

**Gaston County Schools
Board of Education Retreat
January 15, 2021
Immediately Following Board of Education Meeting**

Minutes

The Gaston County Board of Education held its annual retreat on Friday, January 15, 2021 immediately following the Board of Education Meeting in the Linda Rader Staff Development Center, 240 Eighth Avenue, Cramerton, NC. The Board of Education meeting was conducted in accordance with social distancing requirements related to the coronavirus pandemic. Those Board Members in attendance were: Chairman Jeff K. Ramsey, Vice Chairman Dot Cherry, Kevin Collier, Justin Davis (virtual), Lee Dedmon (virtual afternoon session), Dot Guthrie (virtual), Steve Hall (virtual afternoon session), Robbie Lovelace and Brent Moore (virtual).

Additional attendees include: Superintendent Dr. W. Jeffrey Booker, Attorney Sonya McGraw, Associate Superintendents Melissa Balknight (virtual) and Gary Hoskins (virtual), Chief Communications Officer Todd Hagans (virtual), Administrative Assistant Andrea Stephens and Board Clerk Dana Luoto.

Technology Support Services

Superintendent Booker recognized Dr. Aaron Slutsky who presented a PowerPoint on Technology Support Services. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

School Business Modernization

Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on School Business Systems Modernization (SBSM). Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Budget

Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on Finance Discussion. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Bond Update

Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Gary Hoskins who presented a PowerPoint on School Bond Update. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Accountability

Superintendent Booker recognized Rebekka Powers who presented a PowerPoint on Accountability Update. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Superintendent Booker recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who presented a PowerPoint on Academic Services Looking Back. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Dr. Balknight recognized Mrs. Denise McLean who presented a PowerPoint on School Choice Programs Available Seats. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Superintendent Booker recognized Mr. Brett Buchanan who presented a PowerPoint on Career and Technical Education. Discussion followed.

(View PowerPoint)

Superintendent Booker recognized Dr. Melissa Balknight who presented PowerPoints on Choice Program Highlights and Advanced Learning Opportunities. Discussion followed.

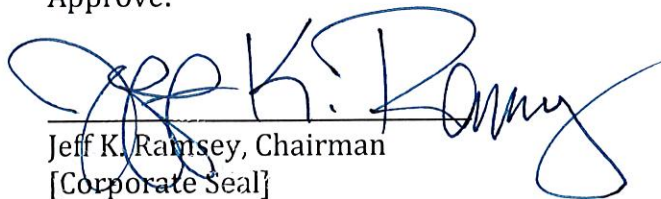
(View PowerPoints)

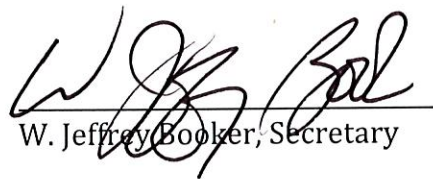
Superintendent Booker thanked Board Members for attending the Retreat.

Chairman Ramsey thanked Board Members for attending the Retreat and staff for all of their work that went into preparing for the retreat.

Meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Approve:


Jeff K. Ramsey, Chairman
[Corporate Seal]


W. Jeffrey Booker, Secretary

Date Approved: 2/15/2021



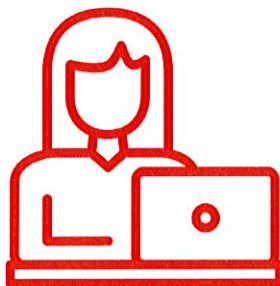
Gaston County Schools

Technology Support Services

January 15, 2021



Cybersecurity



1:1 and Chromebooks



Support

Gaston County Schools

Cybersecurity



Gaston County Schools

JOINT CYBERSECURITY ADVISORY

TLP:WHITE

Co Authored by:



Product ID: AA20-345A

December 10, 2020

Cyber Actors Target K-12 Distance Learning Education to Cause Disruptions and Steal Data

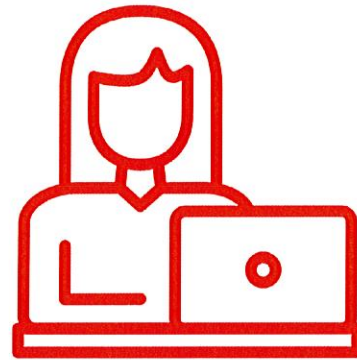
SUMMARY

This Joint Cybersecurity Advisory was coauthored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), and the Multi-State Information Sharing and Analysis Center (MS-ISAC).

The FBI, CISA, and MS-ISAC assess malicious cyber actors are targeting kindergarten through twelfth grade (K-12) educational institutions, leading to ransomware attacks, the theft of data, and the disruption of distance learning services. Cyber actors likely view schools as targets of opportunity, and these types of attacks are expected to continue through the 2020/2021 academic year. These issues will be particularly challenging for K-12 schools that face resource limitations; therefore, educational leadership, information technology personnel, and security personnel will need to balance this risk when determining their cybersecurity investments.

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1:1 Chromebooks

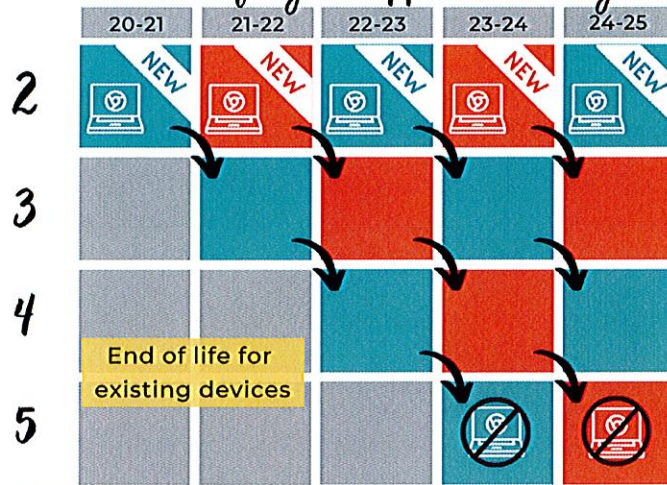


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The district will provide
all 2nd, 6th, and 9th grade
students a new
Chromebook.

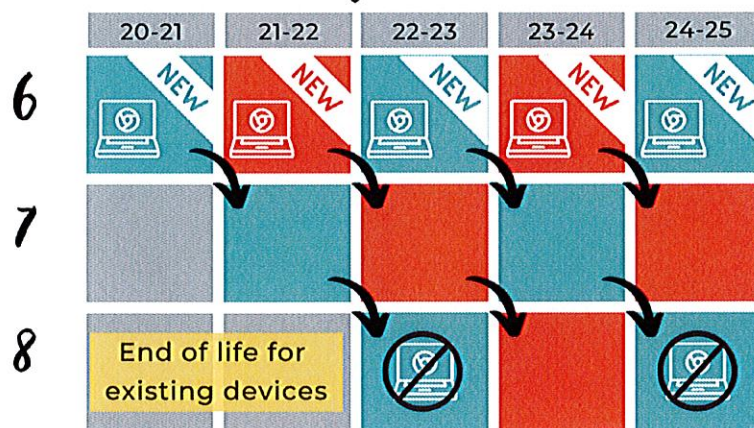
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Chromebook Life Cycle- Upper Elementary

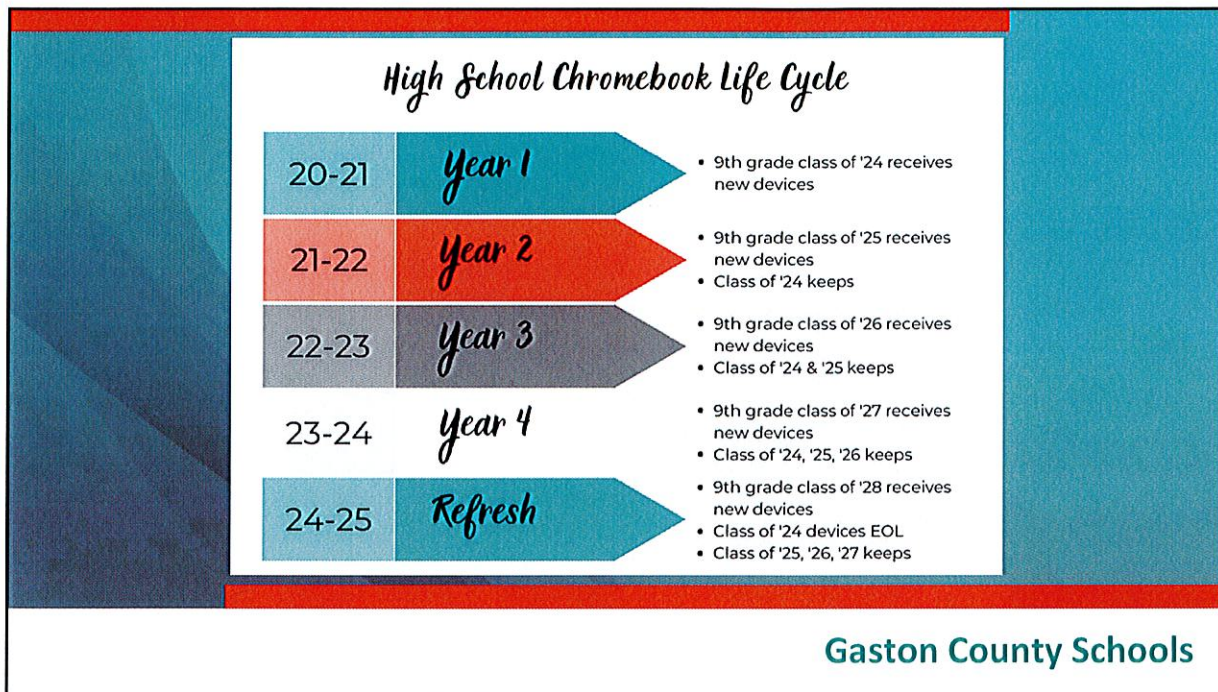


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Chromebook Life Cycle- Middle School



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How many Chromebooks will each school receive?

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What about
intermediate schools?

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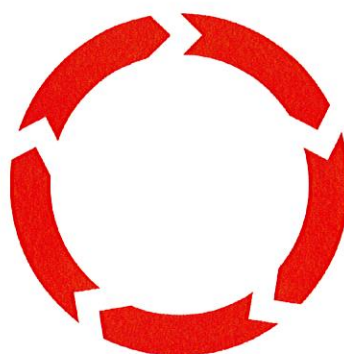
What about K-1 students?

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What about new schools?

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**Chromebook
Cycle**



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Planning December and January

Determine how many Chromebooks to purchase

Determine what model Chromebook to purchase

2021-2022

- 6,959 Rising 2nd/6th/9th grade students
- \$200 per Chromebook
- \$1.4 million

Grade Levels	
Grade Level *	Membership
PK	259
KG - Kindergarten	1,934
01 - First Grade	2,135
02 - Second Grade	2,120
03 - Third Grade	2,239
04 - Fourth Grade	2,270
05 - Fifth Grade	2,347
06 - Sixth Grade	2,480
07 - Seventh Grade	2,422
08 - Eighth Grade	2,477
09 - Ninth Grade	2,674
10 - Tenth Grade	2,416
11 - Eleventh Grade	2,159
12 - Twelfth Grade	2,061
12+ - Twelve Plus Grade	3
13 - Nongraded	36

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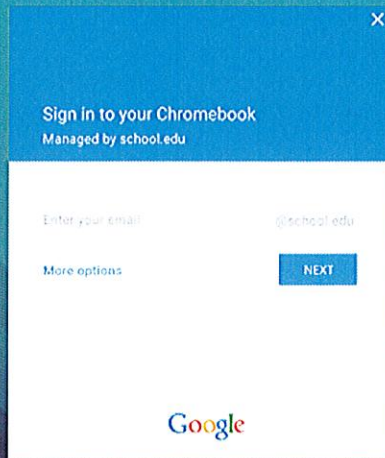
Planning February and March

Purchase Chromebooks

- Determine how many Chromebooks go to each school
- Develop a plan to distribute them

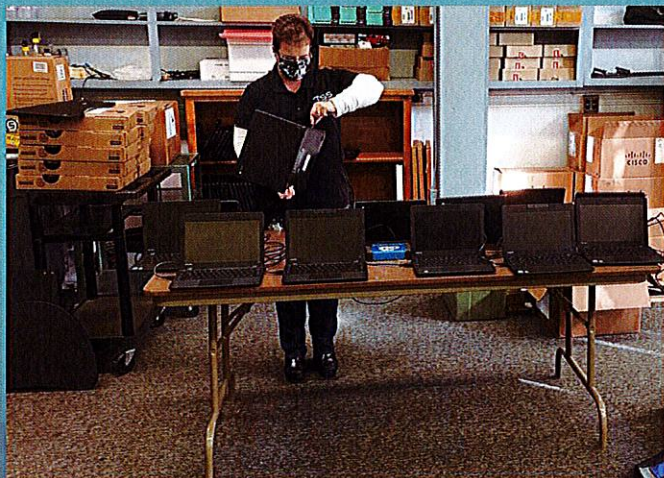
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Preparing Summer: Enroll and Update

A screenshot of a Chromebook sign-in screen. The background is a solid blue color. At the top, in white text, it says "Sign in to your Chromebook" and "Managed by school.edu". Below this, there is a white rectangular area containing a sign-in form. The form has a label "Enter your email:" followed by a text input field containing "@school.edu". Below the input field is a blue button with the word "NEXT" in white. To the left of the button is a link that says "More options". At the bottom of the white area is the Google logo in its multi-colored font. A small "X" icon is in the top right corner of the blue background.

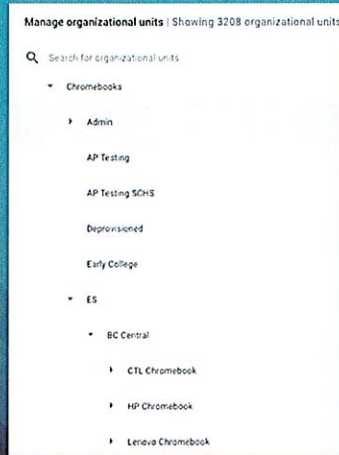
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Preparing Summer: Enroll and Update



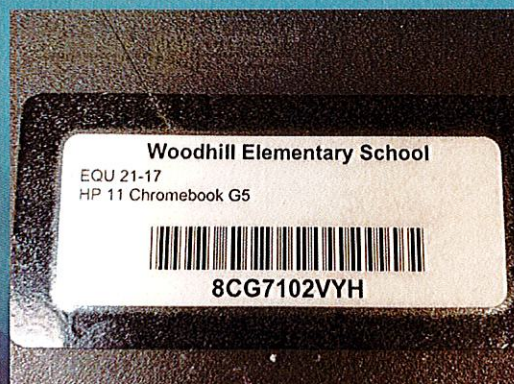
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Preparing Summer: Organize in Google Admin



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Preparing Summer: Asset Tag & Organize



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Preparing Summer: Asset Tag & Organize

— Asset Information

Asset ID	8CG7102VYH
Description	Chromebook 11 G5
Serial Number *	8CG7102VYH
Type *	Chromebook x v
Class	Select An Option v
Category	Computer x v
Pool	Student x v
Manufacturer *	Hewlett-Packard x v
Model	Chromebook 11 G5 x v

— Purchasing Information

Purchasing Information	
Warranty Expiration	
Vendor	Applied Data Technologies
Cost	150
PO Number	6676
Purchase Date	03/02/2017
Service Life	
Anticipated Replacement	
Funding Type	Select An Option v
Funding Source	School/PTO Funds x v
Funding Percentage	100
Funding ID	

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Preparing Summer: Asset Tag & Organize

— Assigned/Held Information

Assigned To User	Select An Option x v
Assigned To Location	Select An Option v
Held By User	Select An Option x v
Held By Location	Select An Option v
Turned In?	No x v
Site *	Woodhill Elementary x v

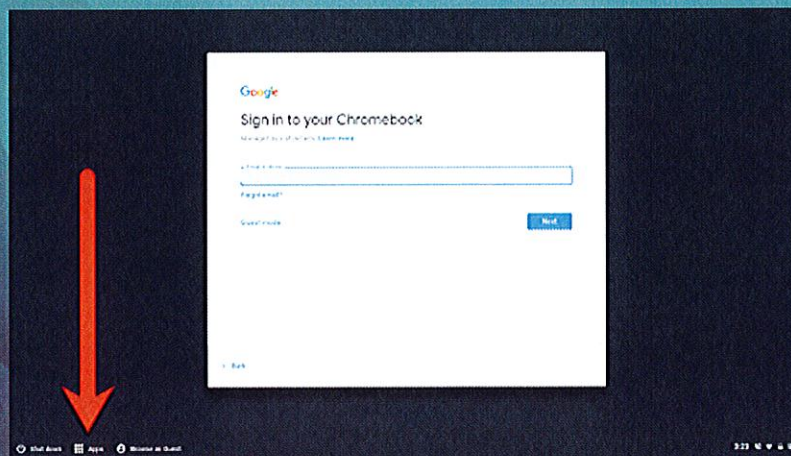
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Student Daily Use

- Numerous Repairs
- Chrome OS Updates
- TSS Internal Testing
- Standardized Testing

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Standardized Testing



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End of Life

Collect Devices

- Clean and Reuse
- Disassemble for parts
- Recycle
- Sell them

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Remote Learning Support



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Outage Time

Power Outages + Internet Outages = Downtime

No Counter Measures

- 215 Hours 55 Minutes
- 26 Business days

Counter Measures

- 30 Minutes
- 99.994% Uptime

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August 17

North Carolina virtual learning platform crashes minutes into first day of school

Multiple families reported they were unable to access NCEdCloud, the platform where virtual lessons are presented.

