



2018 Teacher of the Year Brooke Sumner with some of her HP Central students.



GUILFORD EDUCATION ALLIANCE

How Much is a Good School System Worth?

Budgeting is never easy. Limited state and local funding make educational budgeting a painstaking challenge each year. But, what if we as a community re-frame the discussion? Instead of thinking about educational funding as simply budgeting, what if we thought of it as investing instead?

If we invest in our schools, what is the return – to taxpayers, to local businesses, to our community as a whole? A 2015 study by Wake County showed that well-funded schools have a direct and positive impact on the economy. In particular, the study showed that each graduating class from the Wake County Public School system saves taxpayers about \$639M in welfare, crime and healthcare costs.

Well-funded schools prepare a talented and ready workforce for industries. NC ranks second in the nation for Information Technology (IT) employment growth, but due to funding constraints, GCS lacks Advanced Placement courses in computer science and IT studies. Most of GCS's career and technical education (CTE) programs use outdated equipment and technology.

Contrast that with Indianapolis, which ranks fifth in the nation in STEM-related job growth. With a focus on sustainable

economic development, Indianapolis invested in its K-12 public schools, particularly related to CTE programs. Since 2006, STEM employment in the city has risen by 18 percent.

But, in NC, we are slow to invest in our schools. Currently, combined local, state and federal per pupil spending is \$10,259, which is below pre-recession levels and \$2000 below the national average.

Our community's recent tornado relief response to three devastated elementary schools showed that Guilford County cares about its students and its schools. What if we kept that energy and commitment going all year, every year?

Here is GEA's challenge: identify a way you or your organization can more deeply support the success of our schools this year. If you aren't sure how you can help, contact us. GEA can help match your strengths and gifts with the needs in Guilford County Schools. Every investment in time, talent and resources towards our schools is an investment in the economic and cultural prosperity of our community.



\$10,259 – Combined local, state & federal funding per pupil in North Carolina

\$12,645 – Combined local, state & federal funding per pupil in South Carolina

41st – North Carolina's national ranking for per pupil spending

28th – South Carolina's national ranking for per pupil spending

New Challenges = New Opportunities

From this...



You made it happen!

FAST FACTS

150

Pallets of supplies collected in the weeks following the storm

\$340K

Funds raised for GCS tornado relief

\$1.8M

GCS recovery expenses as of June 30, 2018

2000

GCS teachers shopped at the Warehouse July-Sept, 2018

Three schools - Peeler, Hampton and Erwin Elementary - were at the center of the zone of destruction left by April's tornado. In the midst of the community's response to a myriad of housing, health, power and water challenges, a targeted rapid response effort got kids back in classrooms within just seven days. There are too many to thank by name, but we hope you see in these stories some reflection of yourself and the all the others who stepped up and made it happen.

Allen Tate Realtors made oversized pillows and purchased rugs, bookcases and lamps to ensure that relocated classrooms would be welcoming for students. **UNCG staff and alumni** collected over 3000 new books to restock classroom libraries. Joint efforts between GEA, the **Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro** and the **High Point Community Foundation** raised \$340,175. Gifts ranged from \$5 to \$25,000. Major gifts came from corporations and foundations like **The Greensboro SWARM, Truliant Credit Union, the Bryan Foundation** and others. A child tucked \$5 she earned from good grades on a report card into a baggie and added it to boxes of supplies her school collected. By June 30th, GCS had spent \$1.8M on extensive recovery efforts -- replacing ruined curriculum and equipment, handling debris and asbestos removal, as well as moisture containment at the damaged schools. Your generosity helped off-set these costs in a big way.

GEA also collected more than 150 pallets of supplies. **The Greensboro Children's Museum** opened its lobby as a drop off center. **Goodwill, American Industrial Contractors** and **Mi-Box Triad** donated warehouse and storage space and a small army of volunteers sprang into action to sort supplies.

Once supplies were distributed to the tornado-affected schools, GEA and GCS crafted a plan to get supplies out to other classrooms in need across the district. Boxes were delivered to schools in the tornado zone and then to all Title I schools. In July and August, GEA volunteers stocked a pop-up shop at the training and orientation site for new teachers and the Teacher Supply Warehouse served a record number of teachers during our busy back-to-school season -- logging in more than 2000 shoppers from late July through the end of September.



Delta Sigma Theta sorority members donated funds, sorted supplies and welcomed students to their new schools when classes resumed. They continue to volunteer with GEA in the months after the storm.



Allen Tate Realtor Lolita Malave set up a sewing shop at her office to hand-make large pillows for classroom reading nooks.



With support from the City of Greensboro, four school buses were filled with donated supplies in one weekend.

GCS's newest teachers were thrilled with our first pop-up shop, which allowed teachers to easily stock up on classroom supplies while attending training.



BB&T staff diligently showed up day after day to work long and hard in the Warehouse.



Truiant Credit Union dropped by a few days after the storm to deliver a check for \$10,000. A Peeler Elementary teacher and our development director Louise Courts happily accepted the check!

