

**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 an "Outstanding 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 nearly 180,000 students this year... and it's still growing. Meadowcreek and Norcross are the largest clusters. The district's enrollment continues to grow at a rate of about 1,000 students a year.

### On Student Achievement

The Class of 2018 boasted more than 12,600 potential graduates. 84% shared plans to attend college. Seniors reported more than \$207 million in scholarship offers (not including HOPE and full-ride QuestBridge scholarships). GCPS scholarship winners included: **1 Presidential Scholar, 22 QuestBridge Scholars, 9 Gates Scholarship recipients, 20 military academy appointees,** and thousands of others.

**Instructionally, GCPS 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 1102 on the SAT is 53 points above the national average and 48 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 students are taking rigorous, college-level Advanced Placement (AP) classes. In 2016–17, 15,330 students took 29,730 AP exams, with 62.5% percent scoring a 3 or higher to earn college credit or advanced placement. What's more, 21 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 district honors include a place among the top 200 large employers in the U.S. on the Forbes "Best Employer" and a #10 ranking on the



E-SPLIST in action... Paul Duke STEM HS opened August 2018 in the Norcross Cluster, offering a technology-infused STEM curriculum to students.

Forbes "Best Employer for Women" list; a nod as one of the country's best communities for music education; international, national, and state wins for students and teams in language arts, mathematics, science, history, writing, problem-solving, engineering, poetry, creativity, robotics, languages, technology, fine arts, JROTC, video production, community service, business, marketing, culinary arts, law en-

forcement, health services, choreography, drones, and environmentalism; perfect scores on national language exams; national kudos for student government; U.S. staff honors in language arts, theater instruction, collaboration in the media center, school nutrition leadership, and international and regional recognition for leadership in foreign language; a National Green Ribbon School; national counseling recognitions; kudos in school nutrition for farm-to-school initiative, social marketing, and customer service; state honors for procurement practices as well as recruitment and HR website development; seven state-certified STEM/STEAM schools and programs; 12 Reward Schools among Georgia's top Title I schools, 87 Beating the Odds Schools, and kudos for 27 PBIS schools and 36 SHAPE Honor Roll Schools; 12 schools honored for Greatest Gains in academic performance and 20 recognized for Highest Performance, with six schools noted in both categories; a national finalist for Principal of the Year and a state Teacher of the Year finalist.

## 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.
- In addition to being named a “top employer” by *Atlanta* magazine, *Atlanta Business Chronicle*, *Gwinnett Magazine*, and *The Black Collegian*, GCPS made Forbes “Best Employer” list for 2018. The district ranked #178 out of the 500 large employers overall and ranked #10 in Forbes’ list of “Best Employers for Women.”
- GCPS hired **1,830 teachers** for 2018–19 school year— 988 new hires, 676 teachers who worked part of the year last year and have been rehired, and 166 retirees returning to work.
- In 2018–19, the average GCPS teacher holds a master’s degree or higher advanced degree, has 13 years of teaching experience, and will earn \$61,627 a year. With benefits, the total yearly teacher compensation package will average \$90,668.

## On Facilities

- GCPS has 140 schools (80 elementary schools, 29 middle schools, 22 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 **20.4 million** lunches and more than **10 million** breakfasts.
- Last year, more than **55% of students** qualified for free or reduced-price meals, based on family income levels.
- Last year, GCPS served 15 million servings on local produce through its **farm-to-school program**.

## On Transportation

- GCPS operates more than 1,980 buses, safely transporting more than 130,000 students twice a day. 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/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 November 6, 2018, Gwinnett citizens approved a General Obligation (GO) bond referendum authorizing \$350 million in tax-exempt GO bonds. It will provide funding to complete a number of capital projects not included in the current E-SPLOST program (including a new high school in the Mill Creek Cluster, additional classrooms, updated technology, and safety improvements).

## On GCPS' Sound Financial Management

- FY2019 Budget— \$2.193 billion  
General Fund— \$1.706 billion
- In FY2019, the cost of educating one child in Gwinnett is \$9,463 per year. The direct costs of instruction account for 70.8% of the General Fund.
- GCPS is one of only 24 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.