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The screenshot shows a news broadcast with a background of tweets. The tweets are as follows:

- SpockAndStep (@SpockAndStepR)**: yo. @GCSchoolsNC your ncedcloud server died.
- the girl is a riot. (@dejaaaacb)**: so typical for ncedcloud to be down on the first day. we start in two minutes....
- April Bradley (@april_bradley)**: Things are not going well at all on the NCEdCloud. It's 30 min into the first day of distance learning in Durham. Not all students have devices and the cloud is collapsing under the current load.
- Tonya Clark (@MamaDuck74)**: Replying to @BigIPatriots No luck signing on! What should we
- YesKo (@StillKaio)**: The internet problems ncedcloud be having on the first day of school is a mess.

BACK TO SCHOOL HEADQUARTERS
FIRST DAY HEADACHES FOR ONLINE CLASSES
NC SYSTEM BACK UP AFTER CRASHING

WRAL NEWS
 WRALTV @WRAL

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The screenshot shows a news broadcast with a blue background. The text and graphics are as follows:

December 14, 2020

WBTV ON YOUR SIDE NEWS LIVE WEATHER WBTV INVESTIGATES BACK TO SCHOOL

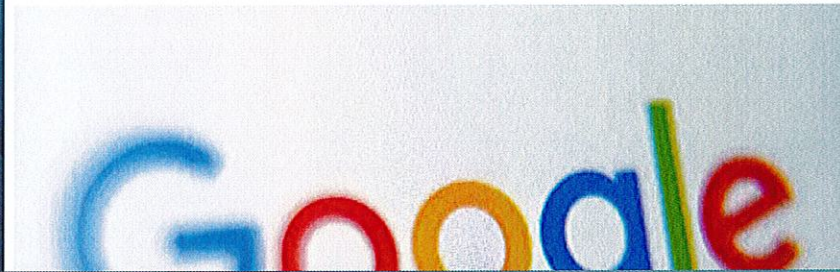
Google outage impacts schools in WBTV viewing area

Google

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Google suffers global outage with Gmail, YouTube and majority of services affected

Error was due to lack of storage space in authentication tools causing system to crash



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Zoombombing



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Questions?

Technology Support Services

2021 Board Retreat



School Business Systems Modernization (SBSM)
January 15, 2021

Gaston County Schools

SBSM Purpose

SBSM is specified in **Session Law 2016-94**

SBSM's purpose is to **modernize existing computer systems** that are used by school districts and DPI. This will include systems used for student information management, financial and payroll information, human resources information, and capital planning information.

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Impact on GSC

- Move from an internal AS400 server to a Cloud-based system managed by **SAS Institute** in Raleigh, NC
- Replace SunPac (1989), HRMS (1992), AppliTrack, and TalentEd with **Oracle Cloud**



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Impact on GCS

Improve System Efficiency:

- Allows for the electronic sharing of transactions, documents, journals (purchase orders, transfers, requisitions, journal entries) for review, approval, and execution.
- Source documents and backup documents are scanned into the system to provide easy audit trails.
- Reduced storage space.
- Faster and easier access to documents to better serve our employees and vendors.

Gaston County Schools

SunPac

SunPac Financials	SunPac Master Menu	Rev 6.11 FY:1 ADM:360
12/18/20		
1 Accounts Payable	5 Fixed Assets	9 Food Service
2 General Ledger	6 Warehousing	10 Custom Programs
3 Payroll	7 System Manager	11 E-Procurement
4 Purchasing	8 Budgeting	12 List Active Users
		15 K12E Interfaces
Select Function: _		
F3=Exit	F6=NCEP	F7=About F8=Messages F10=CmdEntry F18=Printouts

SunPac

SunPac Financials	Purchasing Menu	Rev 6.11 FY:1 ADM:360
12/18/20		
P0 Processing	Inquiry/Lookup	Rpts/Oth Functions
1 P0 Entry/Adj (V1)	20 GL Account Inquiry	39 Recycle Report
2 P0 Entry/Adj (V2)	21 Vendor P0 Inquiry	40 Open P0s by Account
3 P0 Edit Report	22 Vendor AP Inquiry	41 Open P0s by Vendor
4 Approve/Release P0s	23 Commodity Code LU	42 Opn P0s/Ship-To Code
5 Print P0s		43 Bal P0s To Ledger
6 Cancel/Uncancel P0	File Sort/List	44 Vendor ID# Change
7 Purchasing Jrnl	26 Vendor Sort/List	45 Commodity Codes Rpt
8 Hold/Release P0s	27 System File List	46 P0 Status List
9 Enter P0 Receipts		47 Change P0 Category
		48 MBE Report
		49 P0 Hist By Account
		50 Multi P0 Cancel
		51 YR End Roll
		52 P0s Needing Approval
		53 Vendor/Commodities
		54 Vendor/Commod. Rpt
Inquiry/Update		
13 System File	30 HUB Code Import	
14 Vendor File	31 HUB Report	
15 P0 Comments File	32 Username X-Reference	
	33 Vendor Name Matching	
	34 Participation Rpt	
	35 NIGP Commod. Import	
Select Function: _		
F3=Exit	F6=NCEP	F7=About F8=Messages F10=CmdEntry F18=Printouts

Oracle

The screenshot shows the Oracle Applications home page for user Gary Hoskins. The browser address bar displays the URL: `ecbs-dev1.faus2.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/FuseWelcome?_afz.no-new-window-redirect=true&_afz.ctrl-state=trf6ar3lqq_255&_afz.loop=35983095019509...`. The page features a dark blue header with the "Gaston County Schools" logo and a navigation bar with links: "My Team", "Me", "My Client Groups", "Payables", "General Accounting", "Intercompany Accounting", and "Expense". Below the header, a "QUICK ACTIONS" section lists: "Change Manager", "Seniority Dates", "Transfer", "Employment Contracts", and "Employee Summary". A central "APPS" section contains four large buttons: "My Team", "Onboarding", "Learning", and "New Person". The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 3:15 PM on 12/18/2020.

Oracle

The screenshot displays the Oracle Analytics dashboard. The browser address bar shows the URL: `ecbs-dev1.faus2.oraclecloud.com/fscmUI/faces/FuseWelcome?_afz.no-new-window-redirect=true&_afz.ctrl-state=trf6ar3lqq_255&_afz.loop=35983095019509...`. The dashboard is titled "Analytics" and includes several key performance indicators (KPIs) and action items:

- Close Calendar:** GCS Primary Ledger, Day -14, Fri Dec 18, Dec-20.
- Open Subledgers:** GL, AP.
- IC Transactions:** No outstanding transactions. > 1 day and \$1K.
- IC Reconciliation:** Reconcile Intercompany Accounts.
- AP Reconciliation:** Reconcile Accounts Payable.
- Journals:** \$41K, 2. In Error: 1, Pending Approval: 1, Incomplete: 0.
- AR Reconciliation:** Reconcile Accounts Receivable.
- Expenses:** Set up Expense Accounts.
- Revenues:** (Empty box with a gear icon).
- Allocations:** Set up Allocation Pools.

The Windows taskbar at the bottom shows the time as 3:19 PM on 12/18/2020.

Cost of Conversion

Costs to be **paid by DPI** to CherryRoad Technologies to implement a modern Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system in accordance with an executed Memorandum of Understanding:

Up to **\$3.9 million** which includes 1) implementation costs, 2) subscription costs and 3) consulting services

To date, DPI has paid over **\$1.5 million** to CherryRoad for this conversion

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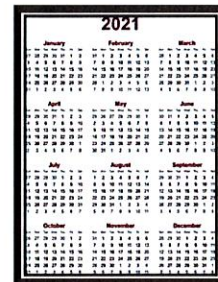
Important Dates

July 1, 2021: Phase 1 Go Live Date

Payroll, Time and Labor, General Ledger, Accounts Payable, Accounts Receivable, Planning and Budget, Fixed Assets, Cash Management, Expense, Procurement/Purchasing, Talent Acquisition, Human Capital Management (HCM), Core HR, Benefits, Absence Management, Inventory Warehouse

January 1, 2022: Phase 2 Go Live Date

Goal Management, Performance Management, Learning Management, Career Development, Projects and Grants, Contracts



Gaston County Schools

Primary Areas of Impact

Finance

- Payroll
- Accounts Payable
- Employee Expense
- Chart of Accounts
- Cash Management

Human Resources

- Talent Acquisition
- Employee Benefits
- Performance Management
- Leave Requests



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Changes and Improvements

Finance – Chart of Accounts (COA)



Segment	Current State Length	Existing Value	Future State Length	Oracle Cloud Value
Fund	1	1	2	10
Purpose	4	5111	5	51110
PRC	3	001	4	0001
Object	3	121	4	1210
Location	3	310	5	31000
Cost Center (Future Growth)	3	200	3	200

Current COA – 1-5111-001-121-310-200

Future COA – 10-51110-0001-1210-31000-200

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Changes and Improvements

Payroll

- Exempt employees (certified staff, administrators, supervisors) will remain on a monthly payroll – generally on the **27th of each month**
- Non-exempt employees (teacher assistants, bus drivers, cafeteria workers) will move to a **bi-weekly payroll**

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Changes and Improvements

Payroll

- The current installment pay plan for teachers will be replaced with a **new option** to enroll in a summer pay plan in which the employee can control the amount withheld.
- The new summer pay option will be available to **all employees** who are employed less than 12 months.

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Changes and Improvements

Payroll

- Leave for all employees will be converted from **days to hours**.
- Board payments will transition from the 10th of the month to the **27th of the month**.
- Employees will have greater ability to access and manage their deductions and update personal information.

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Changes and Improvements

Payroll

- Other products used for payroll purposes such as **Synovia** (bus drivers) and **AESOP** (substitutes) will be configured to import into Oracle.
- We will be **paying employees more often**, but the process is more efficient, streamlined and integrated with other software.

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Changes and Improvements

Human Resources

- The new Oracle system is user friendly for all administrators and employees.
- **Single Sign-On (SSO)** will help reduce the number of passwords an employee will need. Employees will also be able to access Benefits Enrollment platforms within Oracle.

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Changes and Improvements

Human Resources

- Any changes in employee demographic information, taxes, direct deposit, etc. will be submitted by the employee which will automate the change in other platforms. This means that fewer HR and Payroll staff will have to manually enter changes, thereby leaving less room for potential errors.

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Staff Training

Multiple forms of training to learn how to use the new system will be provided to staff based upon identified needs in their respective areas.

- Projected training timeline: **May 3-24, 2021**
- **Train the Trainer** format for Central Office Staff
- Oracle training modules in **Learn Upon** system for all End Users

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Contact Information

Gary Hoskins

Project Sponsor
gfhoskins@gaston.k12.nc.us

Chris Hall

Project Manager
chall@gaston.k12.nc.us



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Questions?

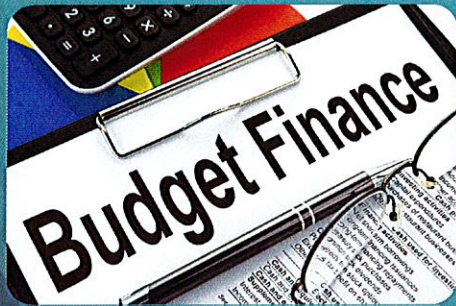


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2021 Board Retreat



Finance Discussion

January 15, 2021

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Finance Discussion

- Budget Process
- Capital Outlay
- Funding/Expenses
- Fund Balance
- Discussion



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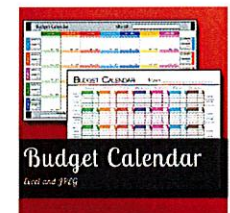
Budget Process



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Budget Calendar

- **January 15** – Board Retreat
- **January & February** – Meet with Directors and Department Supervisors
- **March** – Budget work session and Superintendent's Budget Request to BOE
- **April** – Adoption of GCS Budget



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Budget Calendar

- **May** – Deliver GCS Budget Request to County
- **May or June** – County approves local budget
- **June** – BOE approves balanced interim budget
- **June to August** – General Assembly and Governor approves NC State budget
- **July to October** – BOE approves final budget resolution

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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 capital needs?



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Budget Process

- Monitor effectiveness of current budget
- Attend budgeting seminars, read trade organization materials, analyze historical budget data
- **Solicit input from Stakeholders**
- Identify funding priorities
- Communicate results to Superintendent and BOE for further direction

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Stakeholders

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



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Budget Survey Calendar

DATE	DESCRIPTION
December 9, 2020	Send budget questionnaire to Leadership and Directors
December 9, 2020	Send budget questionnaire to all Principals and Assistant Principals
December 16, 2020	Send budget questionnaire to all members of the Teacher Advisory Committee and all Pinnacle Leaders
December 16, 2020	Send budget questionnaire to all members of the Superintendent's Student Advisory Council and the Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council
December 16, 2020	Send budget questionnaire to Gaston County business and community partners and post on GCS website
January 15, 2021	Board of Education Retreat - Present and discuss results of budget questionnaire

Gaston County Schools

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):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Teacher Supplement | <input type="checkbox"/> More Teacher Assistants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Incr. Principal/AP Supplement | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Student Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Classified Salaries | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Instructional Support |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expand CTE Program Offerings | <input type="checkbox"/> More School Support Staff |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offer more Instructional Programs | <input type="checkbox"/> Provide more Computing Devices |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expand AIG Program | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Number of Library Books |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase the Number of AP Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Expand Classroom Libraries |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Offer more ESL/ELS Classes | <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade School Safety Systems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Funding for the Arts | <input type="checkbox"/> Increase PD for Teachers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provide more Choice Options | <input type="checkbox"/> Improve Exterior Appearance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Increase Funding for EC Students | <input type="checkbox"/> Upgrade School Interior |

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Budget Survey Results

What Do You Think?



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Budget Survey Results

Teacher Supplements

#1 Funding Request Seven Years in a row!



