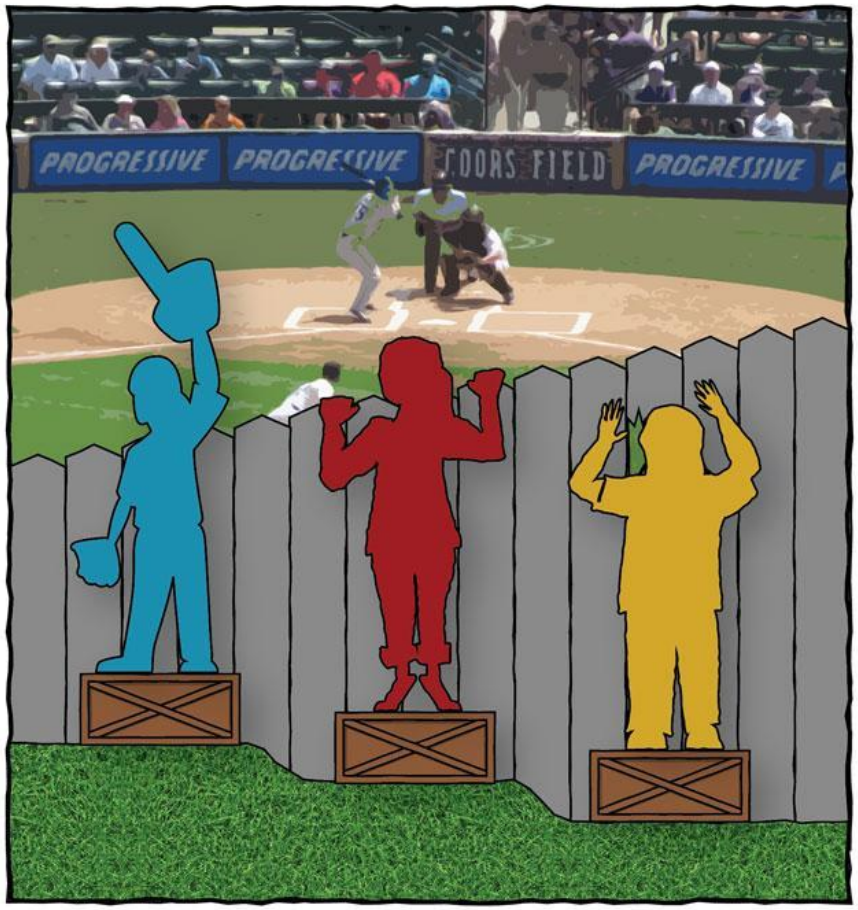
Board of Education Retreat
January 18, 2019

2014-2015


Microsoft
Windows xp
Windows 7


1861
477

2015-2016



EQUALITY

EQUITY

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

2016-2017

2017-2018

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

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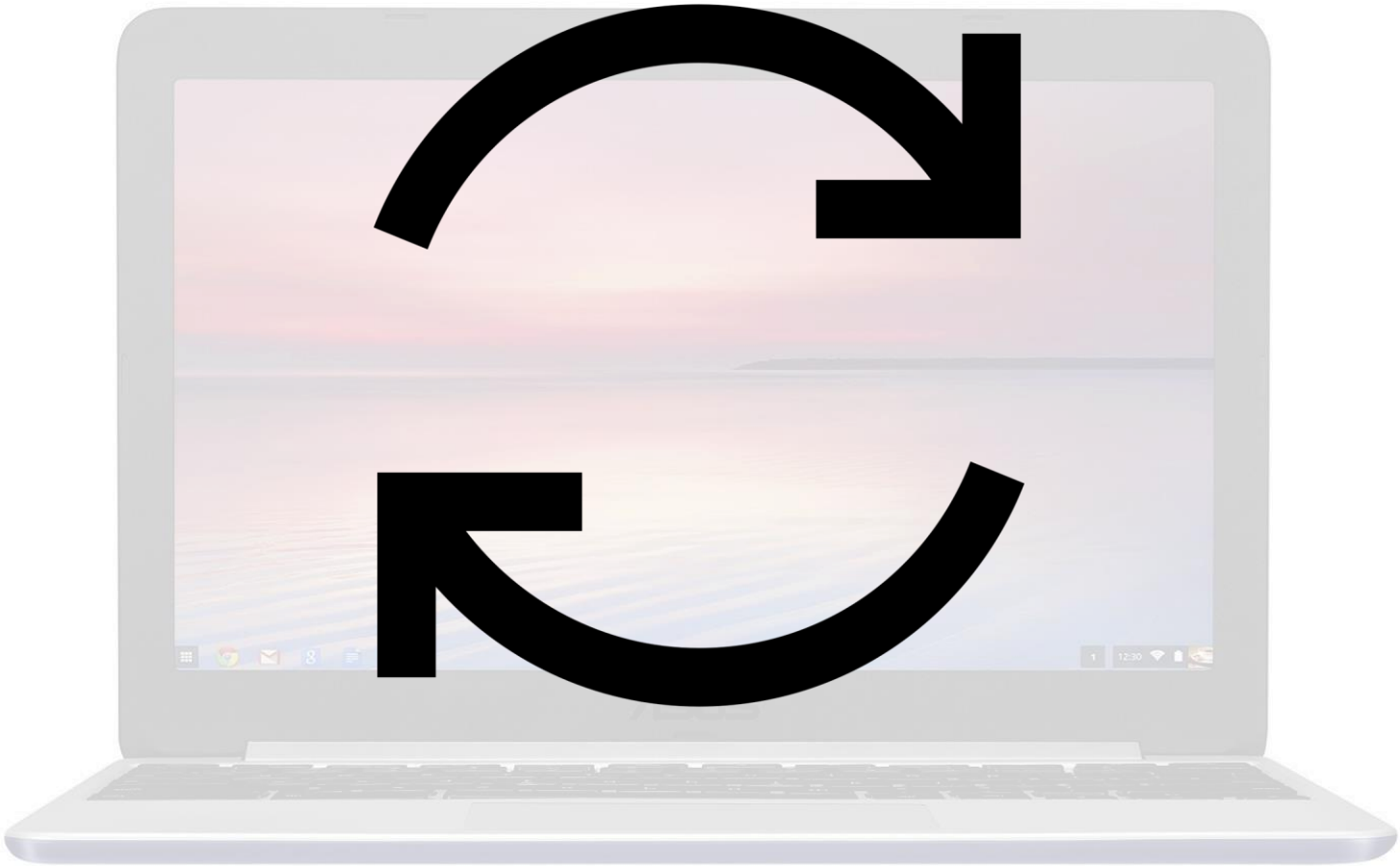


