



Guilford County Association of Educators <gcaenc@gmail.com>

State Impacts on Local Public School Budgets

1 message

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Newsletter

September 20, 2023

#TroublemakerTidbits:

What's happening in Raleigh, and how does it affect us?

You may have heard that the North Carolina General Assembly reached a budget deal just last night. Although there is a Republican veto-proof supermajority in power, our elected leaders delayed for *months* doing the most basic part of their job, which is to figure out how to fund state institutions like public schools. It will take a minute to analyze the budget, but we have no illusions that it will be good for public schools.



GCS has been waiting on the state budget in order to reconcile our local budget and determine things like raises and bonuses that will be coming to classified and certified staff. Last spring, GCS and the Board of County Commissioners worked together to make a plan to

begin fixing our classified pay scale in GCS and also continue the plan to raise local teacher supplements. *(Side Note: Why did they do that? Because WE SHOWED UP, and both Boards responded with historic budget actions.)*

Because our state has starved our public schools of resources for decades, and because our Board of County Commissioners did too before we flipped the Board in 2020, there truly is not enough money in Guilford County to get us everything we need. But we can commit right now to holding GCS to their promise to fund local raises for classified staff and ESSER bonuses for certified staff to bump our local pay for this year. Keep your ear to the ground over this next week or two especially because holding our leaders accountable is something we have to do together.

Now to circle back to the actors who are really to blame here – our state legislators, and namely right now, the Republican supermajority. Make no mistake about the intentions of many of our leading politicians! The truth is, extremists in the NC General Assembly and their wealthy donors have mounted a campaign to not only drain funding from our public schools to concentrate their own wealth, but also to divide the majority of us North Carolinians who care about public education. We see them privatizing schools by siphoning resources from our public schools and dividing families by race and access to wealth. We see them targeting LGBTQ+ and Black and brown children with book bans and demonizing rhetoric and now even legislation.

But we know it was multi-racial unity in the face of division that first brought public schools to ALL of North Carolina's children during Reconstruction. By bravely overcoming cynicism, by building real solidarity and trust, by developing a deep bench of diverse leaders, we can overcome the attempts to divide and confuse us. We, together, can fight - and win - what matters to all of us: the public schools our students deserve.

How to Plug In & Build YOUR Union, GCAE:

Since our state legislature is moving to divide us and wreck our public schools, we have some work to do.

We need a strike-ready majority union.

Having a strike-ready majority union means that we need you, and me, and all of our coworkers in it. Because when all of us move together, that's power. That's how we win in the face of opposition.

We build a strike-ready majority union by **organizing** to move **majorities**.

We don't move majorities by posting on Facebook, or by the President saying we're going on strike, or by sending emails to the whole staff. Organizing your coworkers means having real, focused one-on-one conversations with them where you are learning what agitates them and what moves them, you're talking together about what we can do to change our situation, and you're framing the choice for them. That choice is: you can do nothing and win nothing, or you can join your coworkers in building this union to defend and transform our public schools.

Our job as member leaders & organizers is to move our people from fear to righteous anger and from futility to hope.

Come learn with us the skills that we need to organize, move majorities, and WIN!

SAT, OCT 7,

GCAE Organizing Bootcamp

[Register](#)

**9:30 am - 4:00 pm,
Greensboro**

This in-person 1-day organizing conversation bootcamp is open to all GCS staff who are NCAE members. It is especially encouraged for building team members ready to level up to organize their worksite.

THURS, OCT 12,

GCAE Mass Meeting

[Register](#)

**5:30 - 7:30 pm,
Smith HS**

We'll feed you, take care of your kids, and get you and your team ready to win!

Ways to Plug In with NCAE:

GCAE is the local affiliate of our state union, NCAE. The following opportunities are available for all NCAE members ready to learn one more thing, take one more step, or dig just a little bit deeper.

- **NCAE All-Member Call: BUDGET UPDATES!**
 - Wednesday, Sept 20, 6:00 PM, virtual
 - [Register](#)
- **NCAE Region 4 BL Training:** Learn about what's been happening in the NCGA, improve your membership recruitment skills, and learn more about professional development opportunities offered by NCAE. Lunch and childcare will be provided.

- Saturday, Sept 23, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Elon
 - Register: <https://link.ncae.org/R4-Building-Leader-Training>
 - **Learning the Landscape: What is a Labor Union?:** Learn why we need labor unions, a brief history of labor unions, and the current conditions causing an upsurge in labor union activity.
 - Monday, Sept 25, 6:00-7:30 PM, virtual
 - [Register](#)
 - **NCAE Members and Statewide Candidates Meet-and-Greet**
 - Friday, Sept 29, 6:00-7:30 PM, Raleigh
 - [Register](#)
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