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Budget Survey Results

Top Funding Priorities	% in Top Five					Change 2017-21
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Increase Teacher Supplement	68%	67%	63%	67%	75%	7%
Increase Student Support	14%	21%	49%	51%	51%	37%
Increase Classified Salaries	37%	34%	36%	47%	51%	14%
Increase Computing Devices	36%	33%	34%	23%	35%	-1%
More Teacher Assistants	35%	33%	35%	34%	25%	-10%
Upgrade School Safety Systems	0%	33%	41%	26%	24%	-9%
Improve School Interior	0%	0%	0%	19%	21%	2%
Respondents	190	251	258	197	179	(11)

Gaston County Schools

Budget Survey Results

List of Funding Priorities	% In Top 5	List of Funding Priorities	% In Top 5
Increase Teacher Supplement	75%	More Teacher Assistants	25%
Increase Principal/AP Supplement	18%	Increase Student Support	51%
Increase Classified Salaries	51%	Increase Instructional Support	18%
Expand CTE Program Offerings	16%	More School Support Staff	5%
Expand Instructional Programs	18%	Provide More Computing Devices	35%
Expand AIG Program	7%	Increase Number of Library Books	10%
Increase Number of AP Classes	13%	Expand Classroom Libraries	8%
Offer more ESL classes	6%	Upgrade School Safety Systems	24%
Increase Funding for the Arts	17%	Increase PD for Teachers	11%
Provide more Choice Options	12%	Improve Exterior Appearance	16%
Increase Funding for EC Students	16%	Upgrade School Interior	21%

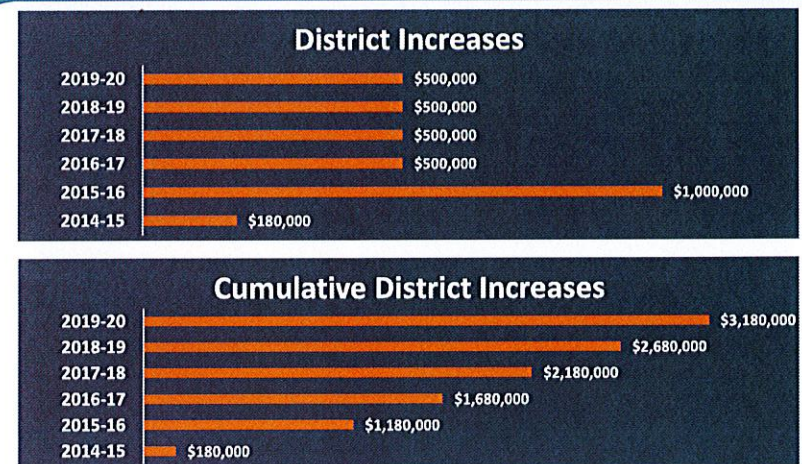
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Teacher Supplements

- Over the past seven years, the County has increased teacher supplements by **\$3.18 million**
- A \$500,000 increase in teacher supplements would improve net average annual supplements by about **\$180 per teacher**
- There was **no increase in teacher supplements** for 2020-2021 due to the impact of the pandemic on local sales tax revenues

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Teacher Supplements



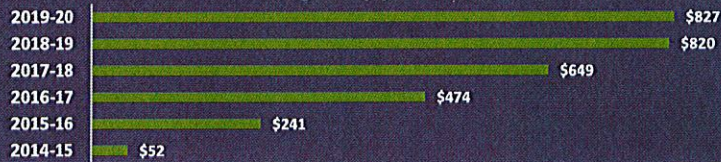
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Teacher Supplements

Average Teacher Supplement



Cumulative Avg. Supplement Increase



Gaston County Schools

Budget Survey Results

Why are Teacher Supplements Still Our #1 Funding Priority?

1

Gaston County Schools

Teacher Supplements

Similar Size Districts (ADM)	Average Supplement
Buncombe (23,669)	\$ 7,616
Durham (32,928)	7,487
Johnston (36,892)	5,353
State Average	5,216
Onslow County (26,771)	4,461
Union (41,391)	4,448
New Hanover (25,807)	4,037
Cabarrus (33,568)	3,776
Gaston (30,834)	3,004

Source: DPI FY 2019-2020 Table 20 for average supplement

DPI FY 2019-2020 Table 10 for ADM

Gaston County Schools

Teacher Supplements

Neighboring Districts (ADM)	Average Supplement
Charlotte-Mecklenburg (146,888)	\$ 8,782
State Average	5,216
Union (41,391)	4,448
Catawba (15,727)	3,899
Cabarrus (33,568)	3,776
Rowan-Salisbury (18,742)	3,258
Lincoln (11,373)	3,229
Gaston (30,834)	3,004
Iredell-Statesville (20,403)	2,946
Cleveland (14,137)	2,013

Source: DPI FY 2019-2020 Table 20 for average supplement

DPI FY 2019-2020 Table 10 for ADM

Gaston County Schools

Other Funding Priorities

- Increase student support – social workers, school counselors, nurses, etc.
- Increase classified salaries – maintenance, school nutrition, admin. support, custodians, etc.
- Increase computing devices - replace out-of-date technology such as older Chromebooks and SMART Boards

Gaston County Schools

Other Funding Priorities

- Increase the number of Teaching Assistants
- Upgrade the school safety systems – fencing, alarms, cameras, intercom, etc.
- Improve the interior appearance of our schools – bathrooms, classrooms, gyms, auditoriums, cafeterias, etc.

Gaston County Schools

Activities for Next Year

- Address student achievement gap caused by pandemic
- Open Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences
- Relocate Belmont Middle School
- Issue new Chromebooks to all rising 2nd, 6th and 9th grade students (approx. 6,900 students)

Gaston County Schools

Funding Options

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

Gaston County Schools

County Funding Request

- Our County budget request for 2020-21 was \$53.3 million, **an increase of \$3.0 million** from the previous year
- This year we will actually receive \$49.8 million of operating funds from the County, **a decrease of \$500,000** from the previous year
- About **10%** of County funds are remitted to charter schools based on their current enrollment

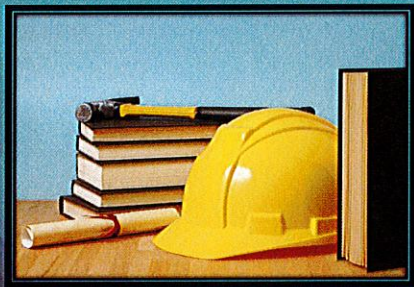
Gaston County Schools

Budget Risk

- **Declining student enrollment** and/or increasing charter school enrollment
- Continued State budget **uncertainty**
- Additional **cuts** in County funding
- Ongoing financial impact of **Coronavirus**
- **Inflationary increases** in good and services

Gaston County Schools

Capital Outlay



Gaston County Schools

Capital Outlay

Capital Outlay is used for the following purposes:

- | | |
|---------------------|---------------------|
| • Roofing | • Electrical |
| • HVAC | • Technology |
| • Vehicles | • Furniture |
| • Plumbing | • Life Safety |
| • Site Improvements | • Other Maintenance |

Gaston County Schools

Capital Outlay

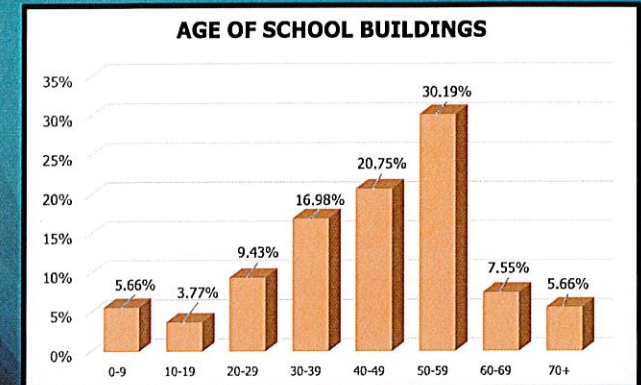
Routine Maintenance Costs Are Affected By:

- Age of the Buildings
- Quality and Experience of Custodial Staff
- Training of Custodial Staff
- Deferred Maintenance Backlog

Gaston County Schools

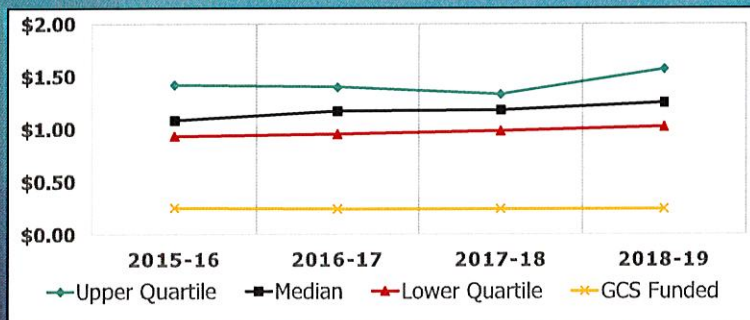
Age of Buildings

Wtd Avg Age (Years)	Number of Schools
0-9	3
10-19	2
20-29	5
30-39	9
40-49	11
50-59	16
60-69	4
70+	3
Total	53



Gaston County Schools

Routine Maintenance Cost per Square Foot



	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
Upper Quartile	\$ 1.42	\$ 1.40	\$ 1.33	\$ 1.57
Median	1.08	1.17	1.18	1.25
Lower Quartile	0.93	0.95	0.98	1.02
GCS Funded	0.25	0.24	0.24	0.24

Source: Managing for Results in America's Great City Schools – 2020 (results from fiscal year 2018-2019)

Gaston County Schools

Capital Request

- Schools and administrative buildings amount to about **5.2 million square feet**
- This year we received \$1.2 million in capital outlay, or about **\$0.24 per square foot**
- We requested \$6.2 million in capital outlay for 2020-21. This request amounted to **\$1.19 per square foot**

Gaston County Schools

Funding / Expenses



Gaston County Schools

Types of Funding

Who Determines the Level of School Funding?

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

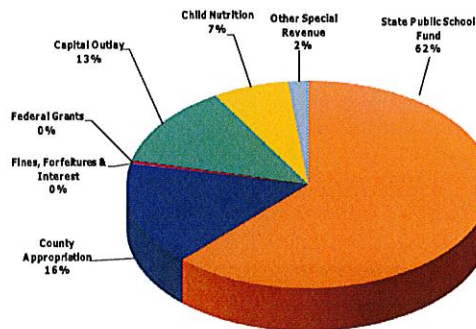
Operating funds are largely driven by student population and identified needs (economic factors, disabilities, etc.)

Gaston County Schools

Operating Budget - Revenues

SOURCES OF REVENUE

State Public School Fund	\$ 192,224,705
County Appropriation	49,811,704
Fines, Forfeitures & Interest	750,000
Federal Grants	937,792
Capital Outlay	39,261,780
Child Nutrition	20,877,500
Other Special Revenue	5,647,661
TOTAL	\$ 309,511,142



Represents the FY 2020-21 beginning operating budget as of July 1, 2020

Gaston County Schools

Per Pupil Funding

School District Name	State	Federal	Local	Total
Durham County Schools	\$6,696	\$715	\$3,801	\$11,212
Buncombe County Schools	\$6,453	\$639	\$2,924	\$10,016
New Hanover County Schools	\$6,373	\$525	\$3,018	\$9,916
Cleveland County Schools	\$7,068	\$767	\$1,781	\$9,616
Rowan-Salisbury County Schools	\$6,620	\$652	\$2,189	\$9,461
Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools	\$6,145	\$476	\$2,742	\$9,363
Onslow County Schools	\$6,370	\$520	\$2,116	\$9,006
Union County Schools	\$5,899	\$605	\$2,257	\$8,761
Johnston County Schools	\$6,538	\$458	\$1,718	\$8,714
Catawba County Schools	\$6,305	\$563	\$1,796	\$8,664
Cabarrus County Schools	\$6,165	\$359	\$2,135	\$8,659
Gaston County Schools	\$6,250	\$602	\$1,752	\$8,604
Iredell-Statesville Schools	\$6,194	\$533	\$1,771	\$8,498
Lincoln County Schools	\$6,218	\$392	\$1,629	\$8,239

Source: 2019-2020 DPI Table 25 - Per Pupil Expenditure Ranking (Child Nutrition Excluded)
Peer Group includes LEAs that are comparable in either size and/or geographic location

Gaston County Schools

Local Per Pupil Funding Rank

School District Name	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Durham County Schools	5	5	5	6	5
New Hanover County Schools	14	11	12	8	11
Buncombe County Schools	20	19	15	14	14
Charlotte-Mecklenburg County Schools	23	25	25	23	17
Union County Schools	32	34	31	31	30
Rowan-Salisbury County Schools	63	44	30	42	37
Cabarrus County Schools	39	39	49	46	39
Onslow County Schools	41	38	36	44	42
Catawba County Schools	66	76	85	76	66
Cleveland County Schools	47	46	53	72	68
Iredell-Statesville Schools	74	65	57	71	70
Gaston County Schools	77	72	77	75	71
Johnston County Schools	73	73	72	62	74
Lincoln County Schools	78	95	91	99	83

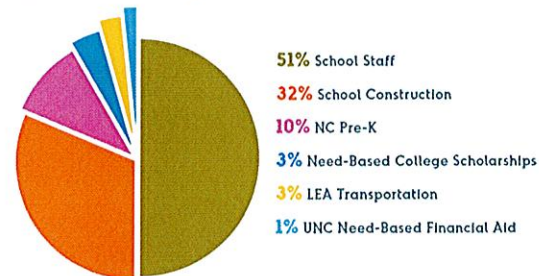
Source: 2019-2020 DPI Table 25

Peer Group includes LEAs that are comparable in either size and/or geographic location
There are 115 LEAs in NC

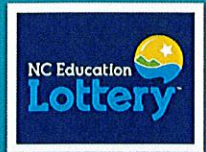
Gaston County Schools

NC Education Lottery

Here's how the money raised by the lottery was used last year:



Gaston County received \$2.3 million last year which was used to pay school bond debt



Gaston County Schools

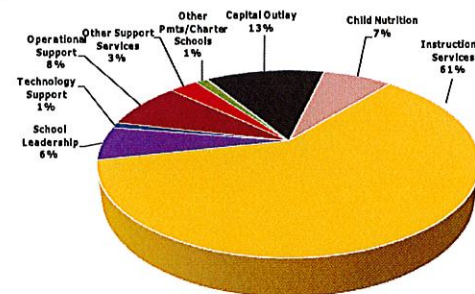
Operating Expenses

What is included in Operating Expenses?

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

Gaston County Schools

Operating Budget - Expenses



BUDGETED EXPENDITURES	
Instructional Services	\$ 187,596,668
School Leadership	18,095,367
Technology Support	2,825,335
Operational Support	25,554,989
Other Support Services	9,337,182
Other Pmts/Charter Schools	4,031,523
Capital Outlay	39,261,780
Child Nutrition	22,808,299
TOTAL	\$309,511,142

Represents the FY 2020-21 beginning operating budget as of July 1, 2020

Gaston County Schools

COVID Funding

CARES Act (Federal) - \$7.9 million

- Expires September 30, 2023
- \$5.6 million unencumbered
- Funds have been used for:
 - Online learning systems for students (i.e. Canvas)
 - Custodial supplies, disinfectant and sprayers
 - Face masks, gloves, shields, plexiglass barriers, etc.
 - School and office COVID signage
 - Equipment to deliver school lunches to classrooms and additional pest control due to classroom meals

Gaston County Schools

COVID Funding

Coronavirus Relief Funds (State) - \$6.9 million

- Expired December 30, 2020 (later extended)
- All funds used – no funds remaining
- Funds have been used for:
 - Chromebooks and Wi-Fi access devices for students
 - Books, printed materials, and supplies
 - Summer learning program and after school tutors
 - Online learning materials
 - School nutrition financial support
 - EC student support, health support personnel, etc.

