

2019 Legislative Agenda

STATE ISSUES

K-3 Class-Size Reduction-Mandate

- Repeal the K-3 class-size reduction-mandate (HB 1030 and HB 13) and restore flexibility in adjusting class sizes to meet local staffing needs and concerns.

Career and Technical Education

- Provide start-up funds of \$1.5 million annually for two years (\$3 million total) to enable the district to start six innovative Career Academies at existing GCS high schools, starting in the fall of 2019 with the first ninth grade cohort, then adding a new grade level each year.
 - Two Academies of Advanced Manufacturing
 - Two Academies of Computer Science
 - One Academy of Transportation, Distribution and Logistics
 - One Academy of Biomedical Technology
- Provide regulatory relief and flexibility to enable the district to hire more skilled trade workers as co-teachers or instructional personnel, and/or to share employees with industry and university partners.
- Provide tax incentives to corporations that agree to fund career and technical education programs and services, including but not limited to paid internships for high school students and guaranteed jobs for GCS students who complete the specified course of study and earn the required credentials.

Teacher, Employee and Principal Pipeline

- Address personnel shortages by removing the six-month wait-period for state retirees and eliminating the health insurance penalty for state retirees.
- Increase teacher and principal pay to the national average within four years and provide incentives to recruit and retain personnel for difficult-to-fill positions.

- Hold veteran teachers and principals harmless from salary reductions. Provide more competitive pay scales for classified employees.
- Create student loan forgiveness program and other financial incentives to encourage top-performing high school and college graduates to pursue teaching as a profession, particularly in STEM subjects and hard-to-fill positions.

School Calendar Flexibility

- Restore control of school calendars, particularly school start and end dates, to local school boards.

Early Childhood

- Expand high-quality pre-kindergarten programs to serve all eligible three- and four-year-olds and eliminate NC Pre-K waiting lists.
- Provide funding for NC Pre-K transportation.
- Expand research-based intervention programs and services for parents of young children, from prenatal to age three so more students enter kindergarten ready to learn.

School Safety

- Increase funding to secure facilities, upgrade safety-related technologies, provide more training and add more safety- and security-related personnel.
- Increase allocations for school-based and community-based mental health personnel and services.
- Oppose arming teachers or other school personnel other than sworn law-enforcement personnel.
- Strengthen background checks and processes for all firearm purchases.

- Restrict access to automatic weapons, bump stocks and related equipment to on-duty military and law-enforcement personnel.

School Funding Formula and Tax-Free Status

- Provide a simplified, flexible and more streamlined approach to funding schools that increases state funding to public schools and that weights allocations based on poverty, disability, English Language status and other student needs.
- Oppose funding formula changes that reduce current levels of funding to public school districts like GCS that serve large numbers of students who are poor, disabled, English language learners, or have other significant needs.
- Restore tax-free status to all local education agencies and traditional public schools.
- Oppose portability proposals that leave too few dollars in schools with the highest concentrations of student poverty.

Statewide Bond Issue

- Support legislation regarding the proposed \$1.9 billion statewide bond issue, which if approved by voters, would add nearly \$38 million to the GCS budget for facility improvements.

College Access

- Ensure all eligible high school graduates become productive citizens and contributing members of our economy by joining 21 other states in allowing undocumented students who graduate from local public high schools to pay in-state tuition at North Carolina public community colleges, colleges and universities.

Transparency in Government

- Hold charter school management companies and operators to the same level of public transparency in reporting management and school salaries, budgets, expenses, contracts, and other public information as other public schools and school districts.

Lottery

- Decrease the percentage of the lottery budget spent on marketing and increase the percentage of lottery proceeds spent on PreK-12 public education.
- Ensure lottery funds allocations to county governments for K-12 facilities do not supplant county allocations for capital needs, including maintenance of existing facilities.
- Ensure lottery funds allocations to county governments for K-12 facilities are not used for debt service for voter-approved bonds or to reduce taxes, but rather to build, renovate and maintain new facilities, technology, and other capital expenses outlined in state statutes.

