

EL/DL NEWSLETTER

MAY '23

HAPPY TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK !👏

Teachers are real-life heroes and deserve to be celebrated and recognized for their important and valuable role. They educate, encourage, support, and care for children all over GCS schools. Always moving forward, being creative, continually improving and remaining dedicated. They provide leadership and strength to us all through example. They remind us that all of the work at GCS is ultimately about what is best for our students.

We want to thank you for your tireless dedication and professionalism to supporting our students, and cultivating their love of learning. While there have been many challenges and more will come, we are grateful for your efforts and your ingenuity. Know that your work is recognized and appreciated on a daily basis. Even though you may not feel that pat on the back—it's there. Happy Teacher Appreciation week!



🏫🌐🏠 CGCS HOSTS THE COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS ' BIRE 2023 CONFERENCE 🏫🌐🏠

The 2023 Bilingual Immigrant Refugee Education Conference was held May 2-6 , 2023 at the Greensboro-High Point Marriott Hotel in Guilford County, NC. The conference offered a wide range of engaging professional development opportunities to English Learners teaching professionals at all levels from around the nation. In lively sessions, participants developed a wider perspective through the exchange of ideas, research, and best practices as they gained knowledge about current trends in the EL field while developing professional networks to better serve our EL students and families. Check the CGCS meeting photo album [here](#).



“We have an opportunity to serve untapped talent—provide access... There’s nothing more important than providing grade-level content instruction every day.”

Superintendent Dr. Oakley on teaching English Learners during the opening ceremony of the Bilingual, Immigrant , and Refugee Education National Conference 2023.

COUNCIL OF GREAT CITY SCHOOLS VISITS 🚌

We had an extraordinary week at the 2023 Bilingual Immigrant Refugee Education Conference held in our county last week. Our colleagues at Cone Elementary, Allen Jay Elementary, Doris Henderson Newcomers School, Kiser Middle, Southwest High and Page High represented us very well.

BIRE participants from all over the nation visited some classrooms and were amazed by all the 3Ls lessons happening at every school. All our educators put a beautiful seed of knowledge in our students’ heart, and that tiny amazing little seed has developed to become the success we have today with our 3Ls framework . We couldn’t have gotten this far without all your help, dedication and passion. We are so proud to be part of this group of amazing educators.

Thank you!

Check out some highlights of the visits [here](#).



DR. MAYRA HAYES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE ENGLISH LEARNERS DEPARTMENT, IS THE RECIPIENT OF THE 2023 VALERIA SILVA AWARD 🏆

The Council of the Great City Schools and Curriculum Associates present this award to an outstanding district administrator who has made significant contributions to improve the academic achievement for English learners (ELs) in a Council-member school district.

The award and special recognition was presented at the Council's 2023 Bilingual, Immigrant, and Refugee Education (BIRE) Conference that was held in Greensboro last Thursday May 4th, 2023 for her lasting contributions to English Learners Achievement .

Congratulations, Dr. Hayes! We are so proud of your commitment and dedication to all of our EL families throughout the years! Check out some highlights of this special moment [here](#)!



URDU DUAL PROGRAM SHINED AT BIRE '23🌐

Principal Carla Ballesteros and DL teachers shared details about their Urdu-English dual language program at Allen Jay Elementary School to spur discussion about common areas of interest and concern .

