

**GCAE Statement on Local Budget**

1 message

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July 1, 2026

The last week in Guilford County has been a wild ride for public education, and your coworkers in GCAE have been at the center of the work.

Unfortunately, we are staring down the barrel of a 26-27 budget that means cuts. We won't know specifics until the state passes a budget (likely this week) and then the Board of Education works on a reconciliation budget.



A quick timeline of this budget season:

- March 10 - Board of Education presents a budget request that they had some collaboration with BOCC on
- April 14 - Board of Education votes to adopt budget request AND close schools for May Day
- April 28 - SB 889 filed in NC Senate - moratorium on state-mandated property reappraisals for 25-26
- May 1 - public school supporters march in Raleigh
- May - GCAE members advocate for funding local budget request and keeping SB 889 off the House floor

- June 4 - County Manager presents a local budget that balances relieving strain on property owners and funding local schools and services
- June 10 - SB 889 pass in NC House after 3 readings, several amendments, and a lot of debate
- June 10-19 - public school supporters in Guilford County join GCAE members to send almost 100 letters to Governor Stein asking for a veto of SB 889
- June 18 - County Manager presents a base moratorium budget with a \$1.8M budget increase for public schools
- June 19 - Governor Stein signs SB 889 into law
- June 25 - Board of County Commissioners pass a budget in compliance with SB 889 that raises the property tax rate to increase school funding but still leaves a huge funding gap for public schools, only a \$5.6M increase funded as opposed to \$18.7M in the June 4 presentation

Read more about SB 889 [here](#).

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### **GCAE Statement on Guilford County Budget Approved 6.25.26**

We are very disappointed with this year's local budget process and outcome. We know that the County Commissioners' June 25 approved budget will not meet the basic needs of our public schools. As such, we are facing reductions and cuts to staffing, equipment, facilities, and programs. Knowing that our school district was already making cuts where possible and doing more with less year after year, receiving less than a quarter of the district's funding increase request is devastating.

We want to acknowledge that the manager's budget proposal, presented on June 4, was adamantly supported by GCAE and many of our partners in the community. That proposal still fell short of the school district's budget request, but it provided enough for our schools to function while keeping property owners from bearing too large a burden in taxed property value increases.

The whole budget process, including some very valuable collaboration between the Board of County Commissioners and Board of Education, was upended with SB 889 being signed into law. SB 889 put a moratorium on state-mandated property reappraisals for this year, forcing the county into a difficult position of having to raise the property tax rate in order to gain just a portion of the revenue the reappraisal would have raised. Throughout SB 889's journey through the NC legislature, GCAE members have been in communication with legislators and the Governor to raise the alarm about the impact this bill would have on our public schools. Despite our efforts and those of other public school advocates, the bill was passed by both houses of the General Assembly and signed into law by Governor Stein.

We know that the real winners here are not our local property owners, and certainly not our local elected officials. The real winners are the North Carolina General Assembly and the corporations who fund them. Legislators like John Blust, Alan Branson, and Phil Berger, all representing Guilford County, want to wrest control away from local governments for their purpose of consolidating their own power, influence, and pocketbooks.

Worst of all, the ones who lose the most are our students, and we will not stand for that. Local and state elections will continue to decide the fate of our students this November, and we must elect public school champions to every seat.

Public school workers, it's going to take you and your coworkers coming together to build the power we need to overcome continued attacks on our public schools. The situation is urgent,

## Welcome to our incoming GCAE Executive Board!

The 26-27 GCAE Board takes office today, July 1, 2026.

- President: Joanna Pendleton, 2025-2027 (Term 2)
- Vice-President: Edwena Miles, 2025-2027 (Term 2)
- Secretary: Kimberly Singletary, 2026-2028 (Term 1)
- Treasurer: Kathleen Herbst, 2026-2028 (Term 1)
- ESP Director 1: Chris McCain, 2026-2028 (Term 1\*\*)
- ESP Director 2: Rondeshia Wallace, 2025-2027 (Term 1)
- Elementary School Director 1: Tamisha Davis, 2026-2027\* (Term 0)
- Elementary School Director 2: Crystal Charles, 2025-2027 (Term 2)
- Elementary School Director 3: Tonya Johnson, 2026-2028 (Term 2)
- Middle School Director 1: Anita Dawkins, 2025-2027 (Term 1)
- Middle School Director 2: Selena Keith, 2026-2028 (Term 2)
- High School Director 1: Samantha Patino-Hawkins, 2025-2027 (Term 2)
- High School Director 2: Lisa Randall, 2026-2028 (Term 1\*\*)
- Administration Division Director: Alexa Veach, 2025-2027 (Term 1)
- Student Services Division Director: Betsy Sumerford, 2026-2028 (Term 1\*\*)

\*1-year term to fill vacancy at half term

\*\*previous term was a half term or less



We showed up in Raleigh on May Day—15,000-strong and ready to fight for our public school students. May Day was neither the beginning nor the end of our Kids Over Corporations campaign, and we're here to continue the fight.

Building power as a union means also building our membership density. We now have four locals in North Carolina at union majority, including our neighboring Forsyth County. Guilford's on the shortlist to be next! What does majority density gain us? POWER. Durham and Asheville City (majority locals) are now in meet & confer negotiations with their district leaders, giving workers more power over their own working conditions and an effective avenue for negotiation.

Many of your coworkers aren't yet union members because no one has asked them yet! You can be the one to invite them to change their working conditions by taking collective action with their coworkers.

**Recruitment Resources:**

- [May Day Recruitment Rap](#) (a way you can talk to your coworkers about joining)
- Membership Sign-Up: [ncae.org/join](http://ncae.org/join)
- Early Enrollment Paper Form: [tinyurl.com/GuilCoEE26](http://tinyurl.com/GuilCoEE26)
- Early Enrollment: Members who sign up between now and the end of August don't pay dues until September!
- If you need a staff & member list for your building, email [gcaenc@gmail.com](mailto:gcaenc@gmail.com).
- Email all completed paper forms to [forms@ncae.org](mailto:forms@ncae.org) AND [gcaenc@gmail.com](mailto:gcaenc@gmail.com).

**Incentives:**

- All new members receive a GCAE t-shirt to wear on #RedForEd Wednesdays.
- Invite a Member Organizer to your building to help you recruit members, and they'll bring donuts! Email [gcaenc@gmail.com](mailto:gcaenc@gmail.com) to set up your building visit.
- Members who recruit 4 new members by September 1, 2026, can join the GCAE Organizing Committee and receive an exclusive Organizing Committee hoodie. Report your new recruits by emailing [gcaenc@gmail.com](mailto:gcaenc@gmail.com)!

## Plug In and Build YOUR Union

<b>Have a Building Meeting!</b>	<b>any time</b>  at YOUR work site!	<b>Sample Agenda</b>
<b>Take a #RedForEd Group Photo</b>	<b>Every Wednesday</b>  at YOUR work site!	<b>How To #RedForEd</b>

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

## 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:

- **Down Home: NC Families for Public Schools Launch**
  - Saturday, July 11, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
  - Greensboro

- Interest Form (due June 29): [tiny.cc/NCFamPSTeams](https://tiny.cc/NCFamPSTeams)
  - **Participate in a study for inclusion specialists**
    - [Information](#)
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Sent via [ActionNetwork.org](https://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](#).