

SUPERINTENDENT'S LISTEN & LEARN FEEDBACK



Dudley High School, September 20, 2016

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District 9

What does Guilford County Schools do well?

- Great communication.
- Technology.
- Parent involvement.
- Caring devoted teachers and staff.
- Varied educational opportunities.
- Safety—protecting students on the school buses from their bus stop to and from school.
- Tutoring programs—provides additional learning for students for academic success.
- GCS ACT is a wonderful assessment tool.
- Facilities—GCS provides some of the best physical facilities in the state.
- Extracurricular Activities—GCS provides many opportunities for students to participate in athletic, clubs and other after-school activities.
- The GCS Board of Education has made a strong stand against state legislative decisions.

What can Guilford County Schools improve?

- More open communication to parents at all schools.
- Assist parents/students with technology who may not have access to internet services, computer equipment, etc.
- Better re-districting of school zones to improve socio-economic environments for all students.
- Allocate funds from the "NC Education Lottery" to our schools to meet resource needs—where is the money? Increase resources to address the social, emotional and mental health concerns for students.
- Assistant Principals need to be assigned to students and remain their administrator as they progress through the grade levels.
- Improve the FAFSA instructions for students to complete scholarship applications.
- GCS can improve by recruiting more African American male teachers as mentors and role models for African American male students.
- GCS can ensure that students are learning and being held accountable for their education in order to graduate rather than simply graduating them for high graduation rates.
- GCS should address the problems of overcrowded classrooms and teacher/student ratios. They should offer more technical classes such as construction, carpentry, auto mechanics, electrical contractors, etc. to prepare them for college or technical school.
- GCS should consider increasing social workers, mental health representatives, and tutors for small groups to improve suspension rates. This would improve discipline and school suspensions.
- GCS's course offerings for students should be consistent—for example, if a student is enrolled in Spanish in elementary school he/she should have the same opportunity to continue to learn Spanish as they advance into the middle and high school grades.
- GCS needs to improve high school scheduling. Block scheduling only allows students 90 days or 18 weeks to complete 36 week courses. The latest information on attention span for teens indicates an average attention span of 57 minutes and the 90-minute blocks are a waste of time.

What advice would you give Superintendent Contreras and the Board of Education that will assist them in moving the District forward?

- Coming into some of the schools that fly under the radar like The Academy at Lincoln where the achievement gap is very vast for our African American young males and females and with the different programs they need improve on the diversity of the school and cut down on the teachers encouraging the separation of the students and making the African American students feel inferior because of their class placement.
- Support the teachers and students visibly. Every student will not go to college and every teacher is not teaching because they love to teach. You must keep both groups inspired.
- Always do what is best for all students now and for their futures.
- Find ways to build strong partnerships with parents and the community to help educate our students on a high level.
- Give teacher tenure to teachers who do not have current tenure.