Competitive Pricing
$400
$300
$200
$100
$0
14-15
15-16
16-17
17-18
18-19

2018-2019

Celebrate! Gaston County Schools

34,429

2,646

646

Gaston County's Technology Journey

Cindee Matson
Technology Support Services

DISTRICT OVERALL

SUBJECT	1718 EOG Prof.	Potential Proficiency #1 (Proficient and Close to Proficient	Potential Proficiency #2 (Proficient, CtP and Next Level)	"B" District Target	Difference	Difference	Difference	iReady BOY	iReady MOY	Difference	Difference	Difference	Difference
ELA	54.00	55.46	59.28	72.27	1.46	5.28	16.81	50.00	50.00	0.00	-5.46	-9.28	-22.27
3	52.00	31.32	40.08	72.16	-20.68	-11.92	40.84	45.00	48.00	3.00	16.68	7.92	-24.16
4	54.10	59.32	61.88	71.01	5.22	7.78	11.69	52.00	50.00	-2.00	-9.32	-11.88	-21.01
5	52.90	60.95	63.99	73.36	8.05	11.09	12.41	46.00	45.00	-1.00	-15.95	-18.99	-28.36
6	57.50	58.74	61.99	71.12	1.24	4.49	12.37	53.00	50.00	-3.00	-8.74	-11.99	-21.12
7	55.50	61.47	64.31	73.41	5.97	8.81	11.94	54.00	51.00	-3.00	-10.47	-13.31	-22.41
8	51.70	60.52	63.10	72.62	8.82	11.40	12.10	47.00	45.00	-2.00	-15.52	-18.10	-27.62
SUBJECT													
Math	53.60	60.78	63.77	72.40	7.18	10.17	11.62	50.00	49.00	-1.00	-11.78	-14.77	-23.40
3	55.10	64.99	69.18	77.57	9.89	14.08	12.58	55.00	54.00	-1.00	-10.99	-15.18	-23.57
4	50.00	61.71	64.23	72.96	11.71	14.23	11.25	50.00	48.00	-2.00	-13.71	-16.23	-24.96
5	57.10	55.91	58.78	67.11	-1.19	1.68	11.20	52.00	51.00	-1.00	-4.91	-7.78	-16.11
6	54.60	61.80	64.23	72.95	7.20	9.63	11.15	51.00	51.00	0.00	-10.80	-13.23	-21.95
7	53.90	60.07	63.35	72.05	6.17	9.45	11.97	51.00	50.00	-1.00	-10.07	-13.35	-22.05
8	50.20	60.20	62.87	71.76	10.00	12.67	11.56	39.00	40.00	1.00	-20.20	-22.87	-31.76
OVERALL													
Grand Total	56.00	58.12	61.53	72.34	2.12	5.53	14.21	50.00	49.00	-1.00	-9.12	-12.53	-23.34