ON THE CALENDAR AT GEA

Let's Talk Education Sessions (Sept – May)



Once a month at 7:45 am, GEA hosts our Let's Talk Education sessions where we bring together experts in education and the community to talk about the relevant – and often complex – issues that shape education policy, planning and budgeting. This year, programming will explore issues related to the GCS strategic plan.

In September, more than 100 community members joined us to talk with three key GCS leaders helping to move our schools into the future – Dr. Kathleen Dawson, chief innovation officer; Scott McCully, chief officer of operations; and Brian Schultz, chief academic officer. (shown above).

In October, our Let's Talk Education session's topic was *New Math: What It Is and Why It Matters*. We learned more about GCS's new math curriculums that are designed to move instructional focus beyond test-taking skills to encourage critical thinking and prepare students for the future.

To learn more about upcoming sessions, visit our website. Sessions are free and open to all. You provide the good conversation, GEA provides the breakfast!

Principal for a Day, November 15th



Thank you to the many community members who take time out of busy schedules each year to take part in Principal for a Day. Stepping inside of a public school is the best way to dispel myths that surround education and get to the heart of what it's really like in our schools. Most importantly, each participant helps build crucial community-school relationships needed to drive the success of our schools. Thank you!

The 2019 Education Summit

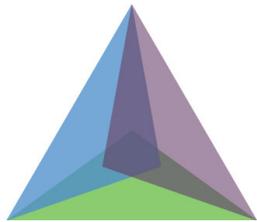
March 21, 2019
7:45am – 9:30am



(photos: from 2018 EdSummit)

Don't miss this inspiring event as we gather at the Downtown Marriott in Greensboro to honor those who spark possibility for Guilford County Schools students, schools and our community!

Watch our website for more information about registering. Interested in being a sponsor? Contact Louise Courts at LCourts@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org, or call (336) 841-4332.



GUILFORD EDUCATION ALLIANCE

Spotlight on Advocacy

Co-Chair



Tony Jarrett
Allen Tate Realtors

Co-Chair



Afi Johnson-Parris
Ward Black Law

Director



Effie Varitimidis
GEA

Great communities have great schools. Guilford County Schools (GCS) is a magnet that attracts jobs and families. In partnership with Guilford County's seven colleges and universities, GCS is essential in providing employers the talent they need. With a \$700M annual budget, over 73,000 students and more than 10,000 employees, GCS is a major economic and cultural force – and its graduates will shape our community for years to come.

GEA advocates **to** and **on behalf of** the community for strong investment in Guilford County Schools. When it comes to public education, we mean business.

GEA's Strategic Advocacy Team is co-chaired by **Afi Johnson-Parris** of Ward Black Law and **Tony Jarrett** of Allen Tate Realtors and includes Cecelia Thompson of Action Greensboro and GEA board members Rebecca Buffington, Kevin Gray, Mindy Oakley, and Skip Moore. We are actively recruiting to expand our team.

We are working to **build a broad base of support** across the community; **develop relationships** with elected officials at the local and state level; and engage others with influence in our community.

GEA recently welcomed **Effie Varitimidis** as our new part-time Advocacy Director. Effie was a long-time clerk for the Guilford County Commissioners and currently also works as the Tanger Center project coordinator at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro. For more information about the Strategic Advocacy Project, contact Effie at Effie@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org or by calling 336-841-4332.

THE GEA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Strategic Advocacy Co-chair:
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"There is nothing more important to home values than the school house at the end of the street. Excellent public schools enhance the quality of life for everyone in our communities."

-Tony Jarrett, regional vice-president, Allen Tate Realtors, GEA board member, and co-chair of the GEA Strategic Advocacy Team

Thank You to All of Our Heroes!



Every bag of school supplies and every dollar donated makes an impact. The future of our community is sitting in classrooms across Guilford County. With your continued support, we can help ensure that the future is a vibrant one, filled with promise!

Platinum \$50,000 - \$125,000



Gold \$10,000 - \$49,999

Allen Tate Realtors
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Bender's Tavern
Cone Health
Cone Health Foundation
Chuck and Nancy Cornelio
Deep River Church of Christ
Deluxe Corporation
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Pam and Alan Duncan
Fairway Outdoor Advertising
Greensboro Elks Lodge
Ilderton Dodge-Chrysler-Jeep RAM
Elizabeth and John King
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PPG Industries
Procter & Gamble
Ralph Lauren Corporation
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Foundation, Inc.
SunTrust Banks, Inc.
Tannenbaum-Sternberger
Foundation
Tuggle Duggins, P.A.
Walmart
Western Governors University
WFMY News 2

Bronze \$500 - \$2499

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Special thanks to those who made the largest in-kind supply contributions to the Teacher Supply Warehouse.

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The Christman Company
Crayons Matter
Genuity Concepts
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Lincoln Financial Group
Nexsen Pruet

P&G
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