Gaston County Schools

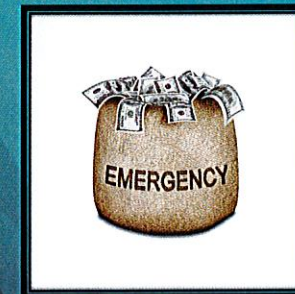
COVID Funding

Coronavirus Response and Relief Act

- \$900 Billion pandemic emergency response bill passed December 21, 2020
- Expires September 30, 2023
- No funds yet distributed to school districts
- Funds likely to be used for:
 - Education technology for students
 - Summer learning/supplemental after school programs
 - Cleaning, sanitizing, repairing and improving facilities
 - Other COVID-related expenses (similar to CARES Act)

Gaston County Schools

Fund Balance



Gaston County Schools

Fund Balance

Why is a sufficient fund balance important?

Fund balance can be used to protect educational opportunities for our children in the event of some type of financial disruption. It also provides money for unanticipated repairs, fluctuations in spending or catastrophic events.

There are risks associated with funding on-going costs with fund balance or holding too much money in fund balance.

Gaston County Schools

Fund Balance

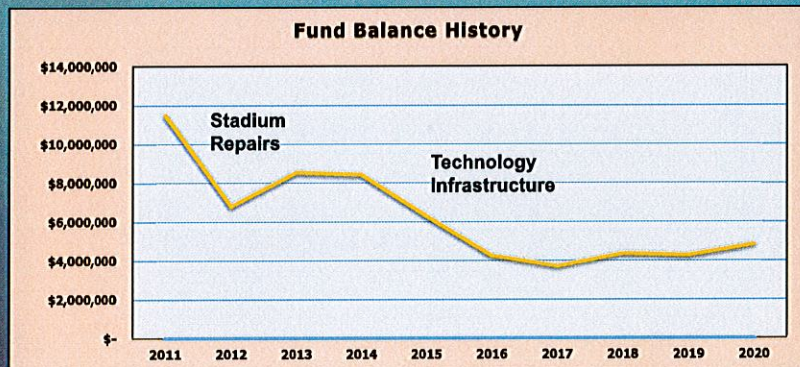
What is our Unassigned Fund Balance?

\$4,851,995



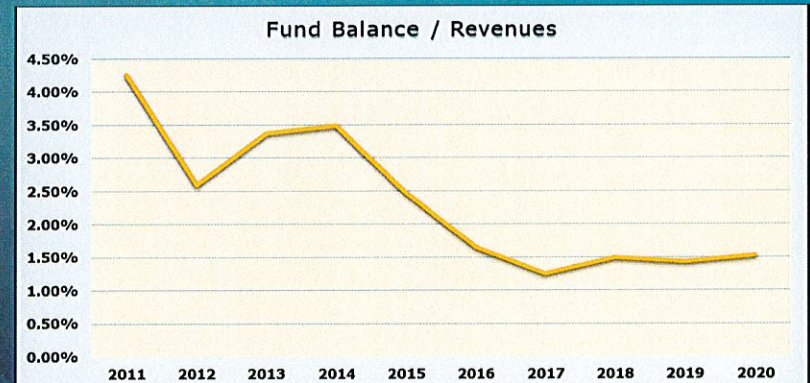
Gaston County Schools

Fund Balance History



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Unassigned Fund Balance	11,475,596	6,810,382	8,543,572	8,421,435	6,299,324
Fund Balance / Revenues	4.26%	2.59%	3.37%	3.49%	2.47%
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Unassigned Fund Balance	4,267,131	3,713,330	4,371,959	4,277,089	4,851,995
Fund Balance / Revenues	1.66%	1.26%	1.49%	1.43%	1.53%

Fund Balance / Revenues



	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Unassigned Fund Balance	11,475,596	6,810,382	8,543,572	8,421,435	6,299,324
Fund Balance / Revenues	4.26%	2.59%	3.37%	3.49%	2.47%
	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Unassigned Fund Balance	4,267,131	3,713,330	4,371,959	4,277,089	4,851,995
Change in Fund Balance	1.66%	1.26%	1.49%	1.43%	1.53%

Fund Balance / Revenues

LEA Name	ADM	Unassigned Fund Balance	Total Revenues	Fund Balance / Revenues
Union County Schools	39,934	165,098	419,880,173	0.04%
Johnston County Schools	36,112	317,941	334,419,664	0.10%
Buncombe County Schools	22,298	819,727	277,432,118	0.30%
Lincoln County Schools	11,077	1,107,517	107,100,222	1.03%
Cleveland County Schools	13,865	1,493,721	143,706,281	1.04%
Charlotte-Mecklenberg County Schools	140,073	21,022,000	1,601,096,000	1.31%
Gaston County Schools	29,490	4,851,995	317,339,452	1.53%
PEER GROUP AVERAGE	32,961	6,211,504	365,696,319	1.70%
Durham County Schools	31,603	8,439,706	422,626,777	2.00%
Catawba County Schools	15,370	3,092,881	152,281,097	2.03%
Cabarrus County Schools	32,729	7,977,662	356,828,179	2.24%
Rowan-Salisbury County Schools	18,004	5,145,244	197,349,212	2.61%
Onslow County Schools	26,140	8,641,516	278,804,434	3.10%
Iredell-Statesville Schools	20,038	7,953,068	197,073,283	4.04%
New Hanover County Schools	24,721	15,932,985	313,811,574	5.08%

Source: LEA's 2019 & 2020 CAFR and DPI 2020-2021 ADM

Gaston County Schools

Discussion



Gaston County Schools

2021 Board Retreat



School Bond Update

January 15, 2021

Gaston County Schools

Capital Needs

School District Capital Needs

New Construction	\$	245,000,000
Additions to Schools		115,000,000
Renovations & Repairs		<u>290,000,000</u>
Total	\$	650,000,000

Based on 2015-16 DPI Facility Needs Study adjusted for inflation and other unknown influences on the cost of construction and repairs.

Gaston County Schools

Bond Request

Potential School Bond Issues

1 st Issuance	\$ 250,000,000
2 nd Issuance	200,000,000
3 rd Issuance	<u>200,000,000</u>
Total School Bonds	\$ 650,000,000

Gaston County Schools

School Bond Referendum

May 8, 2018 - \$250 Million



Gaston County Schools

Bond Request

School Bond Issue #1

New Construction	\$	110,000,000
Additions to Schools		25,000,000
Renovations & Repairs		<u>115,000,000</u>
School Bond Request	\$	250,000,000

Gaston County Schools

Bond Request

New Construction - \$110 million

Belmont MS	\$	40,000,000
Replacement MS		40,000,000
New Elementary School		<u>30,000,000</u>
New Construction	\$	110,000,000

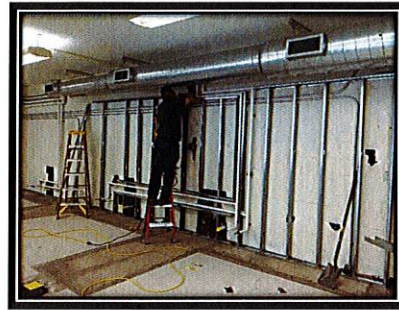
The replacement middle school will likely be one of the converted high schools.
The new elementary school will be located in an area where high growth is expected.

Gaston County Schools

Bond Request

Additions to Schools - \$25 million

- Classroom Additions
- Media Center Expansion and Renovation
- Cafeteria Expansion and Renovation



Gaston County Schools

Bond Request

Renovations and Repairs - \$115 million

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| • Roof Replacement | • Structural Repairs |
| • HVAC | • Athletic Facilities |
| • Vehicles | • Doors/Windows |
| • Plumbing | • Electrical/Lighting |
| • Site Improvements | • ADA Compliance |
| • Life Safety | • Elevators |

Gaston County Schools

School Bonds

2018 School Bond

New Belmont Middle \$ 43,500,000

Capital Projects:

Roofing, HVAC, Life Safety,
Renovations, Flooring, Electrical,
Plumbing, Athletic Facilities, etc.

16,500,000

School Bond Proceeds \$ 60,000,000

Gaston County Schools

Belmont Middle



Gaston County Schools

Belmont Middle

- Will support up to 1,000 students
- Ability to expand capacity to 1,200 students
- 43 Core Classrooms and 10 CTE/Arts Classrooms
- Approximately 160,000 square feet
- Groundbreaking – 4th quarter 2018
- Grand Opening – 2021-22 School Year



Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects



Ashbrook HS Canopy and Façade

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

Before



After

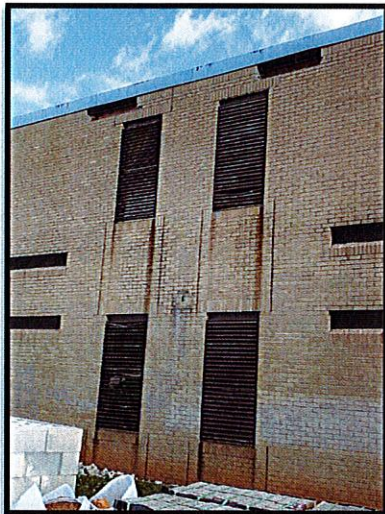


Ashbrook HS Canopy and Façade

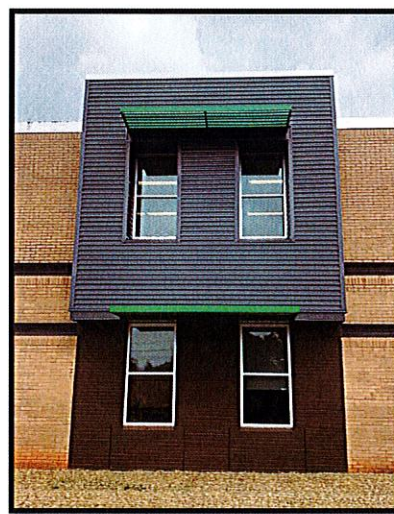
Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

Before



After



Ashbrook HS Canopy and Façade

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

Before



After



East Gaston HS Canopy and Façade

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

Before



South Point HS Security Vestibule

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

After

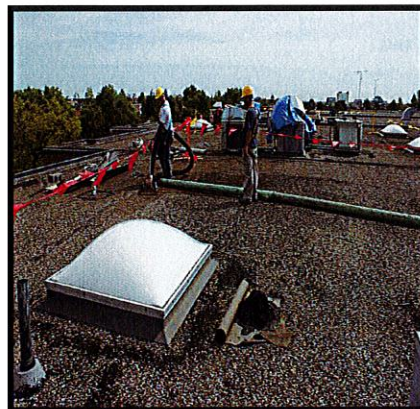


South Point HS Security Vestibule

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

- Highland School of Tech.
- South Point HS
- East Gaston HS
- Mount Holly MS
- Southwest MS
- W.B. Beam Intermediate

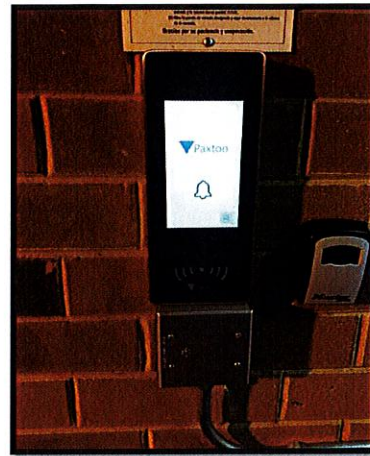


Roof Replacements

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

- Holbrook MS
- Pinewood ES
- Carr ES
- New Hope ES
- Page Primary



Life Safety Projects

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

- Cherryville HS
- Mount Holly MS
- Carr ES
- Grier MS
- Cherryville ES
- Bessemer City Central



Site Improvements

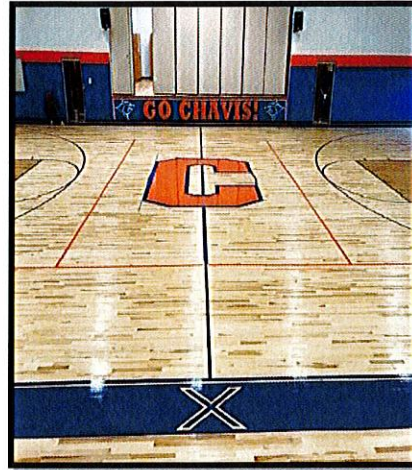
Gaston County Schools

Other Bond Projects

Before



After



Chavis MS

Gaston County Schools

Other Bond Projects

Security Fencing



Grier MS

Gaston County Schools

Other Bond Projects

Doors and Windows

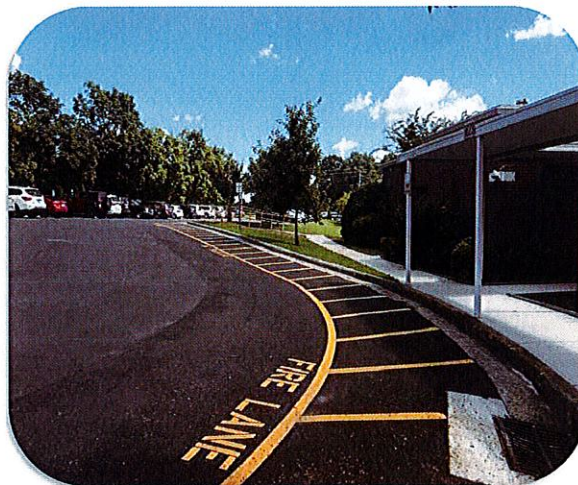
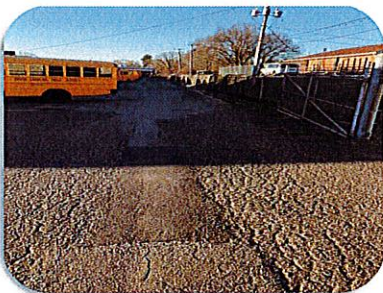
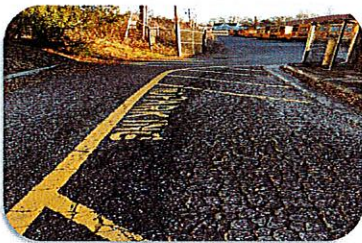


New Hope ES

Gaston County Schools

Other Bond Projects

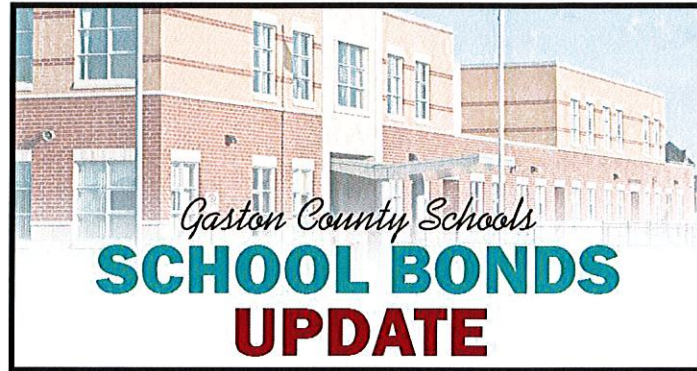
Paving



Webb Street

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects



GCS Website

Gaston County Schools

Bond Projects

Available Capital Funds November 30, 2020

Fund Source	Budget	Expense	Balance	Encumbrances	Available Balance
2016 \$50M - Proceeds	\$922,491	\$0	\$922,491	\$0	\$922,491
2017 \$6M - Proceeds	\$5,935,000	(\$5,203,081)	\$731,919	(\$126,292)	\$605,627
2018 \$60M - Proceeds	\$60,000,000	(\$45,540,224)	\$14,459,776	(\$9,509,693)	\$4,950,083
Bond Proceeds	\$66,857,491	(\$50,743,305)	\$16,114,186	(\$9,635,985)	\$6,478,201
Annual Capital Outlay	\$1,831,737	(\$556,957)	\$1,274,780	(\$829,620)	\$445,160
Total Capital Funds	\$68,689,228	(\$51,300,262)	\$17,388,966	(\$10,465,605)	\$6,923,361

Gaston County Schools

Future Bond Projects

- Hunter Huss HS Parking Lot
- Highland Classroom Renovations
- Cherryville HS LED Lighting Project
- Holbrook MS Roof Replacement
- Forestview HS Drainage
- Carr ES Drainage
- Various Life Safety Projects
- Various Lighting Projects



Gaston County Schools

Next Steps

New Bond Issue

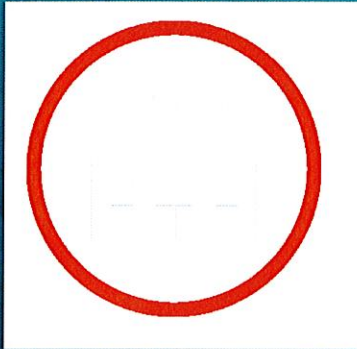
- \$190 Million unissued – expires 2025, can be extended to 2028
- Replacement Middle School or new Elementary School?
- What major projects for new issue – Auditorium upgrades, Classroom additions, Other needs?