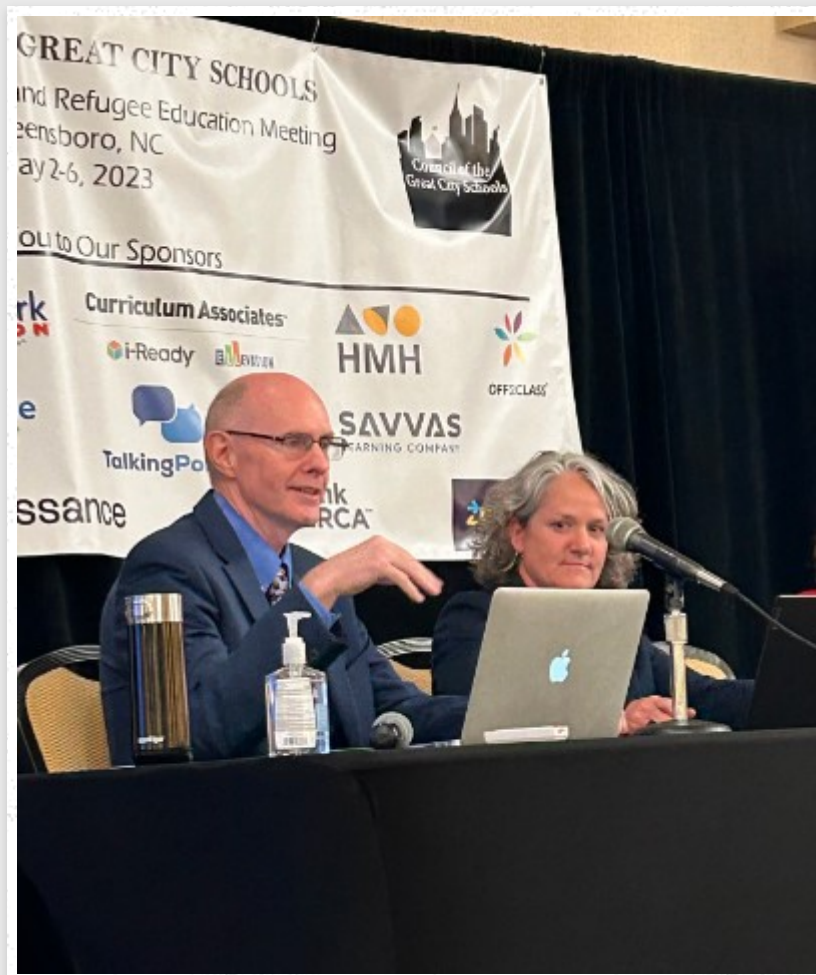
Our DL representatives addressed the teaching foundational skills for biliteracy, implementing dual language program, promoting access and inclusion for all students and also talked regarding the critical shortage of bilingual educators, and implementing assessment, progress monitoring, and intervention for dual programs.

BIRE participants even got a treat as Ms. Ambreen Bhatti taught a mini lesson of Urdu vocabulary. This was one of the most popular sessions in the conference. Well done! See more of their presentation [here](#).



IT'S ALL ABOUT DATA! 📊

Our very own, EL Program Specialist, Ms. Beth Biester and Mr. Bob Egan, Data Consultant , shared the findings and new insights that emerged from our district's deep dive into its long-term EL data, showing the value of making long-term data visible to better inform targeted responses to meet the specific needs of long-term ELs at the BIRE Conference.



AUTHOR JESSICA LANDER AT BIRE '23 🏠

Experienced high school teacher and author of our PD book study ' Making Americans ', Jessica Lander led an engaging session on valuing immigrant student communities. Equipped with the experience of and insights from teaching immigrant students, Ms. Lander has traveled across the nation to learn about and highlight the work that school districts do to uplift immigrant students and communities. Chapter five, inspired by her visits to GCS classrooms, is a testimony of her research and advocacy.



“Guilford County Schools reimagined literacy for the entire district... Wildly higher expectations... Students were dissecting juicy sentences, piecing them back together, reading complex texts...” - Jessica Lander, Author of “Making Americans” at #BIRE23

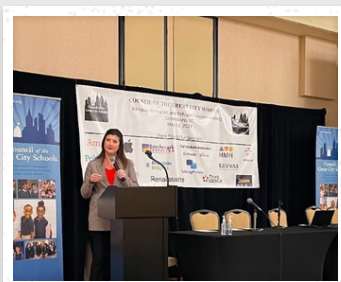
MEET AND GREET WITH AUTHOR JESSICA LANDER FOR GCS TEACHERS👉

Our local Barnes & Noble welcomed award-winning teacher and author Jessica Lander for a discussion of her book 'Making Americans: Stories of Historic Struggles, New Ideas, and Inspiration in Immigrant Education'. Our EL teachers had the opportunity to dialogue with the author, share experiences about their own classes, discuss details of the book and even get their books signed by Ms. Lander. What a great way to culminate our 2023 PD sessions!

