

Gwinnett County Board of Education

LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES 2024

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 2024 session of the Georgia General Assembly.

Mental Health/Whole Child

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

Priority: Provide funding to expand student access to school counselors, social workers, and mental health services.

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. Funding is critical to maintain/update security systems, and to train all school staff on best practices for school violence prevention, threat assessments, mental health awareness, and emergency planning.



Funding of Public Education

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

Priority: Support districts in offsetting the increasing costs of staff recruitment/retention and the employer portion of non-certified employee health insurance.

Priority: Flexibility to allow up to 10% of ESPLOST revenues for maintenance and operations expenditures.

Priority: Reduce the gap between state funding for pupil transportation and the actual costs for doing so. During FY24, student transportation will cost GCPS \$150,596,000 with the state covering only \$6,709,980 or 4.46% of the cost.

Priority: Oppose the creation of any new program, or expansion of existing programs, that directs public funds to pay private school tuition for students.

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

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

Providing a Quality Education for All Students

Multilingual students: Create an additional weight that supports multilingual learners.

Students living in poverty: Create an additional weight that funds services to support students living in poverty.

Pre-K: Increase state grant funds to offset substantial district costs associated with early learning/Pre-K programs

Literacy: Increase state grant funds to offset substantial district costs associated with literacy instruction.

Gwinnett County Board of Education

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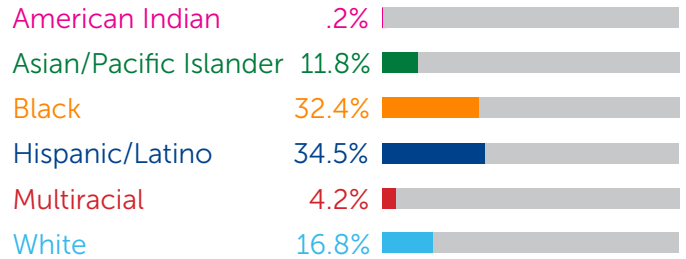
GCPS By the Numbers

182,214 Students

Enrollment as of October 2023

Our students come from **191** countries and speak **98** different languages. (May 2023)

Racial/Ethnic Distribution (May 2023)



More than 13,000 grads in the Class of 2023

- 75.7% had plans to continue their education
- Offered more than **\$231** 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
26.6 million meals served in 2022-23

\$3.04 billion budget in FY2024

On average, the cost of educating one child in GCPS is **\$12,655** per year. The direct costs of instruction account for 73.2% of that amount.

Our 142 Schools

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

Student Services (May 2023)

- Gifted Education 17%
- Special Education 14%
- English Learners 25%
- Economically Disadvantaged 55%

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 earned recognition as a top employer by *Forbes* magazine.

Shortfalls in State Funding

The QBE formula does not fully fund many mandates.

FY2024	School Bus Transportation	Safety & Security	Classified Health Ins.	Sick Leave	Pre-K*
GCPS Total Cost	\$150,596,000	\$13,991,000	\$68,414,000	\$20,163,000	\$43,756,000
State Funds	\$6,709,980	\$0	\$0	\$2,035,000	\$8,194,000
State %	4.46%	0%	0%	10.09%	18.73%

*Includes \$3.4M in ESSRIII funding (7.87%). There is no funding for Pre-K in the QBE formula.

