

DR. PHILLIP BARRY WILLIAMS  
Superintendent

## Public Schools of Gates County

Office of the Superintendent  
205 Main Street • P.O. Box 125  
GATESVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 27938  
(252) 357-1113

### BOARD MEMBERS

Ray Felton  
Chairman

Glendale P. Boone  
Vice-Chairman

Sallie J. Ryan  
Leslie S. Byrum  
Amanda Pacitto

July 22, 2020

To Our Gates County Schools Family,

On July 14, 2020, Governor Roy Cooper announced his decision to open schools for the 2020-2021 school year under Plan B. Plan B would mean a staggered schedule of in-person learning with social distancing and facemask protocols in place coupled with remote learning.

However, Governor Cooper noted that if COVID-19 trends spike, Plan B will no longer be an option for districts and North Carolina would move to total remote learning. He also said, "Plan B is not a 'one size fits all' solution for all counties and allowed for school districts to choose Plan C, total remote learning, if that is what they believe would work best, and most importantly, be the safest decision for them."

At a special called meeting on Wednesday July 22, 2020, the Gates County Board of Education recommended that our district start school under Plan C, total remote learning, for the first nine weeks of school. During the first nine weeks, the Board will revisit the COVID-19 issue to see what plan is safest moving forward with the ultimate goal of eventually going back to in-person learning for all.

We recognize that each plan poses its own set of challenges for parents, students, staff, and school operations. Though these decisions clearly involve many different considerations, the health and safety of our students and staff will always remain at the forefront of our decision-making process.

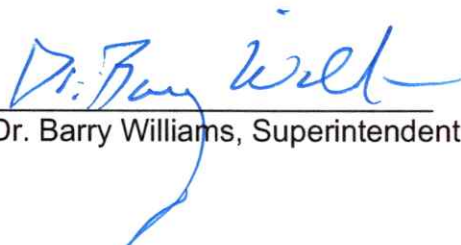
We also know that you have lots of questions about how school will start and what the expectations will be. Now, more than ever, communication with our stakeholders is critical. In the coming days and weeks, we will update you with specifics about how school will start and look during this time of remote learning. School as we know it will be different this year. We are comforted in knowing that as proud Gates County community members and North Carolina citizens, we do our finest work in the most uncertain and trying times and we must teach our children that they can overcome this obstacle.

During this unprecedented time, we thank you more than ever for your patience, understanding, partnership in education, and continued support of Gates County Schools.

Sincerely,



Mr. Ray Felton, Board Chairman



Dr. Barry Williams, Superintendent