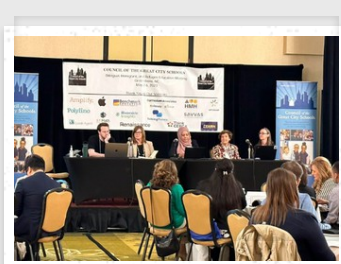
See more of this event [here](#).



📷 IN THE SPOTLIGHT 📷



Superintendent Dr. Oakley welcoming participants from all the nation at the #Bire23 conference



UNCG and Newcomers School presented about our partnership to provide psychological and counseling sessions to EL families



#BIRE23 participants got a wonderful treat. Our international dancers performed typical dances during break



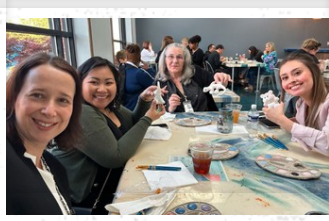
Our amazing dancers with their wonderful instructor Ms. Beltran



Page High student meeting author Jessica Lander and having conversations about writing and sharing their own experiences



Powerful conversations with 'Making Americans' author Jessica Lander and EL teachers



MadSplatter fun!



MadSplatter fun!



Ms. Buonya from our interpreter team facilitating a #Bire23 session regarding effective engagement of EL and immigrant families



Our EL coordinator Ms. Hackett facilitating #Bire23 session regarding meeting the needs of newcomers



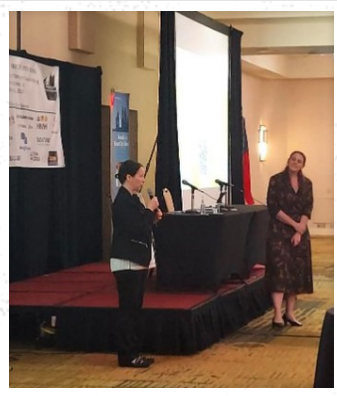
Our EL coordinator Mr. Bartesaghi facilitating #Bire23 session about expanding access to specialized programs for our ELs



Our EL coordinator Ms. Denegri facilitating a #Bire23 session on professional journeys of fellow educators and administrators



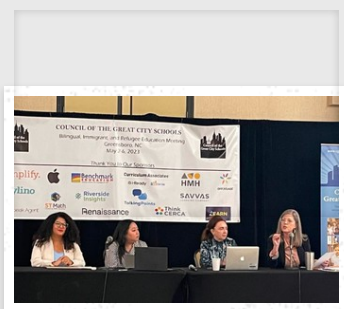
Part of our EL team at #Bire23



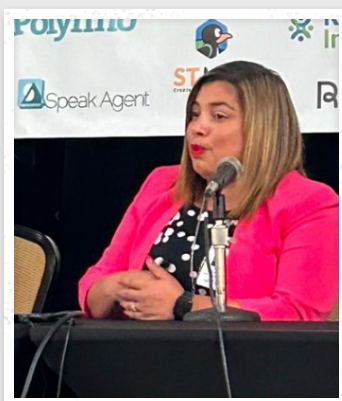
Our EL coordinator Ms. Lardies-Dunst facilitating #Bire23 session with author Jessica Lander about the journeys of EL students, immigrants and their families



Dr. Hayes receiving the Valeria Silva award



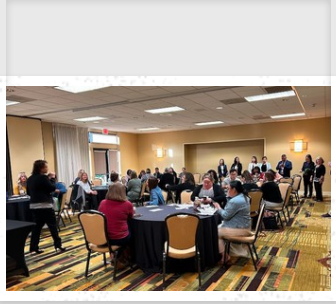
Interim Assistant Superintendent Dr. Tiffany Perkins facilitating a #Bire23 session on MTSS to support the needs of English Learners



Dr. Jusmar Maness ,the first Latina Chief Academic Officer in GCS, sharing her journey at #Bire23



Mr. Keller using a Word Play strategy during the #Bire23 visit to the Newcomers School.



