

**DR. PHILLIP BARRY  
WILLIAMS**  
Superintendent

## **Public Schools of Gates County**

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April 14, 2025

Gates County Board Members & County Commissioners,

The Gates County Schools administrative staff present for your consideration the proposed Gates County Schools budget for fiscal year 2025-2026. The proposed budget request will allow us to provide the educational services expected by our community, which is essential to our students' success in college and career.

The State budget (Fund #1) reflects increases from the 2024-2025 appropriation as a result of anticipated state increases for employee salaries and benefits; anticipated increases to cost of business expenses, including insurance; and operating deficits due to federal and state funding reductions. State increases for employee salaries and benefits are attributable to anticipated legislative activities within the North Carolina General Assembly. The total includes:

- ✓ Estimated 3% increase in salaries
- ✓ Estimated increase of the State's employer retirement contribution rate from 24.04% to 25.02%
- ✓ Estimated increase of the State's employer health insurance contribution amount from \$8,094/annual to \$8,565/annual

The state covers the increases for retirement, health insurance, and raises for state paid employees. We receive the needed funding to cover these increases for the state allotments which are "position & month" driven (i.e. PRC 001, PRC 4, PRC 005, PRC 6, PRC 007, and PRC 013). However, increases for the "dollar" driven PRC's may not cover everyone we pay within those PRC's, because those PRC's also include expenditures for supplies, contracted services, substitutes, etc. Historical data throughout North Carolina LEA's are used to determine the amount of increase for those PRC's.

Gates County Public Schools will promote achievement through teaching, engaging and assisting students to become successful. We will significantly improve our educational services by investing an additional increase of \$2,845,000 in critical areas focusing on:

### **1. Technology for Every Student:**

1:1 Device Initiative: Providing every student with a personal device (laptop or tablet) will ensure equitable access to technology, enhance learning opportunities, and prepare our students for the digital world.

- Modernized Computer Labs: Upgrading and expanding computer labs will provide students with the necessary resources for advanced learning, coding, and digital literacy.
- Smart TVs in Classrooms: Integrating smart TVs into classrooms will facilitate interactive learning, enhance multimedia presentations, and create a more engaging learning environment.

## **2. Empowering Our Teachers:**

- Increased Teacher Supplements: Recognizing the vital role of our teachers, we request an increase in teacher supplements to attract and retain highly qualified educators.
- Enhanced Instructional Supplies: Providing teachers with adequate funding for instructional supplies will enable them to create engaging and effective learning experiences for all students.
- Intensive Tutoring and Remediation: Investing in intensive tutoring and remediation programs will provide targeted support for students who need extra help, ensuring they reach their full potential.
- Instructional Coaches: Providing instructional coaches will offer teachers ongoing professional development, support, and mentorship, leading to improved teaching practices and student outcomes.

## **3. Comprehensive Student Support:**

- Increased Nursing Staff: Adding qualified nurses to our schools will provide essential medical care and support for students, ensuring their health and well-being.
- Enhanced Safety Measures: Investing in safety tools such as cameras, door locking systems, and halo devices will create a secure and protected learning environment for our students and staff.
- Expanded Arts Programs: Investing in additional personnel for arts programs will provide students with enriching opportunities for creativity, expression, and personal growth.

## **4. Universal Free Breakfast and Lunch:**

Hunger is a significant barrier to learning. Providing free breakfast and lunch to all students will ensure that every child has access to nutritious meals, improving their focus, concentration, and overall academic performance.

## **5. Additional Nurses for Elementary Schools:**

Elementary school students have unique health needs, and increasing the number of nurses will provide them with the necessary medical care and support. This will reduce absenteeism, ensure timely intervention for health concerns, and create a safer learning environment.

## **6. Increased Resource Officer Presence:**

Ensuring the safety and security of our students and staff is paramount. Increasing the number of resource officers will provide a visible deterrent to crime, offer immediate response to emergencies, and foster a sense of security within our schools.

