

Gwinnett County Public Schools – A District Perspective

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Gwinnett County Public Schools



- [Gwinnett County Public Schools](#), located in the metro Atlanta area, is the largest school system in Georgia, and continues to grow. In 2022-23, the school district is serving over **181,000 students** in **142** schools.
- Our **mission** is to pursue **excellence** in academic **knowledge, skills, and behavior** for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.
- Our **vision** is to become a **system of world-class schools** where students acquire the **knowledge and skills** to be successful in college and careers.

Gwinnett County Public Schools - History

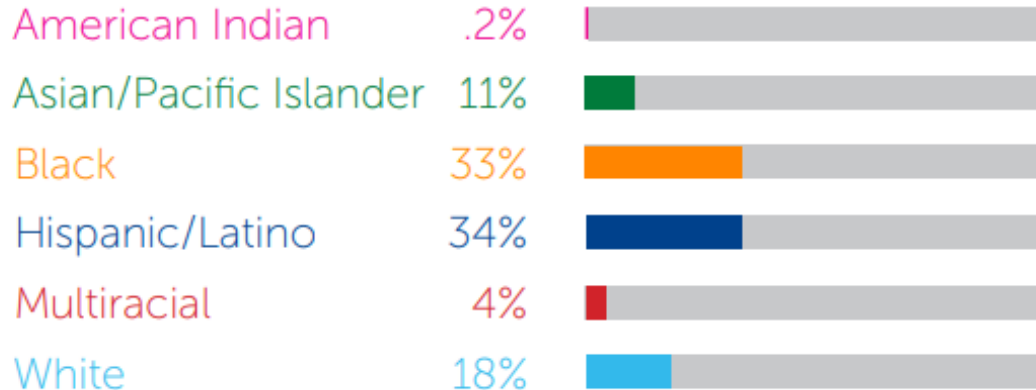


- [Gwinnett County Public Schools](#) history dates back to the earliest School District Commissioner (Superintendent) Report in 1871 with 2,204 students enrolled.
- Dr. Calvin J. Watts currently serves as superintendent for Gwinnett County Public Schools having been appointed by the Board of Education on July 31, 2021.
- Over the 25-30 years prior to Dr. Watts' appointment, district increased in size and diversity becoming one of the most diverse districts in the nation.

Gwinnett County Public Schools

Our students come from
191 countries and speak
98 different languages. (May 2022)

Racial/Ethnic Distribution (May 2022)



Pandemic Impacts



Leading through the Pandemic



- During the **2020-2021** school year approximately **50%** of GCPs students learned through **digital instruction** and the other **50%** participated **in-person**.
- The majority of the teaching staff taught using a **concurrent** model.
- As we approached the end of that school year, we recognized:
 - **In-person** learning seemed to be producing results far greater than digital instruction for **most** students
 - "**Missingness**" of information about student progress was a critical challenge
 - **Multiple** data points were needed to understand how to address the needs of students
 - Federal funding could provide support for addressing student learning gaps, but we needed a **comprehensive** plan

2021-2022 School Year



- Dr. Watts began his tenure as we welcomed back **97%** of our students to **in-person learning**.
- The superintendent's entry plan - "**Look, listen, and learn tour**" enabled him to gather information from across our internal and external stakeholders regarding key priorities and needs.
- **Comprehensive reporting** was created for schools to leverage in more strategically approaching MTSS from an academic standpoint (Reading and Mathematics).
- Additional learning opportunities created:
 - Summer Enrichment and Acceleration
 - Tier II and Tier III new resources
 - District Tutoring program

2021-2022 School Year

Engaged with Districts across the country as a part of AASA's Learning 2025 Network.

Historical data were analyzed in preparation for current year standardized assessment results with a focus on **student group performance**

Persistent gaps in performance were identified, reviewed, and shared with internal and external stakeholder groups

GCPS Stakeholders worked with Battelle for Kids to develop a Portrait of a Graduate.

