

Gwinnett County Board of Education

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2023

The Gwinnett County Board of Education annually adopts Legislative Priorities that support the vision, mission, and goals of Gwinnett County Public Schools as well as the district's strategic priorities of **Empathy, Equity, Effectiveness, and Excellence**.

The Board asks the Gwinnett County Legislative Delegation to support the following Legislative Priorities during the 2023 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

School Safety & Security

GCPS is committed to a proactive, collaborative approach to provide safe and secure environments for our staff, students, and community members.

Priority: Establish an annual categorical grant for school safety funding with spending decisions delegated to the local level

Priority: Provide resources for installation, maintenance and operation of intruder alert systems,

Priority: Fund training on school violence prevention, threat assessments, and emergency planning best practices for school administration, faculty, resource officers, and custodial staff

Mental Health/Whole Child

GCPS is committed to providing the services essential to positive educational outcomes for all our students

Priority: Provide funding to reduce the school counselor to student ratio from 1:450 to 1:250 as nationally recommended

Priority: Provide funding to expand student access to mental health services

Priority: Increase funding to support before and after school programming

Gwinnett County Board of Education

Dr. Tarece Johnson, *District V*
2022 Chairperson

Steven Knudsen, *District II*
2022 Vice Chairman

Dr. Mary Kay Murphy, *District III*

Karen Watkins, *District I*

Everton Blair, Jr., *District IV*

Dr. Calvin J. Watts, *Superintendent*



School & Support Staff Recruitment/Retention

GCPS is committed to maintaining a workforce that provides a world-class education for our students and communities.

Priority: Increase state funding for teacher salaries

Priority: Expand pathways to teacher certification and opportunities for retired professionals to return to the teaching workforce

Priority: Increase funding for the employment of critical support staff that includes bus drivers, custodial staff, and nutrition workers

QBE: Funding of Public Education

GCPS is committed to responsible stewardship of funds provided to support teaching and learning.

Priority: Continue to fully fund the QBE formula

Priority: Review and modernize the QBE formula to recognize the true cost of funding public education

Priority: Oppose expansion of vouchers and tuition tax credits that divert public funds to private entities

Priority: Increase state funding for pupil transportation

Priority: Allow up to 5% of ESPLOST revenues for maintenance and operations expenditures

Governance/Local Control

GCPS is committed to opposing any legislation that usurps the constitutional authority of the Gwinnett County Board of Education to govern our public schools.

Priority: Maintain local school board control over local revenue sources, instructional resources, student discipline, and curriculum

Priority: Sustain Strategic Waiver School System (SWSS) flexibilities

Priority: Oppose changes to the instructional day, and mandatory school age

Priority: Ensure sovereign immunity of local boards of education



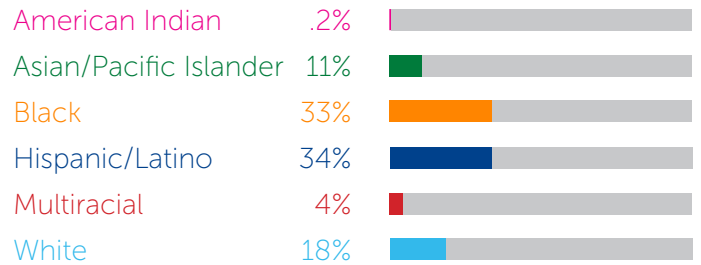
GCPS By the Numbers

182,865 Students

2022–23 Projected Enrollment

Our students come from **191** countries and speak **98** different languages. (May 2022)

Racial/Ethnic Distribution (May 2022)



More than 13,000 grads in the Class of 2022

- 77% had plans to continue their education
- Offered more than **\$185.7 million** in academic, athletic, and military scholarships

16 schools offer Dual Language Immersion.

19 nationally certified Career and Technical Education programs across career areas.

School Nutrition

30.1 million meals served in 2021-22

\$2.8

billion budget in FY2023

On average, the cost of educating one child in GCPS is **\$10,182** per year. The direct costs of instruction account for 71% of that amount.

Our 142 Schools

81 Elementary Schools

29 Middle Schools

24 High Schools

7 Specialty Schools

1 Charter School

Student Services (May 2022)

Gifted Education	16%
Special Education	14%
English Learners	25%
Economically Disadvantaged	47%

Transportation

GCPS is the **third largest** transporter of students in the country.

GCPS is the largest employer in Gwinnett County and 4th largest in metro Atlanta.

The district has once again earned recognition as a top employer by *Forbes* magazine.

Shortfalls in State Funding

The QBE formula does not fully fund many mandates.

FY2023	School Bus Transportation	Safety & Security	Classified Health Ins.	Sick Leave
GCPS Total Cost	\$98,444,000	\$11,538,000	\$61,960,000	\$12,816,854
State Funds	\$5,778,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,972,000
State %	5.87%	0%	0%	15.39%

