2026 Legislative Priorities Update

September 2026

Filed/Action Taken

Complete

Partially Complete

Guilford COUNTY SCHOOLS

2026 BOARD OF EDUCATION LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Top Priorities

Safe, Supportive Learning Environments
Provide a recurring $3.5 million investment to sustain **critical safety infrastructure**.

Attract and Retain a High-Quality Workforce
Increase state-funded base pay for teachers to reach the national average and **invest in market-rate wages for classified staff** including teacher assistants, custodians, bus drivers, and other frontline workers.

Expand Access to Postsecondary Pathways
Allow local school boards to have school **calendar flexibility** to align high school and community college schedules, support dual-enrollment students, address weather disruptions, and align semesters with winter break.

Serve Students with the Greatest Needs
Increase the 13% enrollment cap on state funding for **students with disabilities** to 16% and transition to a weighted student funding formula that accounts for severity of needs.

College, Career, and Whole-Child Readiness
Increase **school counselor** allocations to match the recommended ratio of 1:250 (currently 1:299) to support career and postsecondary planning for students.

Scan to learn more about GCS legislative priorities and how to get involved.

Guilford County Schools Also Supports

Accountability and Academic Supports

High Dosage Tutoring: Commit $5 million (2026–2028) to sustain GCS's personalized tutoring program.

English Language Learner Support: Increase the funding school districts receive to reflect the number of students they serve with limited English proficiency.

School Accountability Model Redesign: Shift the North Carolina school accountability model to comprehensively measure whole-school impact rather than single test scores.

Voucher Accountability: Require voucher-funded schools to meet the same health, safety, and accountability standards as public schools.

Workforce Supports and Early Childhood

Teacher Supplement Inclusion: Include Guilford County in the State's Teacher Supplement Assistance Allotment to reflect the low-income population in Guilford County.

Educator Bonuses: Provide funding for recruitment and retention bonuses, especially for hard-to-fill positions.

NC Pre-K Teacher Assistant Certification Supplement: Establish an annual certification supplement to offset credentialing costs.

Access to Career Pathways and Early Learning

Rural Transportation: Fund transportation for rural students to access dual enrollment, CTE, and business sites.

NC Pre-K Transportation Funding: Include NC Pre-K and EC Pre-K students in Average Daily Membership (ADM) for state transportation funding and efficiency ratings to ensure Public School Units can provide transportation to Pre-K students without financial penalty.

Infrastructure and Sustainability

Technology Access: Establish recurring state funding to refresh devices, maintain cyber security, and support digital assessments.

Clean Energy: Fund energy efficiency, solar, and low-emission fleets to reduce operating costs, and model stewardship.

Student Health, Wellness, and Mental Health

School Psychologists: Increase allocations to match the 1:500 recommended ratio (currently 1:1,389).

Social Workers: Increase allocations to match the 1:250 recommended ratio (currently 1:784).

Universal Student Meals: Provide meals at no cost to all students statewide.

Telehealth Funding: Establish recurring state funding for school-based telehealth services and authorize Medicaid reimbursement for virtual healthcare and behavioral/mental health visits to increase student access to timely healthcare services.