FEDERAL ISSUES

- Fuel economic growth by providing low-interest bond dollars or other federal infrastructure funding for public school capital needs; prioritize funding by student poverty rates.
- Maintain categorical funding for Title I, Title II, Title III and Title IV based on high concentrations of poverty, disability and other student needs.
- Maintain public schools' ability to seek Medicaid reimbursement for IEP-required health and related services for students with disabilities.
- Oppose portability proposals that leave too few dollars in public schools with the highest concentrations of poverty, disability, English Language learners and other student needs.
- Oppose any dismantling of key protections and rights provided to students with disabilities under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Oppose policies that reduce funding for public schools that serve the highest concentrations of poverty and other student needs, or that negatively impact public school educators, students or families.
- Streamline the pathway to citizenship for GCS and other recent public high school graduates who previously qualified for, or would qualify, for DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

Sharon L. Contreras, Ph.D., Superintendent of Schools



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www.gcsnc.com

Board of Education

DISTRICT 1

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Allen Middle, Andrews High, Fairview Elementary, Frazier Elementary, Greene Education Center, Haynes-Inman Education Center, Jamestown Middle, Kirkman Park Elementary, The Middle College at GTCC-High Point, The Middle College at GTCC-Jamestown, Millis Road Elementary, Montlieu Elementary, Parkview Elementary, Penn-Griffin School for the Arts, Ragsdale High, Sedgefield Elementary, Triangle Lake Montessori, Union Hill Elementary and Welborn Middle.

DISTRICT 2

Anita Sharpe

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Greensboro, NC 27406

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The Kearns Academy at Central, Allen Jay Elementary, Allen Jay Preparatory Academy, Ferndale Middle, High Point Central High, Jamestown Elementary, Johnson Street Global Studies, Morehead Elementary, Oak Hill Elementary, Pilot Elementary, Pleasant Garden Elementary, Pruette SCALE, Shadybrook Elementary, Southern Elementary, Southern High, Southern Middle and Sumner Elementary.

DISTRICT 3

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Brooks Global Studies, The Early College at Guilford, Guilford Elementary, Jefferson Elementary, Kiser Middle, Lindley Elementary, The Middle College at UNC-G, Northwest High, Northwest Middle, Oak Ridge Elementary, Pearce Elementary, Sternberger Elementary and Stokesdale Elementary.

DISTRICT 4

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Alamance Elementary, Brown Summit Middle, Eastern High, Eastern Middle, Gibsonville Elementary, Madison Elementary, McLeansville Elementary, Monticello-Brown Summit Elementary, Nathanael Greene Elementary, Northeast High, Northeast Middle, Northern Elementary, Reedy Fork Elementary, Sedalia Elementary, Southeast High and Southeast Middle.

DISTRICT 5

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Claxton Elementary, Cone Elementary, General Greene Elementary, Greensboro College Middle College, Grimsley High, Irving Park Elementary, Jesse Wharton Elementary, Joyner Elementary, Kernodle Middle, Mendenhall Middle, Northern High, Northern Middle, Page High, Summerfield Elementary and Weaver Academy.

DISTRICT 6

Khem Irby

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Colfax Elementary, Florence Elementary, Newcomers School, Northwood Elementary, Oak View Elementary, Southwest Elementary, Southwest High, Southwest Middle, Western Middle and Western High.

DISTRICT 7

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Greensboro, NC 27405

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Bessemer Elementary, Bluford Elementary, Brightwood Elementary, Dudley High, Falkener Elementary, Gateway Education Center, Hairston Middle, Hampton Elementary, Herbin-Metz Education Center, Lincoln Academy, McNair Elementary, The Middle College at GTCC-Greensboro, Peeler Elementary, Rankin Elementary, SCALE - Greensboro, Simkins Elementary, Twilight Academy and Vandalia Elementary.

DISTRICT 8

Deena A. Hayes, Chairperson

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The Academy at Smith, Alderman Elementary, Archer Elementary, Erwin Montessori, Foust Elementary, Gillespie Park Elementary, Hunter Elementary, Jackson Middle, Jones Spanish Immersion, The Middle College at Bennett, The Middle College at NC A&T, Murphey Elementary, Peck Elementary, Smith High, The STEM Early College at NC A&T, Swann Middle school, Washington Montessori and Wiley Elementary.

AT-LARGE

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At-Large represents all GCS schools.