Gaston County Schools

Discussion



Gaston County Schools

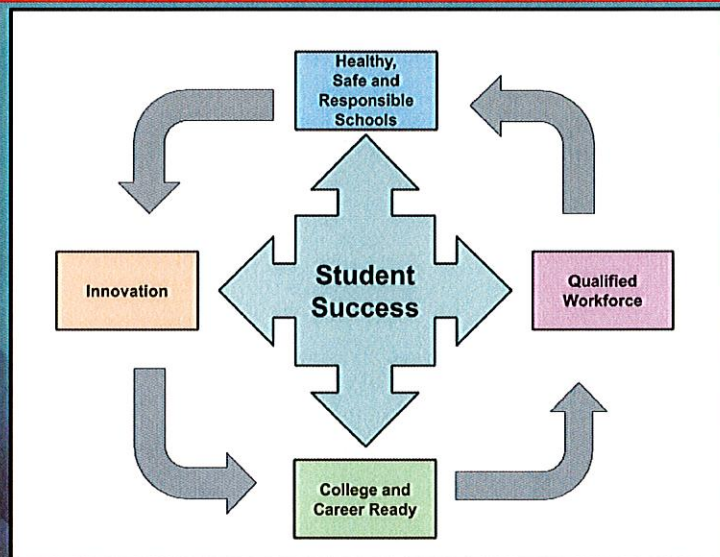


Gaston County Schools

Accountability Update

Board of Education Retreat

January 15, 2021



Gaston County Schools

Priorities and Goals

**College and
Career Ready**

**Qualified
Workforce**

Innovation

**Healthy, Safe and
Responsible**

Gaston County Schools

**College and
Career Ready**

Graduation Rate

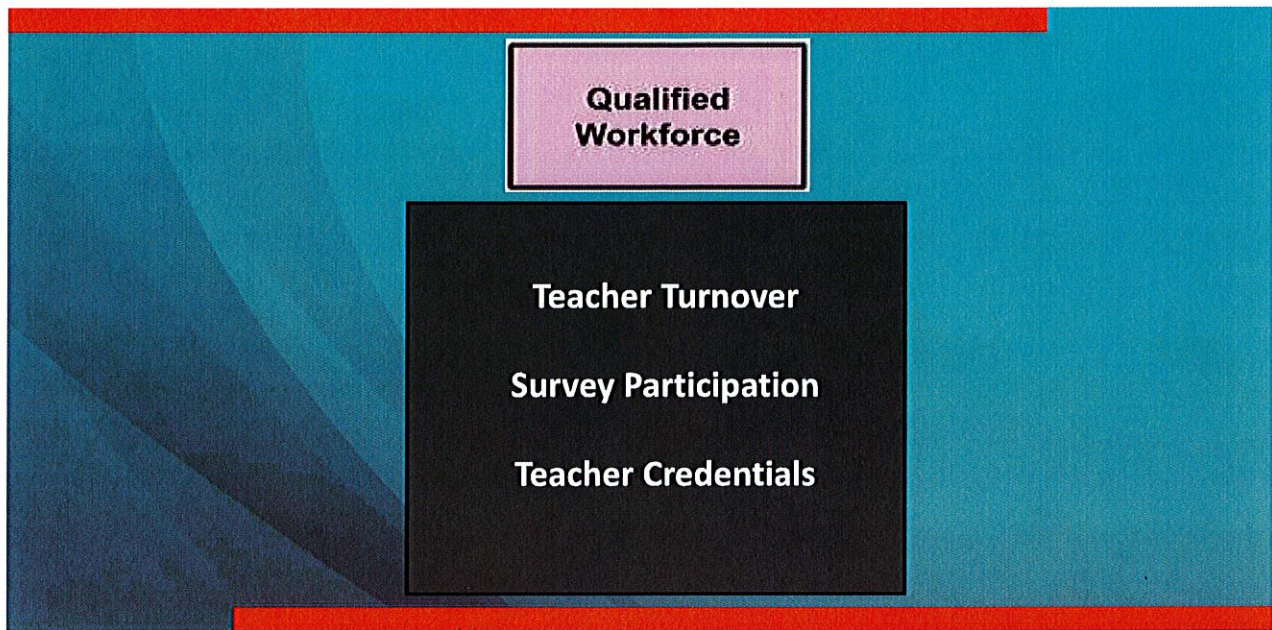
EOG and EOC Performance

ACT/WorkKeys

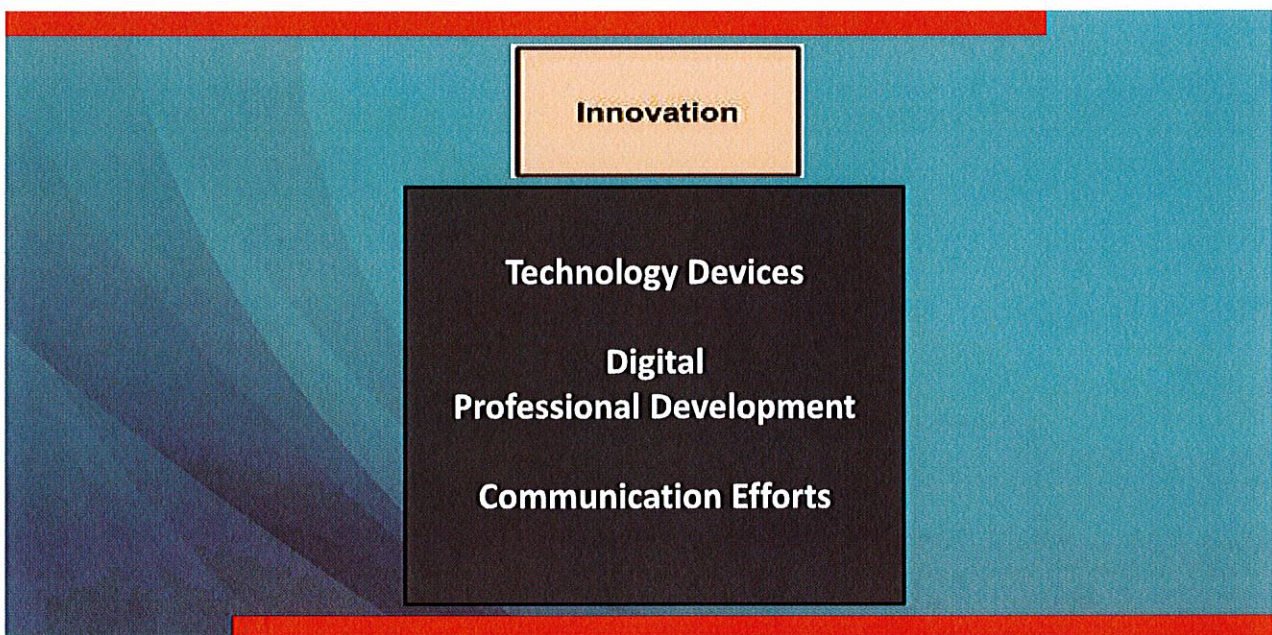
CTE and AP Participation

Sub-Group Performance

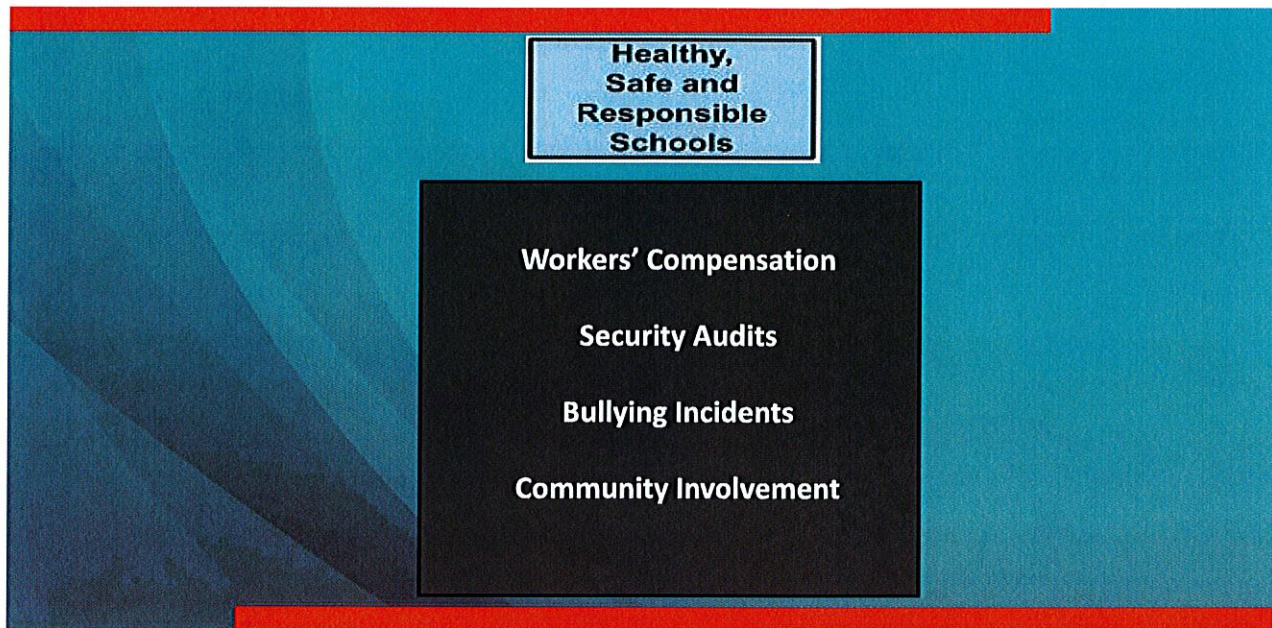
Gaston County Schools



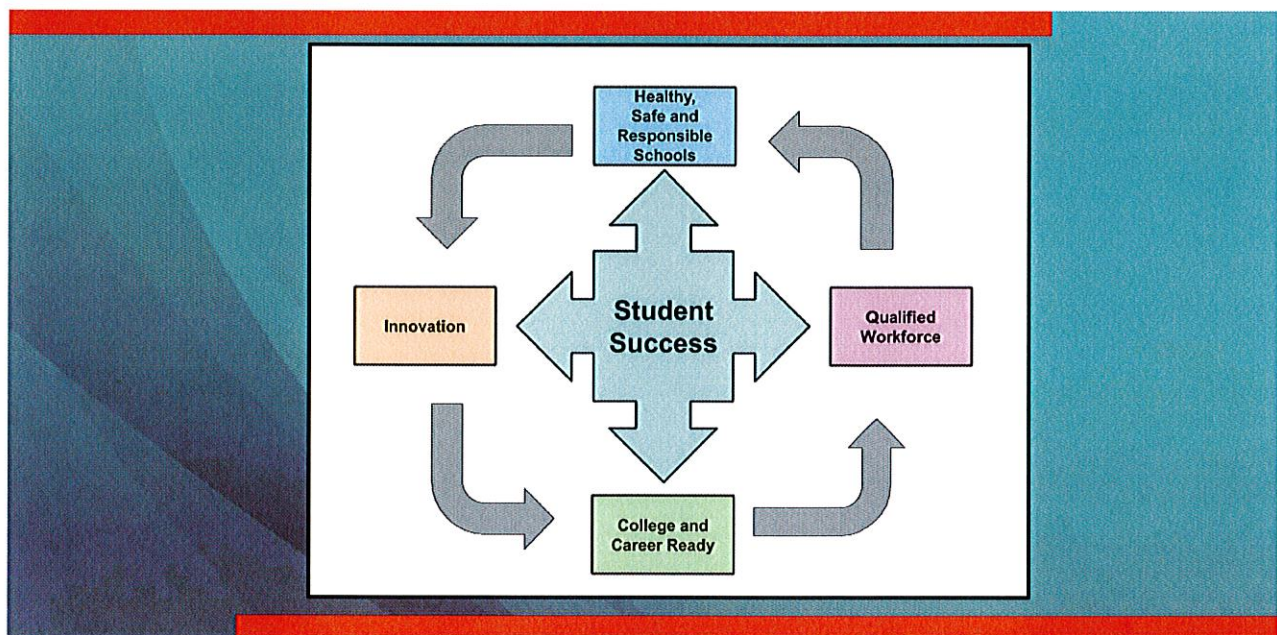
Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools

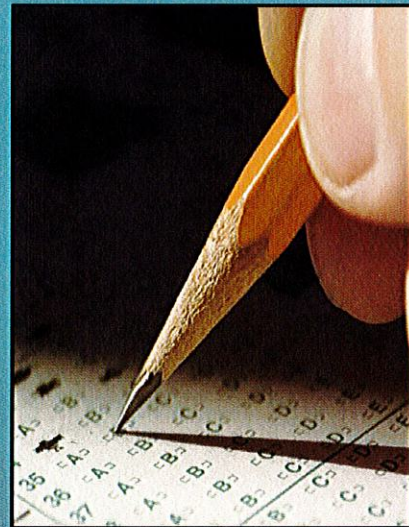
District Performance



Gaston County Schools

A Year of No Spring Testing...

- **Federal Accountability Waiver**
 - No Proficiency or Growth Results
- No Long-Term Goals
- No School Performance Grades
 - No change in Low Performing Schools Status



Gaston County Schools

2020-2021 Federal Accountability Waiver Update

State Board of Education voted to submit to the Federal Government on January 6th, 2021.

- Participation Rate
- School Performance Grades



Gaston County Schools

District Accreditation



Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools

3

- Leadership Capacity
- Learning Capacity
- Resource Capacity

Gaston County Schools

Thank You



Gaston County Schools



Board of Education Retreat Work Session

Academic Services
January 15, 2021

Gaston County Schools

Academic Services Looking Back

Consolidation of
Schools

Replacement
Schools

Welcome Center

Title I

Gaston County Schools

Academic Services Looking Back

School Choice

Virtual Learning
Opportunities

Career and
Technical
Education

Advanced Learning
Opportunities

Gaston County Schools

Academic Services Looking Back

Student
Enrollment

Choice Program
Highlights

Gaston County Schools

Consolidation of
Schools

Replacement
Schools

Gaston County Schools

Approved Recommendations BOE Retreat 2014

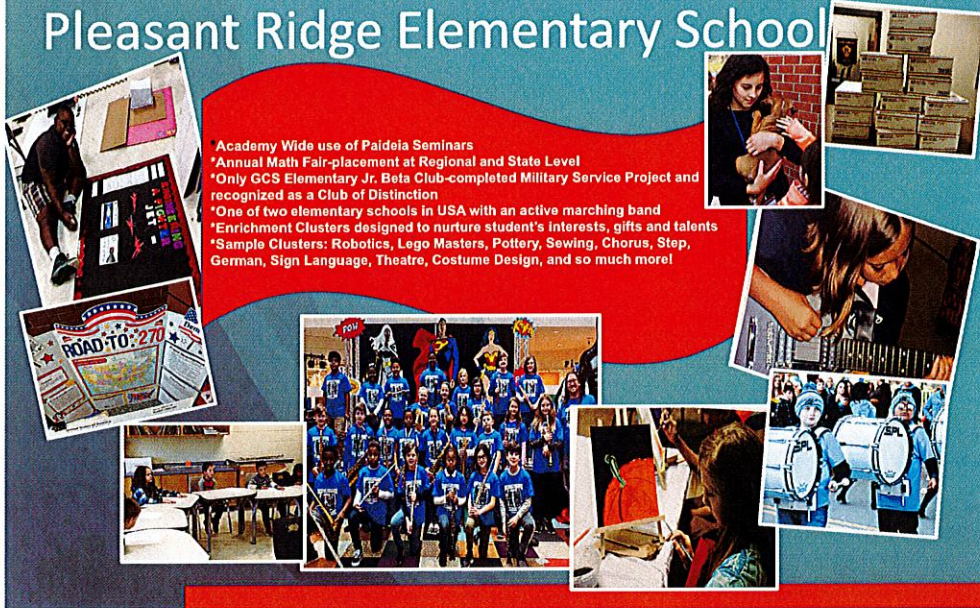
- Consolidation of Forest Heights, Pleasant Ridge, and Rhyne Elementary Schools
- New Elementary School in West Gastonia
- Replacement Middle School in Stanley



Gaston County Schools

Pleasant Ridge Elementary School

*Academy Wide use of Paideia Seminars
*Annual Math Fair-placement at Regional and State Level
*Only GCS Elementary Jr. Beta Club-completed Military Service Project and recognized as a Club of Distinction
*One of two elementary schools in USA with an active marching band
*Enrichment Clusters designed to nurture student's interests, gifts and talents
*Sample Clusters: Robotics, Lego Masters, Pottery, Sewing, Chorus, Step, German, Sign Language, Theatre, Costume Design, and so much more!



