



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

Is it enough??

1 message

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Wed, Oct 25, 2023 at 2:10 PM

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October 25, 2023

We held onto our local wins from this spring despite the General Assembly's failure to fully fund our schools.

Last week, GCS employees received communication from GCS regarding raises for classified staff and bonuses for certified staff. You and your coworkers in GCAE *showed up* in the spring budget campaign to make this happen - and then defended that win this fall with the #FreedomToLearn petition.



Now it's time for Guilford County to stand together to demand more to protect our students' #FreedomToLearn.

Push for more - **Sign up now for the #FreedomToLearn Rally on November 7.**

Haven't signed on yet? [Sign the petition.](#)

More on changes to pay:

Is it enough? No - but it is a meaningful start. Although this is a historic move from the County Commissioners and GCS, it is only the first step to get classified staff paid fairly and competitively. The new classified pay scale includes a minimum 4% raise this year, and most importantly, *classified staff will finally see pay increases from year to year*. The pay scale also revises grade differentials, so that workers who are supervising will now receive more pay than those they supervise - correcting a major injustice in the pay scale.

We will need to keep working with our ACES and school nutrition employees, who received a flat raise, rather than a raise on the new classified pay scale. (ACES and SNS are on the enterprise pay scale, which receive funds outside of federal, state, and local dollars). For more, visit the [GCS Salary Schedule Dashboard](#).

For certified staff, the bonus funded with ESSER federal relief dollars is roughly equivalent to the pay raise certified staff would have received in GCS' plan to increase the local teacher supplement. But since this is only a one-time bonus, *we will need to keep fighting for a local certified supplement increase next year and state-level educator pay increases* that are long overdue.

If it's not enough, what's the plan? We build a strike-ready majority union. We can and will keep fighting for what we can win together locally, but you and I both know that the real fight is not for crumbs but for our fair share. When we have enough power to withhold our labor, we can win what we need for ourselves, our colleagues, our students, and our community. Building a strike-ready majority union is going to take *every one of us* coming together to build our power. It's going to take you becoming a member. It's going to take you recruiting other members. It's going to take you joining the team at your building to get petitions signed, bring people out to rallies & meetings, and communicate with your coworkers quickly and effectively.

Let's build it! Stand together to demand more at the [#FreedomToLearn Rally](#) on November 7. RSVP link to share is [bit.ly/FTLRally](#).

Phase 2 of the #FreedomToLearn Campaign: Time to RALLY!

It's time for you and your coworkers to come out to the [#FreedomToLearn Rally](#) on November 7! Bring your community, bring your family, bring your students! The [#FreedomToLearn Rally](#) is our way of showing that our community will fight for our public schools -- we will fight to *protect our students' #FreedomToLearn!*

The [#FreedomToLearn Rally](#) will take place exactly one year before the 2024 elections and one week before the November Board of Education meeting. We want our community to know that we are here to fight for our public schools by every means necessary.

- We're here to win budget fights in the spring!
- We're here to elect pro-public education candidates in the fall!
- We're here to declare that public schools are facing a state of emergency, it's the North Carolina General Assembly's fault, and we will not stand for it!
- We're here to harness the transformative power of our shared commitment to defend the [#FreedomToLearn](#) that belongs to every public school student in this county.

TUES, NOV 7,

#FreedomToLearn Rally

[Register](#)

5:00 PM,

**Board of Education
Bldg**

Let's unite to show our community that we are committed to our students and our public schools!

THURS, NOV 16,

November Mass Meeting

[Register](#)

5:30-7:30 PM,

Smith HS

Get some good food, and learn what we won this fall and how we're moving forward to win more this spring!

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.

- **All Member Call: Budget Deep Dive**
 - Thursday, Oct 26, 6:00-7:15 PM, virtual
 - [Register](#)

FREE Children's Books for NEA Members

As part of its year-round celebration of Read Across America, NEA is partnering with author Mary Pope Osborne, Random House Children's Books and First Book to help educators bring FREE books to children in Title 1 schools or programs that serve low-income families. Books are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Educators must sign up for a free account with First Book. Use promo code NEAMAGICTREEHOUSE to get \$75 worth in free Magic Tree House titles (approximately 25 books).

[Sign up](#)

Great Public School's Fund First PAC Drive!

NCAE's new Strategic Plan calls on us to "Restore the Promise of Public Schools & Our Democracy." As we launch the Great Public Schools Fund, we plan to fulfill our strategic goals by 1) putting education on the ballot, 2) by identifying education voters, and 3) by putting forth a vision for "What's Possible for Students." To accomplish all that, we must increase our PAC donations. [Please join today.](#)

To join the PAC Drive, running from NOW through October 31, 2023, you can:

SIGN-UP USING OUR DIGITAL PAC: If you sign up at a minimum of \$8 a month as a Great Public Schools Sustainer, you will receive an exclusive 'Created by Public Schools' shirt.

RECRUIT NEW PAC CONTRIBUTORS: When you recruit new contributors to the Great Public-School Fund you will receive 10% of the total dollar amount you raise. To receive your gift you must ensure new donors list your name in the 'Recruited By' field on the digital PAC sign-up.

[Join GCAE](#)

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Central](#)

[GCAE on Facebook](#)

Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](#). To update your email address, change your name or address, or to stop receiving emails from Guilford County Association of Educators, please [click here](#).