
We won MILLIONS more for schools last night!

1 message

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Happy Juneteenth to our Union family! Read more about [the history of Juneteenth](#) and [Triad Juneteenth celebrations](#).

The Board of County Commissioners voted last night to FUND PUBLIC SCHOOLS!

Because so many GCS workers and community supporters showed up and spoke out, your Commissioners have once again voted to fund our local schools in the face of continuing attacks from our state and federal level funding bodies. Here's how Guilford County advocated to Commissioners:

- ~200 handwritten letters
- ~100 folks marching in the streets and rallying in front of the Old County Courthouse on the night of the Budget Public Hearing
- over an hour of public comments during the Budget Public Hearing
- targeted phone calls to Commissioners from GCS workers between the Public Hearing and the Budget Vote



- delegations of public school supporters showing up to Commission meetings, Budget Town Halls, and work sessions throughout the budget process

Because you and your coworkers showed up and spoke out, here's what happened:

Town Halls prior to the budget presentation	County Manager's Budget Presentation	Budget Work Sessions (following the Budget Public Hearing)	Final Budget Vote
<i>before May 15</i>	<i>May 15</i>	<i>following June 5</i>	<i>June 18</i>
possible \$0 increase for public schools	\$2.5 million increase for public schools	GCS CFO confirms that \$8 million more will "balance the budget" (possibility of certified supplement increase coming from state budget)	\$12.3 million increase for public schools (confirmed certified raises coming through state budget allowance for "low wealth supplement" for Guilford County)
<i>When pressed by our folks on a possible property tax rate increase, Commissioners began looking at other funding sources.</i>	- not even enough \$ to meet legislative mandates or "keep the lights on" - nothing for staff raises	- just enough to keep the lights on - nothing for classified raises	- \$1.8 million earmarked for safety and security - \$3 million earmarked for classified raises

What's next?

We fought hard and won millions more than they told us was possible. Our power is growing - and together we will continue to fight to win every dime that our public schools need and deserve. Now that Guilford County Schools has received their local budget, they'll be waiting on the state budget. Once the state budget is finalized, GCS will begin a reconciliation process to determine how funds will be allocated for the 25-26 school year. We will need to keep the pressure on this fall so that they prioritize *staff pay* in the upcoming school year because we know that student safety and success depends on fully staffed schools.



Who's at your door?

It might be a Summer Member Organizer! NCAE members will be knocking on our coworkers' doors all across the state this summer. Our goal is to connect with coworkers, find out from you about your priorities, and recruit potential union members.

If you don't want to wait for a knock, you can always [join your union today!](#)

Tillis Week of Action

The impacts of Trump's "Big Beautiful Bill" as [passed by the US House would be devastating for all North Carolinians](#) and is an attack on education in particular. NC Republican Senator Thom Tillis is [one of the most electorally vulnerable Senators](#) in the US and in a narrowly divided Senate has the power to propose and vote for a better budget.

Our partners at Down Home NC are hosting events throughout the last week of June to move Senator Tillis *and* raise public awareness of his power and his choices during this federal budgeting process. GCAE will be hosting a [petition delivery](#) on June 30, and you can check out other Down Home opportunities too:

- HEAL/PSS Petition: bit.ly/DefendNCKids
- Defend Medicaid Petition: dhnc.info/CareNotCuts
- [Defend the Department of Education Phone Bank](#) (Wednesdays 6-8 PM)
- [Phone Bank to Defend Medicaid](#) (Thursdays 6-8 PM)
- [HEAL Together NC Statewide Call focused on public education](#) (Thursday 6/26, 7 PM)
- [Greensboro Petition Delivery](#) (Monday 6/30, 11 AM)

Plug in and Build YOUR Union!

Tillis Petition Delivery

tinyurl.com/GsoTillisPetition

Monday, June 30

11:00 AM

Senator Tillis' Greensboro Office

Register

Need some union swag? Check out the [GCAE Shirt Shop!](#)

Current GCAE members and community allies can always [make a donation to GCAE](#).

Ways to Plug In with NCAE & NEA:

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

- **Connect with NCAE & NEA**
 - Fill out: <http://join.nea.org/north-carolina/connect>

Ways to Plug In with Our Community Partners:

HEAL Together NC Statewide Call

Thursday, June 26

Register

7:00-8:30 PM

Virtual

Public School Strong Training

Tuesday, July 15

Register

7:00-8:30 PM

Virtual

Join GCAE

**GCAE
Campaign
Central**

**GCAE on
Facebook**

**GCAE on
Instagram**

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](#).