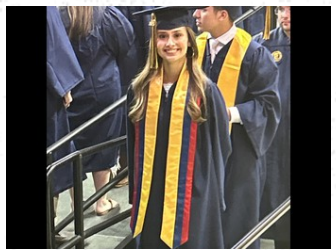
Debrief with #Bire23 participants after visiting 3Ls classes



Juicy Sentence play during a visit to DL classes at Allen Jay Elementary



Ms. Bruner at the school visits debrief. Click [here](#) to see all the teachers who represented us.



Our own Karina Vesga earned her degree at UNGC. We are so proud of you ! You did it !



Pathway writing pilot teachers after the feedback session with Ms. Gabriela Uro ,Director for English Language Learner Policy and Research for the Council of the Great City Schools.



EL team with author Jessica Lander

THANKING OUR TEACHERS 🏡

Series host Dr. Kara Stern speaks with Dr. John Ewing, President of Math for America, about what it means to truly treat teachers with respect.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK PLAYLIST 🎧



Teacher Appreciation Week

open.spotify.com

Listen on Spotify: Feel uplifted and appreciated with this playlist made for all the teachers out there working harder than they ever have. We love you! From all of us at The Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession.

NOMINATE A TEACHER FOR FAMILY TEACHER OF THE YEAR! 🌸

Through the Toyota Family Teacher of the Year Award, the National Center for Families Learning and Toyota celebrate educators who engage children and parents with a focus on building effective family-school partnerships. The first-place winner receives \$20,000, and the runner-up receives \$5,000 to be used for family literacy, family engagement, or family leadership projects. Learn more [here!](#).



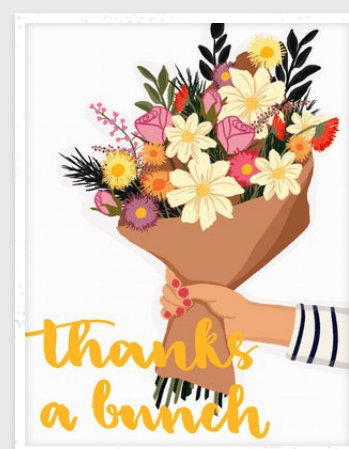
DID YOU KNOW??

May is Haitian Heritage Month! It is a nationally recognized month and an opportunity for individuals including Haitians and lovers of the the Haitian culture to celebrate the rich culture, distinctive art, delicious food and learn the traditions of Haiti and its people. Learn more [here](#).

THANK YOU !💕

In honor of Teacher Appreciation Week, we would like to highlight a few of the many, many moments that sum up what this week is truly about:

- Like the teachers who buy school supplies for a student because they know the parents cannot afford it;
- Like the staff/teachers who buy fundraiser goodies even though they will never eat them, just to support the student who is selling it;
- Like the teachers/staff who pick students and parents up or take them home when they miss the bus or when needed ;
- Like the teachers who buy a prom dress and shoes for a senior who wants to attend the prom;
- Like the teachers who come way too early and stay too late, even though there are lots of responsibilities at home that they need to take care of;



- Like the staff members who make it a point to attend as many away games as they can so the athletes can see familiar faces in the stands cheering them on;
- Like the teachers/staff who greet students and parents at the front door every morning with a kind word, smile, and even a joke;
- Like the teachers and staff that help each other, cheer each other on, and build each other up.

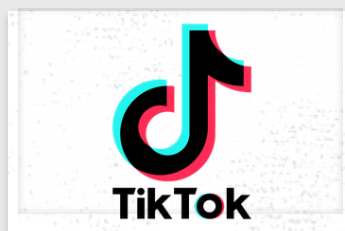
These are just a few of the million reasons why we celebrate our incredible teachers and staff.

THANK YOU FOR ALL WHAT YOU DO!

➡📱FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA ➡📱



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EL DEPARTMENT

🐦 @ELLGCS

Has your school celebrated/held any multicultural activities ? Please share all your photos and details : bartesc@gcsnc.com

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