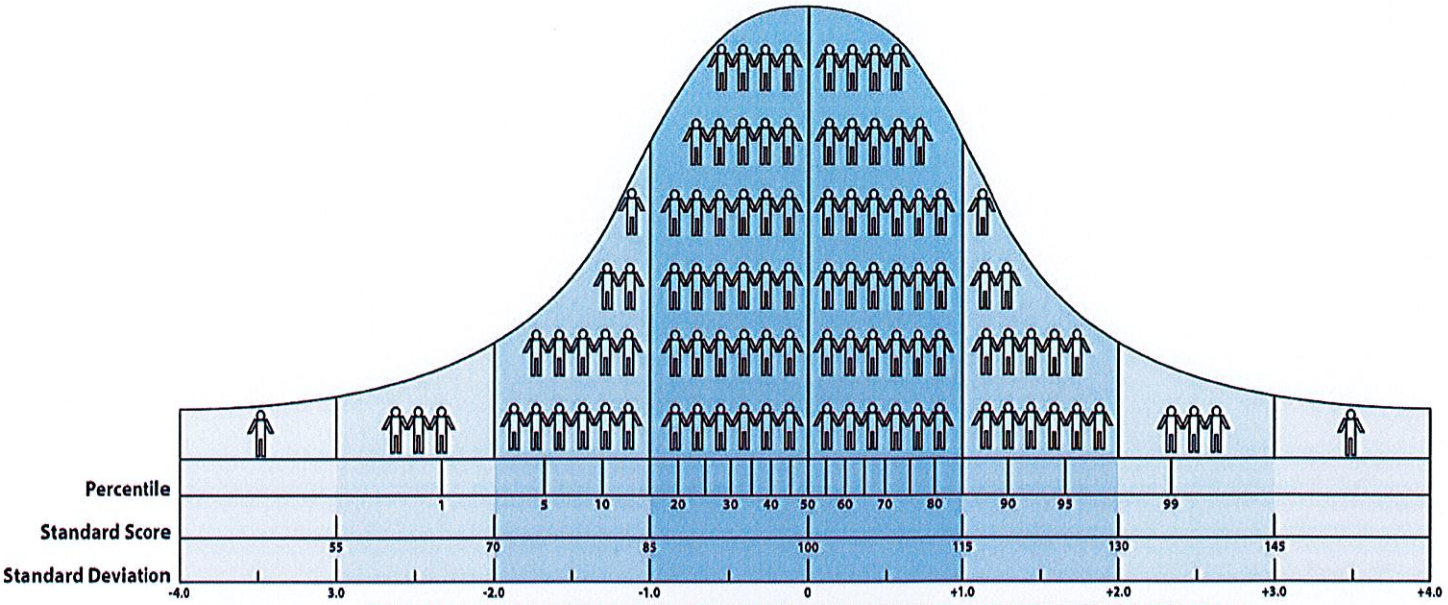
Grade 3 Reading

	Scale Score	Percentile	Number Correct	Lexile Level
Level 1	<=431	<=19	<=25 (+8)	20-535
Level 2	432-438	21-40	26-32 (+8)	560-700
Level 3	439-441	44-52	33-35 (+8)	725-770
Level 4	442-451	56-86	36-41 (+8)	795-1005
Level 5	>=452	91-99	42-44 (+8)	1075-1200
Total Questions = 44 (52 with FT Items)				
Reading Literature 32-37%			12-18	
	RL.1	3-5		
	RL.2	1-2		
	RL.3	4-5		
	RL.4	4-6		
Language: 20-24%			7-12	
	L.4.A	6-9		
	L.5.A	1-3		
Informational Text: 41-45%			18-23	
	RI.1	6		
	RI.2	3		
	RI.3	3		
	RI.4	2-4		
	RI.7	2-5		
	RI.8	2		

Grade 3 Math

	Scale Score	Percentile	Number Correct	Quantile Level	
Level 1					
Level 2					
Level 3					
Level 4					
Level 5					
Approx. Total Questions = 40 (50 with FT Items)					
Operations and Algebraic Thinking: 32-36%					
	OA.1	2			13
	OA.2	1			
	OA.3	4			
	OA.8	5			
	OA.9	1			
Number and Operations in Base Ten: 9-13%					
	NBT.2	4			5
	NBT.3	1			
Number and Operations-Fractions: 28-32%					
	NF.1	3			12
	NF.2	4			
	NF.3	2			
	NF.4	3			
Measurement /Data and Geometry: 23-27%					
	MD.1	2			8
	MD.2	1			
	MD.3	2			
	MD.7	1			
	MD.8	2			

Bell Curve of Student Skills



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EXTREMELY BELOW AVERAGE	SIGNIFICANTLY BELOW AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AVERAGE	ABOVE AVERAGE	SIGNIFICANTLY ABOVE AVERAGE	EXTREMELY ABOVE AVERAGE
Skills in this area are substantially below most at the same age/grade level	Skills in this area are significantly lower than most at the same age/grade level	Skills in this area are lower than many others at the same age/grade level	Skills in this area are similar to others in the same age/grade level Approximately 68% fall into this range	Skills in this area are higher than many others at the same age/grade level	Skills in this area are significantly higher than most at the same age/grade level	Skills in this area are substantially above most at the same age/grade level