

Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) is a premier school system. In fact, it is a three-time finalist (2009, 2010, and 2014) and two-time winner (2010 and 2014) of The Broad Prize for Urban Education, designating GCPS as one of the nation's top urban school districts. In 2017, GCPS earned kudos as a "Great District for Great Teachers" and was named College Board Advanced Placement® District of the Year. What distinguishes this school system from others are a strong curriculum; the finest teachers in the profession; attractive, well-equipped, and modern facilities; plus an enviable level of parental involvement and community support. Read on to learn more about Georgia's largest school system and Gwinnett County's largest employer.

### On Student Enrollment

GCPS is serving more than 179,350 students this year... and it's still growing. Meadowcreek and Norcross are the largest clusters. The district's enrollment grew by more than 1,100 students compared to last year.

### On Student Achievement

The Class of 2017 boasted more than 11,869 graduates. About 85% shared plans to attend college. Seniors reported more than \$181 million in scholarship offers (not including HOPE and full-ride QuestBridge scholarships). GCPS scholarship winners included: 19 QuestBridge Scholars, 19 military academy appointees, and thousands of others.

GCPS' instructional program provides a challenging curriculum that targets essential knowledge and skills. Recent results indicate students are meeting high academic expectations.

- Gwinnett's average composite score of 1084 on the SAT is 24 points above the national average and 34 points above the Georgia average, continuing a trend of scoring above the national and state averages.
- With an ACT average of 22.6 out of a possible 36, GCPS' Class of 2017 topped state and national averages.
- Overall, GCPS schools did well on the Georgia College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), which takes into account achievement, progress, and achievement gap closure.
- More Gwinnett students are taking rigorous, college-level Advanced Placement (AP) classes. In 2016, 15,432 students took 29,893 AP exams, with 58% percent scoring a 3 or higher to earn college credit or advanced placement. What's more, 20 Gwinnett high schools were recognized as AP Honor Schools.

We BELIEVE... in our hard-working and high-achieving students, in our committed and caring staff members, in our award-winning schools, and in the Promise of Gwinnett! Recent school/system honors include... awards for literacy leadership, career



academies, and instructional technology, plus a nod as one of the country's best communities for music education; international, national, and state wins for students/teams in language arts, math, science, economics, problem-solving, engineering, monologue, creativity, robotics, languages, spelling, theatre, technology, fine arts, JROTC, community service, marketing, and business; perfect scores on national exams; national kudos for school stores; student perfor-

mances from London to Broadway; U.S. staff honors in entrepreneurship, leadership, math, aerospace, and fine arts teaching; a National Blue Ribbon School; a sixth International Baccalaureate school; kudos for farm-to-school nutrition, procurement practices, and transportation safety; seven state-certified STEM/STEAM schools/programs; 11 Reward Schools among Georgia's top Title I schools, 87 Beating the Odds Schools, and kudos for 43 PBIS schools and 36 SHAPE Honor Roll Schools; Georgia's Principal of the Year and a finalist for National Principal of the Year; a state Teacher of the Year finalist; state honors for staff in language arts, social studies, environmental science, innovation, visual arts, languages, career and technical education, music education, marketing, counseling, media services, and stewardship; and much more!

## On Staff

- With more than 22,000 employees GCPS holds the position of the largest employer in the county and is one of the largest employers in Georgia.
- GCPS was named one of the top employers in the state by *Atlanta* magazine. The district also was profiled by *Atlanta Business Chronicle* as a top metro employer and made *Gwinnett Magazine's* list of top employers. *The Black Collegian* also named GCPS as one of the top 100 employers in the country.
- GCPS hired more than 1,800 teachers for the 2017–18 school year— 1,182 new hires, 488 rehires, and 161 retirees returning to work.
- In 2017–18, the average GCPS teacher holds a master's degree or higher advanced degree, has 13 years of teaching experience, and will earn \$60,716 a year. With benefits, the total yearly teacher compensation package will average \$85,923.



Paul Duke STEM HS is scheduled to open in August 2018 in the Norcross Cluster.

## On Facilities

- GCPS has 139 schools (80 elementary schools, 29 middle schools, 21 high schools, and nine other educational facilities)—Gwinnett Online Campus; GIVE Center East; GIVE Center West; the International Transition Center; Maxwell High School of Technology; New Life Academy of Excellence; North Metro Academy of Performing Arts; and two schools providing special education services—Northbrook Center and Oakland Meadow School).
- GCPS has been recognized for its energy conservation and green initiatives.

## On School Nutrition

- This past school year, GCPS served more than 20 million lunches and nearly 11 million breakfasts.
- Last year, nearly 55% of students qualified for free or reduced-price meals, based on family income levels.
- The district also earned a Golden Radish for farm-to-school efforts in GCPS kitchens.

## On Transportation

- GCPS operates more than 1,900 buses, safely transporting approximately 130,000 students twice a day. Annually, our buses travel almost 23.8 million miles.
- GCPS is the third-largest transporter of students in the country.

## E-SPLOST: Providing Classrooms and Technology for Gwinnett Students

Since 1997, GCPS has benefitted from a special purpose local option sales tax for education, or E-SPLOST. Over the years, E-SPLOST has provided GCPS students with thousands of needed classrooms in nearly 60 new schools, as well as technology improvements essential to world-class teaching and learning.

*On November 3, 2015, Gwinnett voters approved another extension of the current E-SPLOST. This allows GCPS to continue collecting the penny for schools from July 1, 2017, through June 30, 2022. Information is available on the GCPS website. Here are some key facts about the latest E-SPLOST:*

- Anticipated revenue of \$950 million (by law, Buford City Schools will get \$22.3 million based on its student enrollment, leaving GCPS with \$927.6 million.);
- Projects include:
  - 4 new schools and 9 additions and renovations;
  - Technology upgrades systemwide, including a refresh of technology at all middle and high schools;
  - Equipment and facilities modifications for the high school academies;
  - Furniture, fixtures, and equipment to address needs due to growth and replacement;
  - Fine arts needs (growth and replacement); and
  - Facility improvements to address preventive maintenance that has been postponed due to budget cuts (roofing, painting, carpeting, etc.).

## On GCPS' Sound Financial Management

- FY2018 Budget— \$2.092 billion;  
General Fund— \$1.595 billion
- In FY2018, the cost of educating one child in Gwinnett is \$8,853 per year. The direct costs of instruction account for 71.6% of the General Fund.
- GCPS is one of only 17 school districts in the nation to hold a triple-A bond rating— the highest possible— from both Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's. It is the only school system in Georgia and in the Southeast recognized with this fiscal stamp of approval.