A Five-Year strategic plan, Our Blueprint for the Future, was developed with the goal of creating a plan outlines the transformational work of the next five years



Building the Bridge from Empathy to Excellence : GCPS' Five-Year Strategic Plan, 2022-2027



Our **Blueprint** for the **Future**

Blueprint for the Future: Building the Bridge from Empathy to Excellence is our district plan, outlining the transformational work of Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) over the next five years. **We are committed to shifting the culture of GCPS to one that is whole learner-focused, where each and every child is known by name, by face, by individual strength, and need.**

We are committed to creating school climates where students and staff feel valued and accepted—no matter their race, gender, ethnicity, native language, disability, or religion—so that no learner is marginalized. GCPS students live in a world where diversity is a fact, as evidenced by Gwinnett County’s status as one of the most diverse counties in the United States. Our efforts to be future-driven must include preparing our children to live and work with people who may be quite different from them.

Our [Blueprint for the Future](#) defines our strategic priorities in four areas: ***empathy, equity, effectiveness, and excellence.***



Our **Blueprint** for the **Future**





Our **Blueprint** for the **Future**

Assessment

- **Changes**
- **Communication**



Our **Blueprint** for the **Future**

**In support of Pandemic
Recovery - *Addressing
the needs of each and
every student***

- Reimagined assessment system
- New Literacy curriculum – currently in pilot phase
- Universal screeners
- Full and complete MTSS implementation - Academic Press & Supportive Community



What tools are we using to better understand the needs of the whole learner?



Early Warning System (MTSS) – combines program participation, assessment data (including diagnostic), grades, attendance, student wellness feedback



Cohort tracking system – tracks on-track graduation status for high school students



Attendance Reports

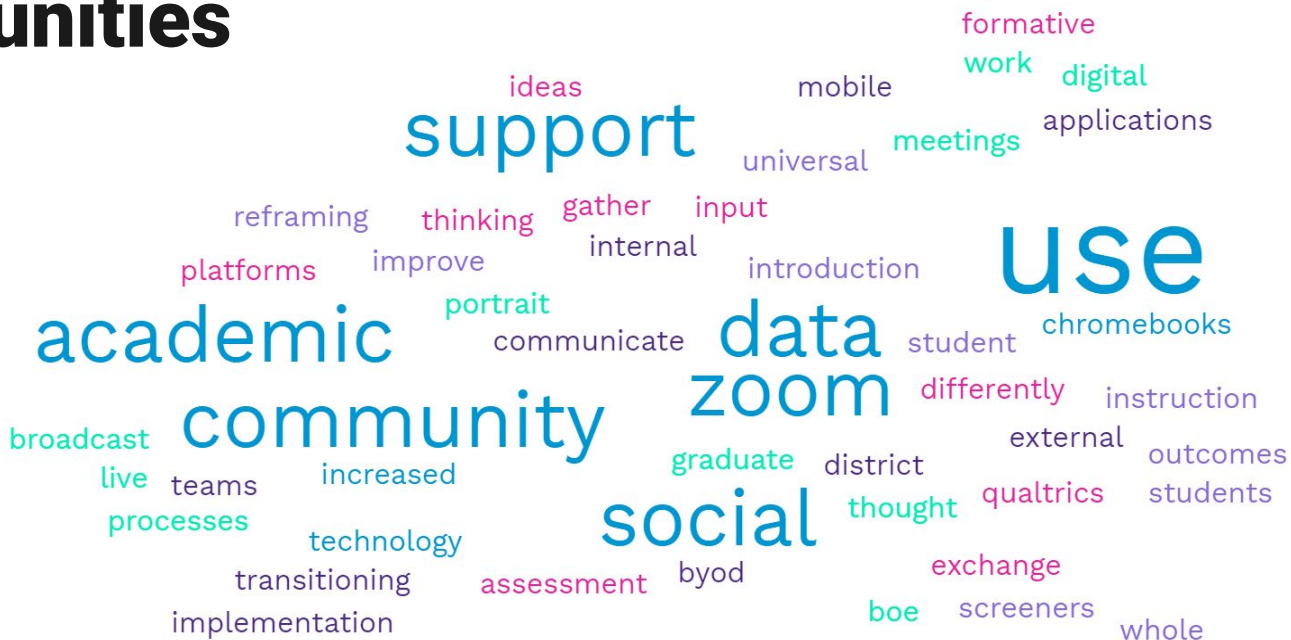


Common Formative Assessments – Provide more frequent opportunities to measure and respond



Benchmark Assessments – Aligned to state assessment; provide formative data to support instructional responses

Unexpected Innovation Opportunities



Road ahead...monitoring recovery

