

Connect



...with each other ...with our schools ...and with our vision!

Making College and Career-Readiness Connections: Preparing Students for their Future

A goal of Gwinnett County Public Schools is to help students graduate with the knowledge, skills, and expertise to succeed in college, work, and life in the 21st century. The district's four major initiatives connect with this goal to support efforts to improve teaching and learning, increase student achievement, and prepare students for the future.

- **Gwinnett Teacher Effectiveness System (GTES):** GCPS' teacher evaluation system focuses on building the professional capacity of teachers... an effort that will have a positive impact on student learning. Effective teachers have high standards for their students, providing academic rigor while encouraging critical- and creative-thinking and pushing students to achieve their goals.
- **AKS:** In GCPS, our core business is teaching and learning. The AKS curriculum is at the heart of that business, reflecting the knowledge and skills young people need for success in college and careers. Check out the GCPS website for a number of curriculum resources and information about the AKS.
- **eCLASS:** GCPS is transforming how teachers teach and how students learn. The district is incorporating appropriate technological tools and resources into the classroom. These digital tools are fostering collaboration and nurturing creativity and innovation— skills that are essential for our students' future.
- **Leadership Development:** GCPS' leadership development initiative develops leaders at all levels. From the Gwinnett Student Leadership Team and Student Council to leadership opportunities in clubs and extracurricular activities, students hone skills throughout their school years... gaining the leadership know-how sought by colleges and future employers.



Conversation Starter...

What 21st century skills are important for our students to develop in order to be college- and career-ready?

Making Connections for College and Career

Gwinnett counselors support students as they explore and prepare a plan for their life after high school. **Career exploration is a K–12 initiative** that gives students exposure to the 17 career clusters along with so-called “soft skills,” such as building positive relationships, resolving conflicts, and developing time management skills.

- At the elementary level, students participate in career-based guidance lessons, including play-based experiential learning for younger students, career fairs and events with speakers from various work backgrounds, and postsecondary exploration online.
- Middle and high school students use web-based tools to explore interests and careers and deepen their understanding of graduation requirements. In guidance lessons facilitated by counselors, students examine the link between high school work and opportunities at the college level. Students create electronic portfolios designed to follow them from 6th grade to graduation as they expand their knowledge and understanding of careers and postsecondary options.

Gwinnett high schools also support college and career-readiness connections through **Career Pathways**, which allow students to **explore an interest in a college major or jumpstart a prospective career** by taking related academic and career-focused electives.

Four GCPS high schools— Central Gwinnett, Lanier, Shiloh, and South Gwinnett— are taking this focus on preparing students for college a step further by launching the Academy Model in August 2014. Meadowcreek High is starting a similar program, called Meadowcreek U, using a School Improvement Grant. **Capitalizing on an interest-themed focus, the academies prepare students to continue their education by helping them focus on prospective careers in high-skill, high-wage, and high-need areas...** ensuring they are ready for the future!