



GCAE Statement Regarding the County Budget Resolution

1 message

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On Thursday night, June 20, the Board of County Commissioners adopted the county budget for 2024-25. While Guilford County was not able to completely fill the shameful gap left by the NC General Assembly’s drastic failure to fully fund our public schools, this new budget includes significant improvements to GCS funding over the county manager’s initial budget proposal on June 6.

Guilford County Schools 2024-2025 Budget from Board of County Commissioners			
	Board of Education Request	County Manager’s Proposal	Board of County Commissioners Adopted Budget
Operations <i>Includes staffing and all other GCS functions beyond facilities, historically funded primarily by the state</i>	\$40 million increase over previous year	\$5.9 million increase over previous year	\$10 million increase over previous year
Capital outlay <i>Facilities spending for school buildings, funded by local County Commissioners</i>	\$17.7 million (\$11.2 million increase over previous year)	\$2.5 million (\$4 million DECREASE from previous year)	\$10 million (\$3.5 million increase over previous year)

- Overall, the Commissioners increased the GCS operating and capital outlay funds by \$11.6 million over the original proposal for a total increase of \$13.5 million over last year’s budget.

- The budget does not fully fund the Board of Education's budget request, which included a \$40 million increase for operations (including to meet workers' demands for steps toward fair pay) and \$17.7 million for capital outlay.
- This has been a difficult budget year for Guilford County, and elected leaders from both Boards have been wrestling with how to fund the gap left by state underfunding, as well as the end of federal ESSER COVID relief dollars.
- Since flipping the majority on the Board of County Commissioners (and electing our own union sister Mary Beth Murphy) in 2020, the BOCC has increased funding for our schools by more than \$115 million over the last three budget cycles, putting Guilford County near the top of local governments in NC for "effort to fund" (a measure of the proportion of local funding going towards public schools).
- The Commissioners also voted to include a sales tax increase on November's ballot and adopted a resolution specifying that revenue from that increase, if passed, will be used for pay for public school workers.

Guilford County Schools staff and community fought hard this spring to ensure our students get the public school education promised to them. Though the NC General Assembly has put our local government in an impossible situation to try to fill an ever-widening gap from state defunding of public schools, we insist that to meet our children's needs, *Guilford's schools need Guilford's help.*

Over 2300 GCS workers signed a GCAE [petition](#) to demand increased local school funding, including steps toward fair pay for many workers and commitments to keep public dollars in public schools. Hundreds of GCS staff and community supporters stood together to [rally](#) or sat down with County Commissioners during our Town Hall to talk frankly about how we can unite to get our schools fully funded in the face of state underfunding.

Because of this work, the Board of Education requested funding that would cover every one of our demands. The County Commissioners' final budget included millions more dollars to meet our students' needs than were initially proposed. And with GCAE's support, that body also published [a unanimous statement](#) calling on the state to meet their obligations to our public school students.

Finally, school workers and our entire Guilford County community now stand even more united for our public schools. We are more prepared and inspired to face and fight attacks on our schools, including the impending loss of tens of millions more public school dollars to NC's expansion of the private school voucher program this fall.

Next Steps:

This summer, over a dozen GCAE members will be knocking on doors of colleagues and public school supporters for our Summer Member Organizing and Battleground Summer programs. These members will be building our power towards a strike-ready majority union and towards a game-changing election this fall.

This fall, get plugged in to electoral work. We know that local and state elections matter now more than ever, and these are also the elections where we as public school workers can make a real difference by talking to folks as respected members of the community. Many voters won't know the stories, qualifications, or records of down-ballot candidates unless a trusted friend or colleague shares with them. That trusted friend or colleague can (and must) be you!

As always, check [GCAE Campaign Central](#) for current campaigns and upcoming opportunities.

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](#).