Gaston County Schools



Stanley Middle School

- Ranks in the *top two* percent of NC schools for Academic Student Growth
- Offers *four* high school credit courses- Spanish 1, Math 1, World History and Earth/Environmental Science
- Provides choice in Core Plus classes: Art, Band, Jazz Band, Chorus, Spanish, Medical Sciences, Computer Science, and Engineering
- *ALL* SMS students are a part of the STEAM Academy experience!



Gaston County Schools

First Elementary Magnet School

- GCS Board of Education approved the closing of Hawks Nest Intermediate School due to low enrollment
- Hawks Nest STEAM Academy opened fall of 2016

Gaston County Schools

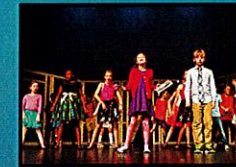
Hawks Nest STEAM Academy



2020
North Carolina STEM School of
Distinction



Implemented School-Wide Robotics



Junior Blumenthal
Theatre Production in
collaboration with
Stuart Cramer

Gaston County Schools

Welcome Center

Title I

Gaston County Schools

Gaston County Schools Welcome Center



Proposed at BOE
Retreat 2014



2020

Gaston County Schools

Restructuring Title I

Approved Recommendation at 2017 BOE Retreat

Gaston County Schools

Title I Restructuring Approved at 2017 BOE Retreat

Poverty Bands

- Increase funding to most impoverished schools
- Increase number of students served



Gaston County Schools

Title I Restructuring Approved at 2017 BOE Retreat

School Identification

- Free and Reduced Lunch Forms
 - $\geq 40\%$ Economically Disadvantaged (Elementary)
 - $\geq 75\%$ Economically Disadvantaged (Middle)

Gaston County Schools

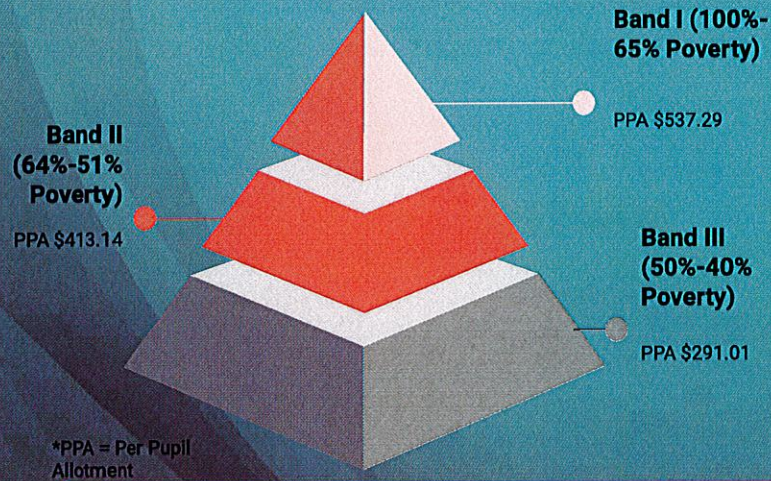
Title I

Proposed Plan Impact

	2017/2018	2020/2021
Schools Served	24	30

Gaston County Schools

Title I Funding 2020-2021



Gaston County Schools

Title I Elementary Schools

Bessemer City Central	Lowell
Bessemer City Primary	McAdenville
Brookside	North Belmont
Carr	Pinewood
Catawba Hts.	Pleasant Ridge
Chapel Grove	Rankin
Cherryville	Robinson
Costner	Sadler
Gardner Park	Sherwood
HH Beam	Springfield
Kiser	Tryon
Lingerfeldt	WB Beam
	Woodhill

Gaston County Schools

Title I Middle Schools

Bessemer City Middle School

Grier

Southwest

York Chester

Warlick Academy

Gaston County Schools

Title I 2020-2021

School Support Personnel

- Academic Facilitators
 - Ten - Elementary
 - Two - Middle



Gaston County Schools

Title I 2020-2021

School Support Personnel

- Academic Facilitators
 - School Support Ratio
 - Elementary - 1 to 5
 - Middle - 1 to 2

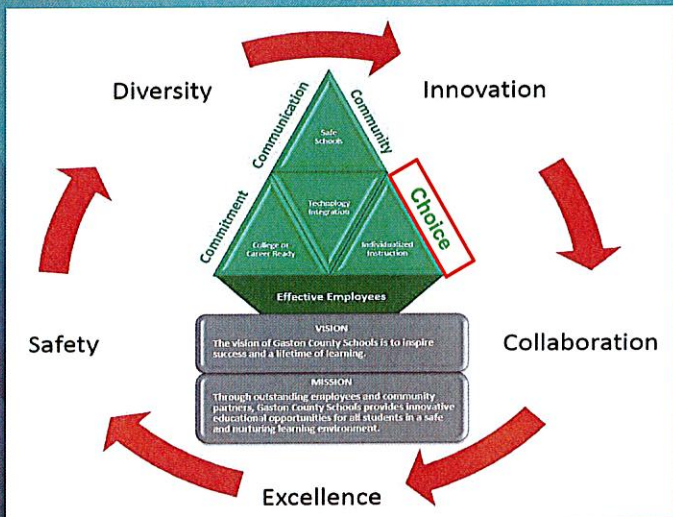


Gaston County Schools

School Choice

Gaston County Schools

Strategic Plan 2014



Gaston County Schools

Available Seats
for
Choice Programs

Lottery Timeline
of Activities

Gaston County Schools

School Choice Programs Available Seats

Gaston County Schools Choice Programs and Number of Seats

Elementary

Leader in Me
STEAM Academy
Gifted and Talented Academy

- Costner Elementary - 40
- Hawks Nest - 60
- Pleasant Ridge - (40 in kindergarten/limited seating in upper grades)

Middle

Career Academy
Career Academy
Gaston Virtual Academy
Gifted and Talented Academy
Leadership Academy
Public Service Academy
STEAM Academy
Technology and Industrial Engineering Academy

- Southwest Middle School - 30
- York Chester Middle School - 30
- Gaston Virtual Academy - K - 12
- Cramerton Middle School - 25 (plus 40 Pleasant Ridge seats)
- W.C. Friday Middle School - 40
- John Chavis Middle School - 50
- Stanley Middle School - 40 (plus 60 Hawks Nest seats)
- Bessemer City Middle School - 60

High

Career Academy
Collegiate Prep Academy
Gaston Early College High School
Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences
Highland School of Technology
Accelerate Academy
Leadership Academy
Health Sciences Academy
Public Service Academy
Technology and Industrial Engineering Academy

- Hunter Huss - 60
- Forestview - 30
- Gaston Early College High School - 54
- Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences - 80
- Highland School of Technology - 145
- Ashbrook - 100
- North Gaston - 40
- East Gaston - 150 (75 out of district - 75 in district)
- Cherryville High - 50
- Bessemer City High - 30



Gaston County Schools

Gaston County Schools

School Choice During the Pandemic

2020 - 2021

- Students maintained choice seats
- Students participated virtually
- Held harmless with academy or cohort classes
- Followed NCDPI guidelines hands on courses

School Choice During the Pandemic

2021 - 2022

- Students attend in person
- No virtual participation
- Students will have to commit to their seats
- Deadline July 28, 2021
- Take cohort classes

Activity	Current	Proposed for 2020 - 2021
Final School Approved Application Submitted	December	December 14, 2020
Data Provided	December 1, 2020	December - January Allows for initial eligibility verification
Application Window	January 1 - February 28	January 19 - February 28, 2021
Applicant Eligibility Verification Window	March 1-10	March 1 - March 26, 2021 Allows for final eligibility verification Allows for applicant appeal Allows for appeal decisions
Lottery Applicant List Submitted	March 10 (One week prior to Lottery)	March 26, 2021
Lottery Date	March 17	April 1, 2021
Final Applicant Eligibility Window	June 30 (After EOY EOG's, including retests)	June 30, 2021
Deadline for School Choice Student Movement	July 30	July 28, 2021

Gaston County Schools

NEW MAGNET PROGRAM

OPENING FALL 2021

Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences

Gaston County Schools

Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences Pathways

Criteria and Available Seats

Gaston County Schools

Facilities, School Nutrition and Transportation

Marketing and Promotions for GECMS

Timeline for Opening GECMS

Gaston County Schools

Medical Science Pathways

Gaston Early College of
Medical Sciences

Gaston County Schools

General Education for Nursing

Degree: Associate in General Education
Nursing

Next Steps: Transfer to four (4) year college

Workforce Opportunities: Take Boards for
RN; Employment in hospitals, medical offices,
insurance carriers, nursing homes

Base salary \$69,500

Gaston County Schools

Biotechnology Sciences

Degree: Diploma

Next Steps: Transition to Biology (Belmont
Abbey) or Biochemistry program at Gaston
College

Workforce Opportunities: Careers in Research
and Development, clinical laboratory
technicians, median annual salary of \$53,120

Gaston County Schools

Health Information Technology

Degree: Associate in Applied Science

Next Steps: Transfer to Four (4) College to a
Bachelor of Science Program

Workforce Opportunities: Medical Coding,
Patient Data Manager, Health Information
Technician Salary: \$46,000

Gaston County Schools

Human Services Technology

Degree: Diploma or Associate in Applied Science (5th Year)

Next Steps: Psychology Program or Social Work Program at a four (4) year college

Workforce Opportunities: Case Manager, Community Outreach, Home Health Aide, Child Advocate, 50% of jobs start at \$28,000

Gaston County Schools

What's the Difference?

CaroMont Health Academy at East Gaston High School

- Six (6) Pathways
- Career and College Promise (CCP) Readiness
 - 2.8 GPA
 - Performance on College Readiness Assessments
- College Classes Junior Year
- Graduate with Diploma and Certificate
- Traditional high school experiences

Gaston County Schools

What's the Difference?

Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences

- Four (4) Pathways
- Cooperative Innovative High School
- College Classes Freshman Year
- Graduate with Diploma and Degree
- College Readiness Experiences on a College Campus

Gaston County Schools

Criteria and Available Seats per High School

Gaston Early College of Medical Sciences

Gaston County Schools

Criteria

Application

- Good standing with attendance
- Good standing with behavior
- Good standing with academics
 - Average of "C" or better
- 7th and 8th grade EOG Scores
 - Level 3 or higher in Reading
 - Level 2 or higher in Math
 - Non-GCS applicants must meet similar standardized testing requirements
- Preference for First-Generation college students
- Submit Essay
- Parent/legal guardians residents of Gaston County

Gaston County Schools

Available Seats per High School

High School	Number of Seats
Ashbrook High School	12
Bessemer City High School	5
Cherryville High School	5
Stuart Cramer High School	8
East Gaston High School	10
Forestview High School	10
Hunter Huss High School	11
North Gaston High School	9
South Point High School	10

80

Gaston County Schools

School	PMR Month 2	HS Total	% of total	X 320 total 4 year capacity of school	/4 years	Total Seats for Grade Level	
Ashbrook	1239	8433	14.69	X 320	/4 years	11.75	12
Bessemer City	557	8433	6.61	X 320	/4 years	5.28	5
Cherryville	525	8433	6.22	X 320	/4 years	4.97	5
East Gaston	877	8433	10.4	X 320	/4 years	8.32	8
Forestview	1061	8433	12.58	X 320	/4 years	10.06	10
Hunter Huss	1070	8433	12.69	X 320	/4 years	10.15	10
North Gaston	1147	8433	13.6	X 320	/4 years	10.88	11
South Point	975	8433	11.56	X 320	/4 years	9.25	9
Stuart Cramer	982	8433	11.65	X 320	/4 years	9.32	10*
Total	8433		100				80

Gaston County Schools

Facilities,
School Nutrition, and
Transportation
Gaston Early College of
Medical Sciences

Gaston County Schools

Facilities

- Computer Engineering Technology (CET) Building Downstairs
- Number of Classrooms
- Offices Space for Administration and Counselor
- Reception Area
- Storage and Student Lockers
- Safety and Security Protocols

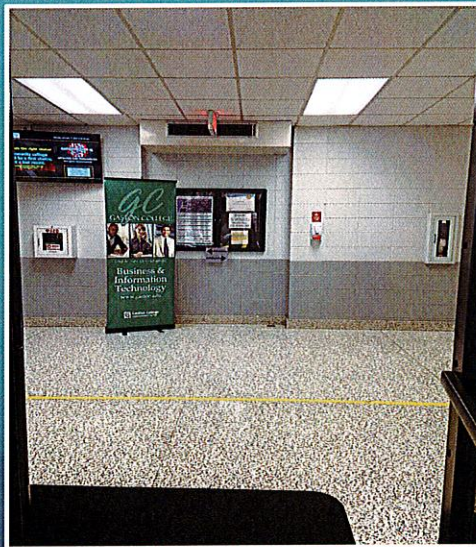
Gaston County Schools

Outside Entrance View



Gaston County Schools

Welcome Center and Reception Kiosk



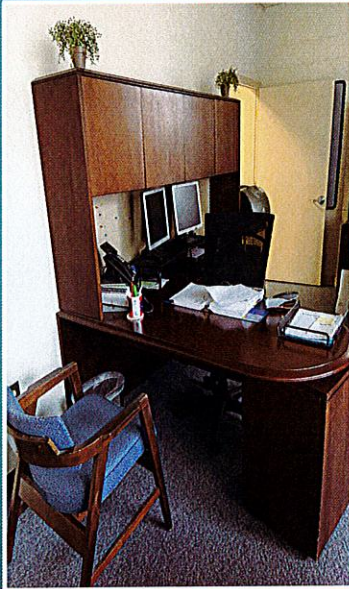
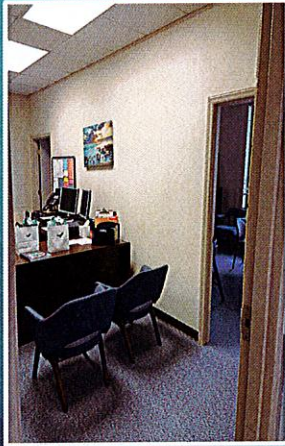
Gaston County Schools

