

Gaston County Schools

Points of Pride 2010-2011

■ **Systemwide Accreditation**

Gaston County Schools is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools as a top rate quality school system. Accreditation is extremely important for students going to college. This is a very difficult process that looks at all areas of the school system.

■ **Scholarships Up**

The class of 2010 included some of the nation's top scholars. Our graduates were offered more than \$33 million in scholarships, the largest amount in GCS history.

■ **Student Attendance Up**

Attendance climbed significantly in the 2009 school year (95 percent) and remained steady this year. GCS is 35 in attendance out of 115 school districts in the state.

■ **Student Achievement Up**

GCS student performance increase on every measure of state and national achievement: SAT, ACT, State Accountability Program, Federal No Child Left Behind program, high school End-of-Course tests and elementary and middle school state End-of-Grade tests, Graduation Rate and Scholarships Received.

■ **Graduation Rate Up**

The graduation rate increased over last year's and the dropout rate decreased.

■ **Student Performance on State ABCs Program Improves**

GCS had two Honor Schools of Excellence, 14 Schools of Distinction, 27 Schools of Progress and no low-performing schools on the State ABCs of Accountability program.

■ **Number of Schools Making Academic Growth Up**

The number of schools that made high growth and expected growth on the state accountability program improved over last year. Results show that 88.7 percent of the district's schools made expected growth and 20 of those also made high academic growth.

■ **State Test Scores Up**

On the 2009-2010 state tests administered to elementary and middle school students, our scores improved over last year. The high schools also posted significant gains.

■ **Performance under No Child Left Behind improves**

Gaston County Schools met 94.4 percent of the goals under the federal No Child Left Behind law – up from last year when the district met 87 percent.

GCS *Points of Pride* 2010-2011

■ **Math Scores Up**

State math scores for grades 3-8 increased for the fourth consecutive year.

■ **SAT Scores Up**

Gaston County Schools posted greater gains than the state or nation on the SAT. Gaston County's average SAT score climbed nine points over last year's.

■ **ACT Scores Up**

GCS high school students taking the American College Test (ACT) improved over last year's score in all four areas tested: English, reading, math and science.

■ **Achieved Highest State Graduation Rate**

The Highland School of Technology has a 100% graduation rate and was honored by the State Department of Public Instruction for excellence in student achievement. The school is one of only six high schools in the state to receive the Honor School of Excellence status. Highland is one of only 30 schools in the nation selected as a national high school model.

■ **Rated a Safe School District**

On the state violence report, GCS was rated one of the safest school districts in the state. Among the 10 largest school systems in North Carolina, GCS has the lowest school campus crime rate – well below the state average and the lowest in this region.

■ **Board of Education Vice Chairman Receives State Honor**

Board of Education vice chairman Mark Upchurch was chosen by the North Carolina School Boards Association (NCSBA) to serve on the NCSBA State Board of Directors.

■ **Regional Superintendent of the Year Honor**

Gaston County Schools Superintendent L. Reeves McGlohon was named 2010-2011 Southwest Regional Superintendent of the Year. Eight superintendents in the state are selected for the prestigious state honor.

■ **State Music Educator of the Year**

Ellen Brown, Holbrook choral teacher, received the 2010-2011 State Music Educator of the Year honor from the N.C. Music Educators Association. This is the top honor given to a music teacher in the state.

■ **Teacher Retention Rate Up**

Retaining teachers is important to the academic success of our schools. The GCS teacher retention rate is up this year and it's above the state average.

GCS *Points of Pride* 2010-2011

■ **Community Service Up - True Spirit of Caring and Giving**

GCS students and staff pulled together and showed the true spirit of caring and giving by raising more than \$250,000 for community organizations.

■ **Excellence in Financial Reporting National Awards**

The district received two prestigious national awards for excellence in financial reporting.

■ **Tapped as National Marine JROTC Honor Unit**

The East Gaston High School Marine JROTC program received the distinction of National Honor Unit. The East Gaston program is in the top 10 percent of the JROTC Marine Corps units in the country.

■ **Chosen National Army JROTC Honor Unit of Distinction**

The Hunter Huss High School Army JROTC received the coveted National Honor Unit with Distinction recognition from the U.S. Army.

■ **State and National Communications Awards**

The district's Communications/Public Information Department was honored with 15 state awards and a national Award of Excellence for outstanding publications, excellence in writing, photography.

■ **National Cheerleading Championship**

North Gaston High School won the 2010 Universal Spirit National Cheerleading Championship.

■ **State Scholar-Athlete Teams**

The South Point High School Boy's Tennis Team and the Highland Boy's Golf Team were named the top Scholar-Athlete Teams in the state. Both team had the highest grade point average in the state in their sport.

■ **National Medical and Dental Health Awards**

Gaston County high school students captured prestigious national Medical and Dental Health Awards in the finals of the Health Occupation Students of America competition. Only the top state winners in the United States were eligible to participate in the national finals.

■ **SMART Board Technology Campaign Huge Success**

The district has raised more than three million dollars of the four million needed to place SMART Board technology in every GCS classroom.

GCS *Points of Pride* 2010-2011

■ **Annual Science and Technology Fair Huge Success**

GCS conducted the third annual Regional Science and Technology Fair with some 85 outstanding entries from GCS high schools. The winners advanced to the state Science and Technology Fair and three student groups brought home top awards.

■ **State Championships in Athletics**

High school athletes captured state championships in football, golf, swimming/diving, track and field, and cheerleading.

■ **Regional, State and National Honors in Fine Arts**

GCS earned regional, state and national honors in visual art, chorus, marching and concert band, and theater arts.

Gaston County Schools

Communications/Public Information Department
943 Osceola Street ■ P.O. Box 1397 ■ Gastonia, N.C., 28054
704-866-6118
Education Station: 21 ■ www.gaston.k12.nc.us