## **7. Assistant Principals:**

Adding assistant principals will provide additional administrative support, allowing the principal to focus on strategic initiatives and student well-being. This will improve school management, enhance communication, and create a more efficient and effective learning environment.

## 8. Increased Supplements for Classified Staff:

Our classified staff play a vital role in supporting our students and teachers. Increasing their supplements will recognize their hard work, improve morale, and attract and retain highly qualified individuals. This will ensure a smooth and efficient school operation, enhancing the overall learning experience for all.

**\* A summary of all additional requested funding is listed below.**

<b>Allocation of Funds to Improve GCPS</b>	<b>FY 2025-2026</b>	
Drama Teacher CMS	\$80,000	R
Band Teacher CMS	\$80,000	R
Elementary Arts Teacher	\$80,000	R
Assistant Principal GCHS	\$70,000	R
Support, Recruit, and Retain Teachers	\$10,000	R
Increase Teacher Supplement	\$156,000	R
Low-Performing District Support (Elementary Reading Coaches)	\$240,000	R
Instructional Coach Salaries (Elementary/Middle)	\$160,000	R
Instructional Support (Teacher Assistants)	\$120,000	R
Classified Supplements	\$156,000	R
Curriculum & Instructional Resources (GCHS/CMS - English Language Arts & Math)	\$450,000	R
Director Secondary Education (6-12)	\$80,000	R
Director Special Programs (For Example College/Career Promise, Homeless & Virtual PS)	\$80,000	R
Testing Coordinator (High School)	\$75,000	R
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,837,000</b>	
<b>Student Safety and Well Being</b>		
Universal Lunch and Breakfast for Students	\$130,000	R
School Health Personnel	\$160,000	R
Guidance Counselor CMS	\$80,000	R
Pilot Program to Limit Cell Phone Use in Classroom	\$88,000	R
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$458,000</b>	
<b>Advance Educational Excellence &amp; Innovation</b>		
Devices for Students and Classroom Supplies	\$250,000	R
Exceptional Children Funding	\$150,000	R
High Dosage Tutoring (Fall Implementation)	\$50,000	R
Transition Academies (Summer)	\$100,000	R
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$550,000</b>	
<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b>\$2,845,000</b>	

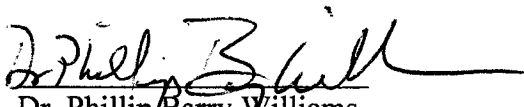
In addition to the current capital appropriation of **\$200,000**, we are requesting an additional **\$200,000** capital outlay funding to address some of the most urgent Technology needs that have been identified in the Capital Outlay Planning Budget. Our list of capital needs requiring immediate attention, listed below, has continued to grow due to weather and age of the facilities. We have been, and we will continue to be, fiscally conservative because we fully appreciate our responsibility to be excellent stewards of public resources directed to our schools.

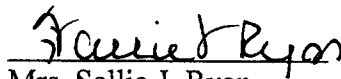
<b>BES Computer Lab</b>	<b>\$37,500.00</b>
<b>GES Computer Lab</b>	<b>\$37,500.00</b>
<b>TSC Computer Lab</b>	<b>\$37,500.00</b>
<b>CMS Computer Lab</b>	<b>\$37,500.00</b>
<b>GCHS Computer Lab</b>	<b>\$37,500.00</b>
<b>Chromebooks Replenishment</b>	<b>\$12,500.00</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000.00</b>

**The Importance of This Investment:**

These investments are not just about providing our students with the best possible education; they are about creating a school system that fosters a sense of belonging, promotes well-being, and empowers all members of our community. By addressing these critical needs, we are investing in a brighter future for our students, staff, and our county as a whole.

Respectfully submitted,

  
 Dr. Phillip/Barry Williams  
 Superintendent

  
 Mrs. Sallie J. Ryan  
 Board Chair

  
 Mr. Steven Harrell  
 Chief Finance Officer