Office Space and Conference Room



Gaston County Schools

Office Suite with Reception Area



Gaston County Schools

Sample Classroom



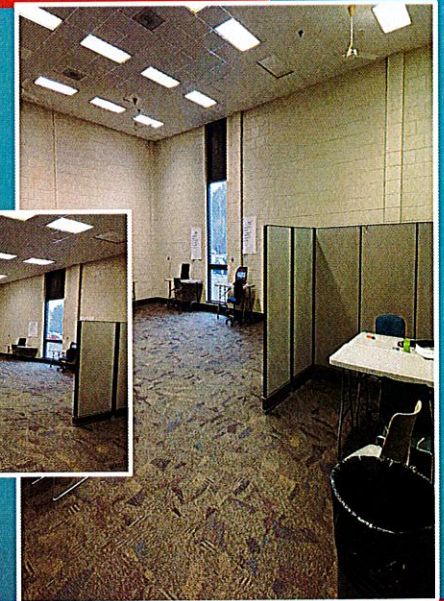
Gaston County Schools

School Nutrition

- Myers Center (MC160)
- Breakfast and Lunch Served
- Preparation and Staging Area for School Nutrition
- Loading Dock and Storage Area
- Table and Chairs
- Student Commons
- Restrooms

Gaston County Schools

Myers Center MC160



Gaston County Schools

Transportation

- Transportation Hub - Computer Engineering Technology (CET) Building
- Same Buses and Routes as Gaston Early College High School
- Gaston College will create traffic patterns for students and parents
 - Drop off/pick up
 - Curb Cut
- Student Parking Adjacent

Gaston County Schools

Driveway to
Building
(Located Across
from
Security Tower)



Gaston County Schools

Student
Parking
Areas



Gaston County Schools

Marketing and
Promotions
Gaston Early College of
Medical Sciences

Gaston County Schools

Marketing and Promotions Phase I Activities

Timeline:
January 19 -
February 28, 2021

Print Media Campaign

- ParentLink Messages
- Website Banner
- FaceBook
- Scribbles Website
- Press Releases
- Local Community Newspapers
- Gazette
 - Half Page Ads
 - Digital Ads
 - Featured News Story
 - Commercial - 15 Second Spot

Marketing and Promotions Phase II Activities

Timeline:
January 25 -
February 28, 2021

Public Campaign

- Webinar Sessions
- Video Release
- Billboards
- Building Banners and Flags
- 12-Page Booklet/Flyer
 - Families
 - Local Municipalities
 - Businesses
 - Faith Based Partners

Marketing and Promotions Ongoing Activities

Timeline:
January 19 -
February 28, 2021

School Choice Programs

- Website Frequently Asked Questions Documents (FAQ's)
- School Virtual Tours
- Videos and Pictures
- ParentLink Messages
- Respond to Email and Phone Calls
- Champion their Choice

Next Steps

Hire Key Personnel

- School Counselor
- Data Manager
- Lead Teacher
- Gaston College Liaison Hired ✓

Facilitate Lottery, Registration and Create Master Schedule

- School Counselor
- Data Manager
- Lead Teacher
- College Liaison
- Evaluate Student Applications
- Official Notification of Acceptance
- Course Registration and Data Entry
- Build Master Schedule

Next Steps

Order Supplies and Furniture

- Technology ✓
- Furniture
- Other Equipment

Professional Development for Principal and Staff

- Plan for Summer Professional Development
- Cooperative Innovative High School Training - North Carolina Department of Public Instruction

Gaston County Schools

Next Steps

Hire Staff

- Human Resources
- GCS Teaching Staff

Planning for Transportation and School Nutrition

- GCS Facilities
- GC Facilities
- Security

Promotional Activities

- Principal
- Communications Department
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Gaston County Schools

Virtual Learning Opportunities

Career and Technical Education

Gaston County Schools

Virtual Learning Opportunities

Number of Students Enrolled in Courses in Each Program

Program	2016	2021
College Now (formerly CCP)	459	1,080
Gaston Online (GO!)	196	348
North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS)	745	752
Gaston Virtual Academy	0	7,536

Gaston County Schools



Learning that works for North Carolina

CTE™

Gaston County Schools

CTE Support

	CTE Oversight Committee	Business Advisory Council
Purpose	Evaluate Gaston County Schools CTE programs to develop long and short term goals based on workforce data	Mandated by the NC legislature to meet twice a year and conduct business on what is needed
Members	9 members including representation from GCS BOE, Business Partners, County Commissioners, Community Members and the County Manager	9 members including the Superintendent, CTE Director, President of the Community College and principal of a high school and five business, industry or community representatives



Gaston County Schools

Goals and Impact

Short Term

Expand existing programs and courses

- Offer NCVPS financial courses (Accounting, eCommerce, Personal Finance)
- Expand Game Art, Scientific Visualization and Engineering courses

Result

- NCVPS Accounting, Computer Programming, Personal Finance, eCommerce offered 2016 - 2017
- Hunter Huss, Bessemer High, South Point offer Game Art & Scientific Visualization 2016 - 2017, South Point will offer 2017 - 2018
- 2016 - 2017 Robotics offered in all middle schools



Gaston County Schools

Goals and Impact

Short Term

Further develop articulation opportunities and course offerings with Gaston College

- Career & College Promise HVAC
- Career & College Promise Mechatronics
- Healthcare Informatics
- Paralegal
- Latent Evidence

Result

- HVAC, Mechatronics, Healthcare Informatics, Paralegal and Latent Evidence offered 2016 - 2017



Gaston County Schools

Goals and Impact

Long Term

Expand existing programs and courses

- Continue to address industry needs with traditional and virtual courses, programs and pathways
- Offer Ambulatory Health Care courses

Result

- EMT offered at Hunter Huss and Stuart Cramer 2016 - 2017, Cherryville will offer EMT 2017 - 2018
- Scientific Visualization Virtual Course offered 2017 - 2018
- Golden Leaf Grant - Advanced Manufacturing at Hunter Huss and Bessemer High



Gaston County Schools

Goals and Impact

Long Term

Further develop articulation opportunities and course offerings with Gaston College

- Implement new CCP opportunities to address future workforce demands
- Explore extended day opportunities at home high schools (Welding, Construction, Fire Tech)
- Develop an afternoon college

Result

- 33 different CCP offerings 2016 - 2017, 43% increase
- HHHS provides Gaston College opportunities per bus



Gaston County Schools

Goals and Impact

Long Term

Consider development of a Career and Technical School

Result

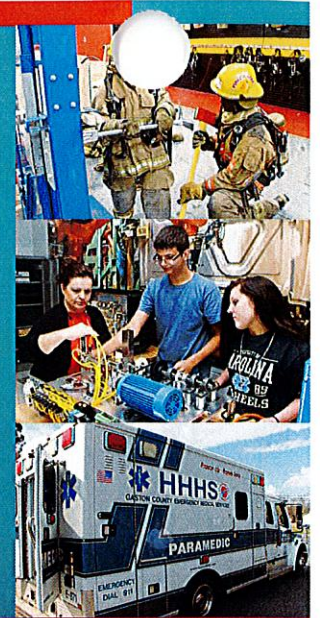
- Hunter Huss Career Academy
- All high schools increased the number of CTE course offerings



Gaston County Schools

Hunter Huss High School

- Ranked #2 in the state for career credentials earned in the 2019-2020 school year.
- We offer 14 of the 16 career clusters determined by the state, which is the most in GCS.
- Multiple students have participated in the GCS Career Signing Day.
- A 2020 graduate was selected for an apprenticeship with GEMS.
- Our students have competed successfully at regional, state, and national competitions.
 - 2019 Gold Medal winner for FCCLA
 - 2020 State Officer for SkillsUSA



Gaston County Schools

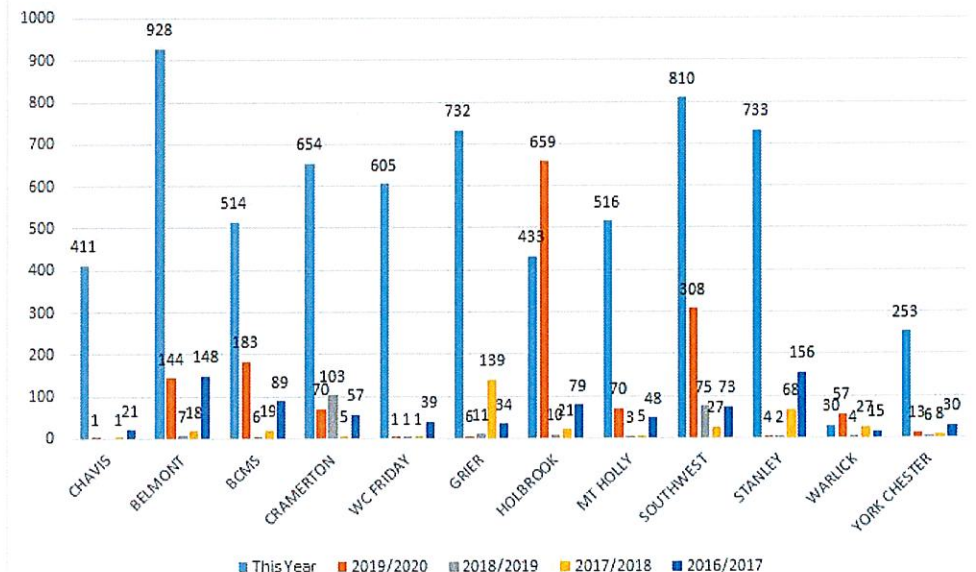
Support Staff

- Curriculum and Instructional Management Coordinator (CIMC)/Career Development Coordinator (CDC)/Special Populations Coordinator (SPC) High Schools - works with instructional support, compliance, program improvement, internships
- Curriculum and Instructional Management Coordinator (CIMC)/Career Development Coordinator (CDC) Middle Schools - works with instructional support, 4 year plans, virtual business and school tours, CFNC accounts



Gaston County Schools

Middle School CFNC Accounts

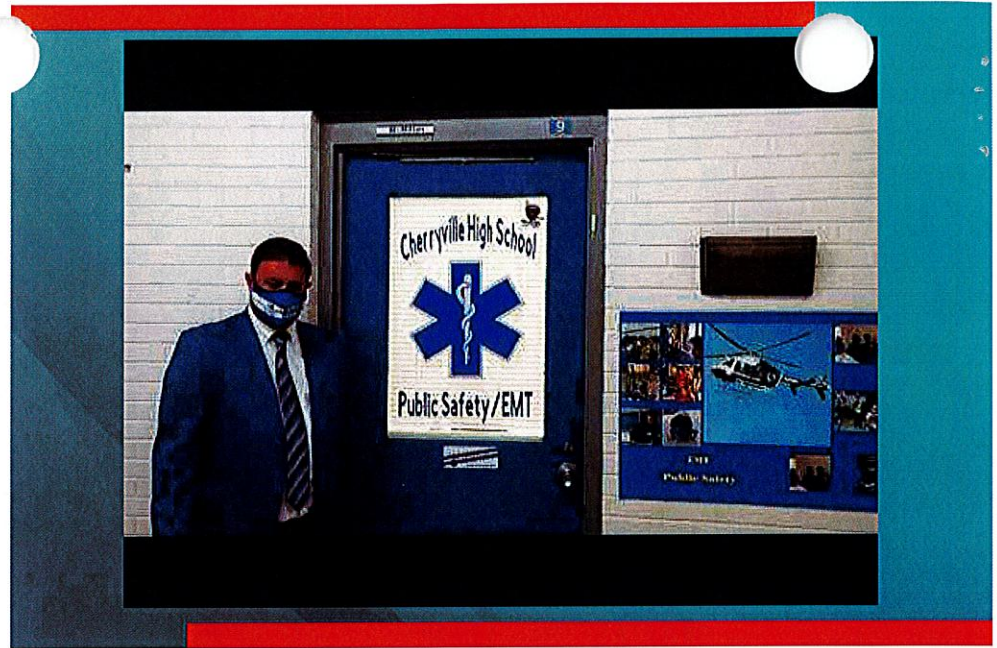


Gaston County Schools

	Year	2019/2020	2018/2019	2017/2018	2016/2017
CHAVIS		1		1	21
BELMONT	928	144	7	18	148
BCMS	514	183	6	19	89
CRAMERTON	654	70	103	5	57
WC FRIDAY	605	1	1	1	39
GRIER	732	6	11	139	34
HOLBROOK	433	659	10	21	79
MT HOLLY	516	70	3	5	48
SOUTHWEST	810	308	75	27	73
STANLEY	733	4	2	68	156
WARLICK	30	57	4	27	15
YORK CHESTER	253	13	6	8	30
Total GCS	6619	1516	228	567	1356



Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Schools

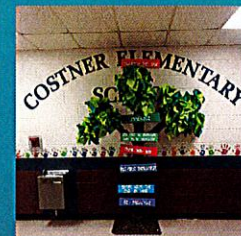
Choice Program Highlights

Gaston County Schools



Costner Elementary

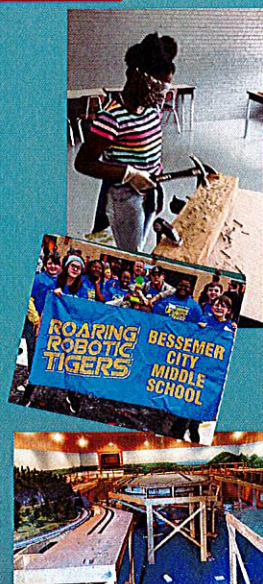
- Student Leadership roles
- Spanish class for all students
- Leadership Notebooks (data notebooks)
- Project based learning
- Team building projects
- Classroom Mission Statements



Gaston County Schools

Bessemer City Middle

- New Engineering Success Lab
- Second Place in Robotics
- Added Course Offerings
 - Exploring Construction
 - Automation and Robotics
- Second Chance Breakfast
- 5 High School Course Offerings
- Adopt a Plant Courtyard Grant

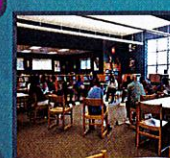


Gaston County Schools

Cramerton Middle School

High School Course Offerings to Middle School Students:
Math 1, World History, English 9 and Spanish 1

Extracurricular Activities:
Battle of the Books Champions, Active Beta Club & Eagles
Pride, Robotics, & Enrichment Clusters geared toward
students' gifts & talents



- * Population has grown to over 900 students
- * Recognized in Top 5% of NC Schools for Academic Growth
- * Gifted & Talented Academy's first class August 2019
- * Gaston County Schools New Teacher of Year 2018-Taylor Park
- * Schoolwide utilization of Paldeia Seminar--Core & Encore classes

Gaston County Schools

John Cravis Middle School



Real World Training



Hands On Activities



Community Partnerships



Learn From Local Heroes



Learn From Local Heroes

JCMS embraces our small-town heritage and its unique opportunities to grow our impact on the community and the world through focused academics and extracurricular activities in a safe, supportive environment that is enhanced through our Public Service Academy.



Gaston County Schools

The Southwest Middle School: Career Academy

"Where the path to success gets you running"

Ground-Breaking Foods Program



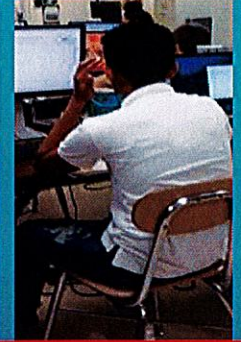
Family and Consumer Sciences



Yearlong Art Class (Leading to Art 2)

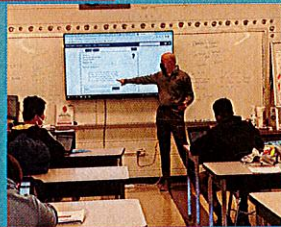


Coding As Part Of Our CTE Class

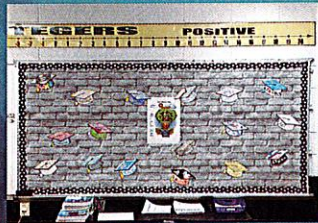


Gaston County Schools

W.C. Friday Middle School



WC Friday Middle School continues to practice the Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens at school each day. Our students and staff work diligently each day to reflect those principles and hone the skills so that we may become more effective and impactful leaders. Together we lead!

