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

**School & Support Staff Recruitment/Retention**
GCPS is committed to a 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

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
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

$2.8 billion budget in FY2023

Our 142 Schools
81 Elementary Schools
29 Middle Schools
24 High Schools
7 Specialty Schools
1 Charter School

Shortfalls in State Funding
The QBE formula does not fully fund many mandates.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>FY2023</th>
<th>School Bus Transportation</th>
<th>Safety &amp; Security</th>
<th>Classified Health Ins.</th>
<th>Sick Leave</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GCPS Total Cost</td>
<td>$98,444,000</td>
<td>$11,538,000</td>
<td>$61,960,000</td>
<td>$12,816,854</td>
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<tr>
<td>State Funds</td>
<td>$5,778,000</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$0</td>
<td>$1,972,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>State %</td>
<td>5.87%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>15.39%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Our students come from 191 countries and speak 98 different languages.

Racial/Ethnic Distribution (May 2022)

- American Indian: .2%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 11%
- Black: 33%
- Hispanic/Latino: 34%
- Multiracial: 4%
- White: 18%

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.