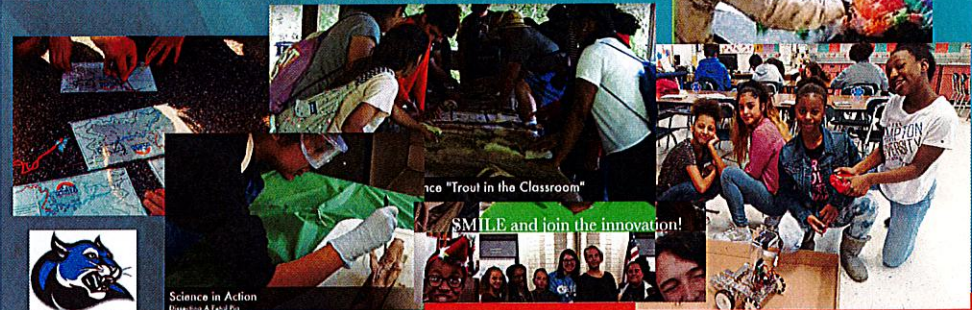


Gaston County Schools

York Chester Middle School

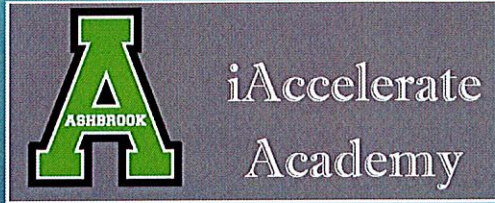
Innovative Design
Gaston County Schools
Career Academy

The Innovative Design Career Academy focuses on student exploration in the areas of Multimedia Graphic Design, Game Arts and Design (GAD), and Business and Technology through a game-based learning environment.



Gaston County Schools

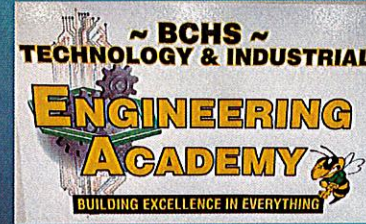
Ashbrook High School



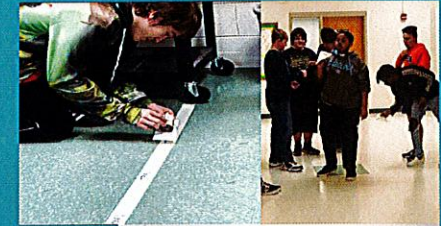
- Great start to the inaugural year of the iAccelerate Academy!
- There are currently 55 active iAccelerate students.
- 12 tenth grade students have met their CCP College Now entrance requirements and have started their college classes.
- Many freshman are on track to meet their college entrance requirements and begin CCP in their sophomore year.
- We look forward to welcoming our next cohort of students in 2021/2022 with all of the new information we have learned!

Gaston County Schools

Bessemer City High School



The academy at BCHS is empowering students to step into the role of an engineer through problem based learning. The classes teach students to think differently and apply math and science concepts to hands on real-life experiences. Students have the opportunity to take Engineering, Masonry, Carpentry and Advanced Manufacturing courses as a part of the Technology & Industrial Engineering Academy.

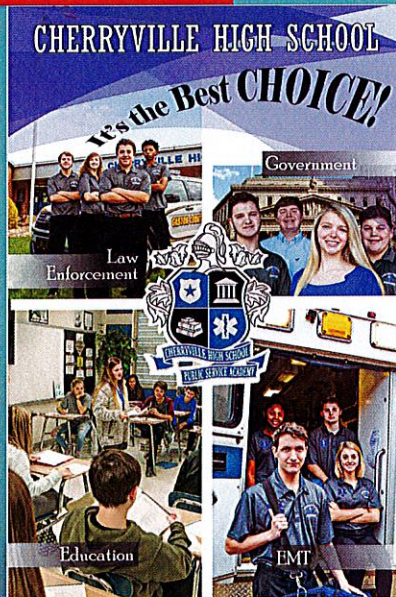


Gaston County Schools

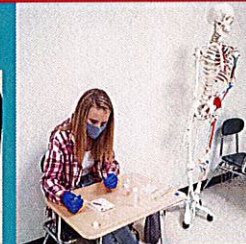
Cherryville High School

CHS Public Service Academy continues training tomorrow's heroes!

- CHS EMT students were offered 3 of 4 spaces to the Gaston College EMT Apprenticeship in 2020
- Partnered with the Gaston County Police Department and GEMS to receive training vehicles for our students
- Education program partners with our feeder schools to provide "student teacher/tutors"



East Gaston High School



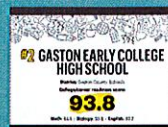
- Our first Cohort of Students will begin their College Courses aligned with their Health Sciences Academy pathway next year.
- Though students cannot currently take their monthly trips to CaroMont, we have had two presentations so far this year from CaroMont employees.
- This year we added two new high school classes to support our HSA -
 - Project Lead the Way
 - Physiology



Gaston County Schools

Gaston Early College High School

- Ranked as a Grade A School by NCDPI 5 years in a row and counting
- Ranked as #2 high school in Charlotte-Metro area by the Charlotte Business Journal 2 years in a row
- Current graduating class has already earned over \$1.5 million in scholarships
- Donated over 100 ponytails of hair since 2014 to cancer patients in our annual Kuts for Kindness
- Outstanding use of [Remind](#) to communicate in this pandemic w/ students. GECHS is now recognized as having the highest level of student-teacher engagement on their platform



Gaston County Schools

Gaston Virtual Academy



In response to the COVID pandemic, Gaston Virtual Academy expanded to serve over 9000 K-12 students in 2020-21



The Class of 2021 will be the first class of graduates from Gaston Virtual Academy since it began in 2017



2020 Student and Teacher Drive Through



3rd Place Battle of the Books - Middle School 2019-2020



Gaston County Schools

Virtual Learning Opportunities

Career and Technical Education

Gaston County Schools

Virtual Learning Opportunities

Number of Students Enrolled in Courses in Each Program

Program	2016	2021
College Now (formerly CCP)	459	1,080
Gaston Online (GO!)	196	348
North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS)	745	752
Gaston Virtual Academy	0	7,536

Gaston County Schools

Advanced Learning Opportunities

Gaston County Schools

High School Course Offerings in Middle Schools

Course Offerings	2016	2021
Math 1	✓	✓
English 1		✓
World History		✓
Earth Environmental Science		✓
Spanish 1		✓

Gaston County Schools

Advanced Placement

2016

3265

2021

2147



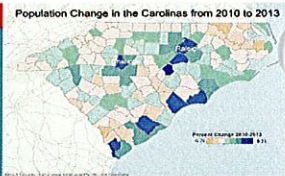
Gaston County Schools

Student Enrollment

Gaston County Schools

Big Trends

- Altered real estate markets create new growth centers
- Mecklenburg consistently fastest growing suburban county since 2010
- Trend seen nationally



Gaston County Schools

Outlook for West Gaston County

- Individual projects will create some areas of growth
- Growth: Least potential in county, likely declining population in most areas



Gaston County Schools



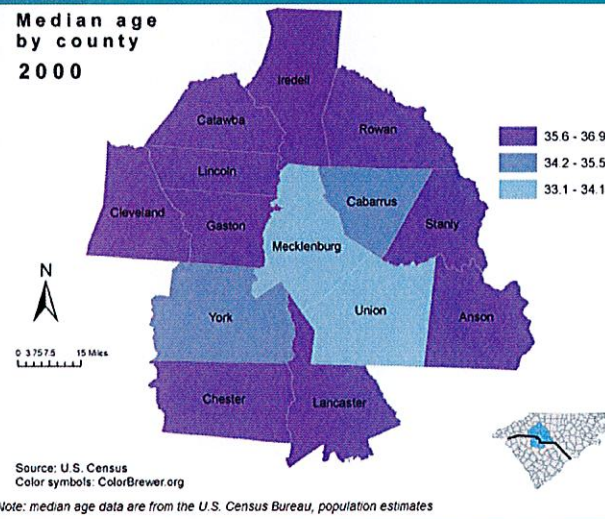
North Carolina Department of
PUBLIC INSTRUCTION



Cropper GIS

Gaston County Schools

Median age
by county
2000



Gaston County Schools

Median Age

will increase from
38.8 in 2010
to
42.7 in 2030.

CropperGIS

Gaston County Schools

Moving On

- 18-to-24-year-old population continues to leave the district, going to college or moving to other urbanized areas. This population group accounts for the largest segment of the district's out-migration flow and will increase steadily over the next 10 years.
- The second largest migration outflow is in the 70+ age groups.

CropperGIS

Gaston County Schools

Aging Demographics

Towns and rural areas in the western part of the county will generally see declining population due to aging demographics

Continuing changes to demographics:

- Smaller households
- Aging population



Gaston County Schools

Predicted Decrease

The primary factors causing the district's enrollment to decrease over the next 10 years are

- the increase in empty nest households
- the relatively low number of elderly housing unit turning over
- coupled with a flat rate of in-migration of young families

CropperGIS

Gaston County Schools

District Enrollment Forecast 2018

- Decrease by 473 students, or -1.5%, between 2018-19 and 2023-24
- Total enrollment will decrease by 1,400 students, or -4.6%, from 2023-24 to 2028-29.

CropperGIS

Gaston County Schools

North Carolina

Gaston County

North Carolina Public School Students	1,553,554	Gaston County Schools Students	29,498
Charter School Students	225,987	Charter School Students	2,698
Homeschool Students	94,863	Homeschool Students	2,069
Private School Students	103,959	Private School Students	2,120

Gaston County Schools

North Carolina Large District Consortium

School District ADM	2010 - 11	2020-21	Change
Cabarrus County Schools	28,465	32,668	↑
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	134,598	138,884	↑
Cumberland County Schools	51,631	48,185	↓
Durham Public Schools	31,946	31,171	↓
Gaston County Schools	30,900	29,318	↓
Guilford County Schools	71,227	68,264	↓

Gaston County Schools

North Carolina Large District Consortium

School District ADM	2010 - 11	2020-21	Change
Johnston County Schools	31,982	35,906	↑
New Hanover County Schools	24,060	24,368	↑
Onslow County Schools	23,365	26,142	↑
Union County Schools	39,040	39,727	↑
Wake County Public Schools	142,351	157,673	↑
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools	51,824	50,407	↓

Gaston County Schools

Opportunity Scholarship Program

Category	Figures
Applied	16,235
Eligible	11,888
Awarded	9,781
Accepted	8520 (452 (Gaston))
Enrolled	5645

Gaston County Schools

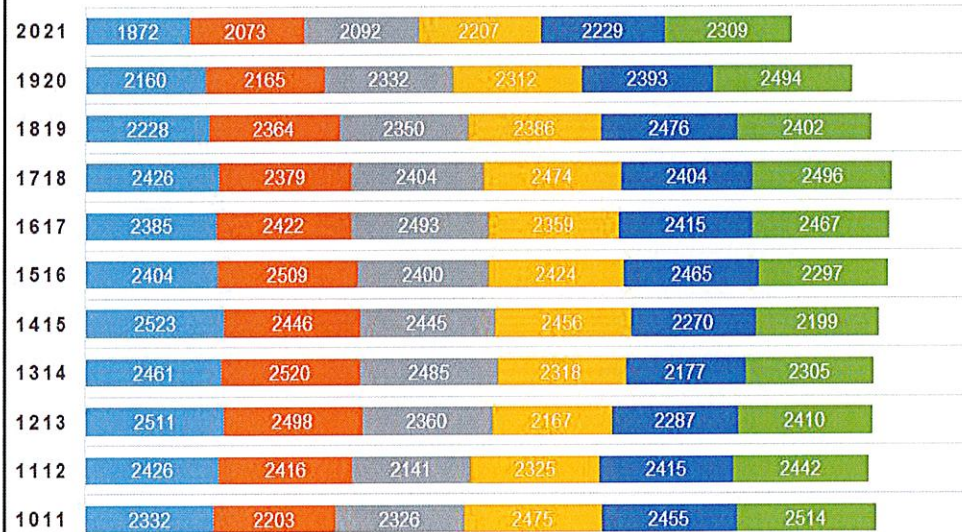
Charter Schools in Gaston County

Community Charter	2016	0
	2021	332 students
Mtn. Island Charter	2016	308 students
	2021	423 students
Piedmont Charter	2016	1,263 students
	2021	1,752 students
Ridgeview Charter	2016	0
	2021	191 students

Gaston County Schools

K-5 ENROLLMENT OVER TEN YEARS

■ Kindergarten ■ First ■ Second ■ Third ■ Fourth ■ Fifth



Gaston County Schools

Hybrid and Virtual Enrollment	1st Semester	1st Semester	2nd Semester	2nd Semester
	Total Hybrid	Total Virtual	Total Hybrid	Total Virtual
District	21543	7758	22500	6885
Elementary	9523	3591	9553	3330
Middle	5217	2058	5411	1889
High	7073	2109	7536	1666

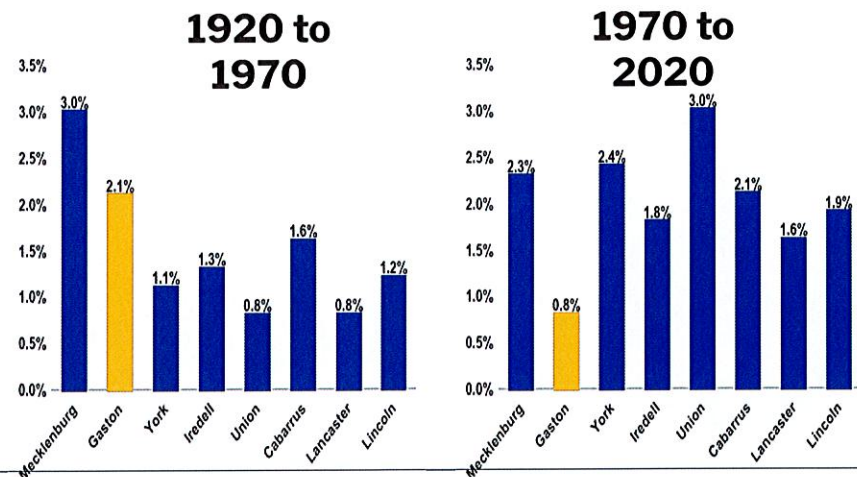
Gaston County Schools

District Enrollment

2020-2021				2019-2020				DIFFERENCE			
Month One	Month Two	Month Three	Month Four	Month One	Month Two	Month Three	Month Four	Month One	Month Two	Month Three	Month Four
29489	29552	29444	29403	30834	30841	30827	30776	-1345	-1289	-1383	-1373

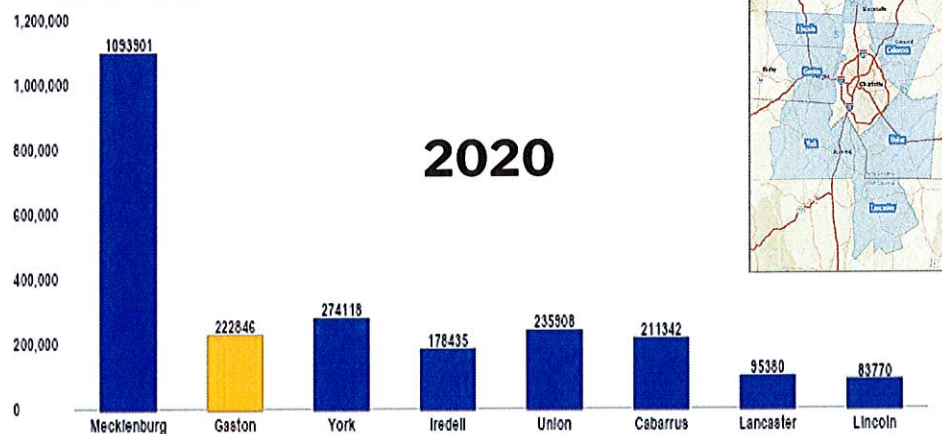
Gaston County Schools

A different picture, 1970 to 2020



Gaston County Schools

Where people live today, 2020



Gaston County Schools

Board of Education Retreat Work Session

Academic Services
January 15, 2021

Gaston County Schools