



Guilford Education Alliance Newsletter

March 9, 2011

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Upcoming Events

For additional events, access our online [calendar of events](#)

Monday, March 14:

Board of Education Community Forum; 6:30pm; Smith High School auditorium; The Board will discuss and receive feedback on a proposed multi-tier bus transportation program for Guilford County Schools. For more information about the multi-tier bus scheduling options, go to <http://www.gcsnc.com/transportation/multitier.htm>

Tuesday, March 15:

Board of Education Community Forum; 6:30pm; High Point Central High School auditorium; The Board will discuss and receive feedback on a proposed multi-tier bus transportation program for Guilford County Schools. For more information about the multi-tier bus scheduling options, go to <http://www.gcsnc.com/transportation/multitier.htm>

Tuesday, March 15:

Children's Advocacy Day; Times TBD; NC General Assembly; Health insurance, child care subsidies, juvenile justice funding, infant mortality prevention and more are all under threat this session. We need YOU to come out in support of the programs and services that protect our children's health and safety every day. More information soon, or contact mandy@ncchild.org or call 919-834-6623 x233

Thursday, March 17:

Dear Jennifer,



On Stage tickets are on sale now!! Click the logo to go to our website to order your reserve seats today!

"Like" [Guilford Education Alliance on Facebook](#) and Win!

"Like Us" by March 31 and you'll be entered into a drawing for two free tickets to On Stage! Simply click on the link below (or above!) to go directly to our Facebook page and "Like" us. It's an easy way to show your support and to get the latest news and information about upcoming events.

[Find us on Facebook](#)

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[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

Public Pleas for Education

Parents, teachers and principals asked legislators to spare school funding at a public hearing Monday.

Public school employees and supporters turned out in the highest numbers to say more cuts would hurt classrooms. Parents who sent children to the preschool program More at Four told legislators it was invaluable in preparing their children for elementary school.

The hearing was called by lawmakers charged with taking a chunk out of the state education budget. They have been told to cut about \$300 million from this year's budget for K-12 public education, community colleges and state universities. The lawmakers will consider combining or

Groundbreakers Update Meeting; 5:30 - 7:30pm; Empire Room, hosted by Action Greensboro; Join us for a community conversation about the Downtown Greenway, supporting public education and creating a Downtown University District. Contact info@actiongreensboro.org for more information.

Tuesday, March 22:

ADD/ADHD Parent Group; 6:30 - 8:30pm; Trinity Church, 5200 W. Friendly Avenue, Greensboro; "Myths, Misconceptions and Quick Fixes: What Research TELLS Us About Managing ADHD." Ccontact monica@fsncc.org or call 334.5601 x217.

Thursday, April 7:

Wrightslaw Conference; 8:00am - 4:30pm; Westover Church, Greensboro; The Wrightslaw special education law and advocacy conference will focus on four areas: Special education law, rights and responsibilities, Tests and measurements to measure progress & regression, SMART IEP's, and Introduction to tactic & strategies for effective advocacy. For registration, cost infomration contact Connie Bruffey at 336-605-4654 cbruffey2@bellsouth.net. Deadline to register is March 24th.

Thursday, April 14:

On Stage!; 7:00 pm; War Memorial Auditorium; tickets available for \$20; Guilford Education Alliance will showcase local Guilford County Schools student talent in this production! Click [here](#) or contact GEA@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org for more information.



Attention all Middle School Students!!!

"An Ode to my Mom"

Are you looking for a great opportunity to tell your mother how much you love her and appreciate everything she does? Write a 1-page essay and you could win dinner for you and your mom!

Submit your essay to Youth First by Tuesday, April 26. Make sure to include your name and contact information.

Youth First
3910 Clifton Road
Greensboro NC 27407
373-2934 for more information

eliminating Smart Start and More at Four, capping university enrollment and paying teachers based on performance. [Read more...](#)

Bill on Charter Schools Revised

A rewritten proposal for eliminating the charter school cap would limit how quickly the state could add new schools and would no longer require that traditional schools hand over their booster club money to charters. But the changes did not fully satisfy House Democrats, who said the bill needs more work.

A legislative effort to eliminate the 100-charter limit has sparked a fight over something most people say they want - more charter schools. [Read more...](#)

Democrats Propose Alternative to Charter Schools Dereg Bill

State House members and an array of education officials from across the state - including state Superintendent June Atkinson - promoted an alternative to [the charter school deregulation bill that has passed the Senate](#) in a press event this afternoon.

[Read more...](#)

Andrews High May Become Title 1 School

GUILFORD COUNTY - T.W. Andrews High School could join the list of Title I schools next year if the Guilford County Board of Education approves.

The district can apply for the federal assistance that goes to needy schools because Andrews High has reached the threshold of 75 percent of students qualifying for free and reduced-price meals. [Read more...](#)

Decision on School Construction Delay Postponed

GREENSBORO - The Guilford County Board of Commissioners has placed discussion of halting 2008 bond projects on the back burner until members get a proposed budget and hear from members of the public. [Read more...](#)

More Forums Scheduled on GCS Busing Proposal

GREENSBORO - The Guilford County Board of Education will hold two additional community forums on March 14 and March 15 to discuss and receive feedback on a proposed multi-tier bus transportation program. [Read more](#)



PENC (Professional Educators of North Carolina), a professional association that serves as *THE Voice* for educators in policy-making, the forum for developing professional relationships and the advocate for improving the learning environment for every educator and student, is currently accepting electronic entries for its 5th annual Young Artists Competition. The goal of this project is to highlight the hard work of North Carolina's visual art teachers and their students.

For more information, [click here](#).



The Teacher Supply Warehouse is open for shopping! New hours for the 2010-11 school year are 2:30-5:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. Now Guilford County Schools teachers can register to shop one of three days per week.

To donate materials to Guilford County Schools Teachers visit the Teacher Supply Warehouse

[Click here to learn more](#)

NC School Dropout Rate Hits Record Low

RALEIGH - A record-low number of students dropped out of North Carolina schools last school year, according to a Thursday announcement by the N. C. Department of Public Instruction.

The annual dropout rate decreased from 4.27 percent in 2008-09 to 3.75 percent during the 2009-10 school year. Guilford County Schools reported a dropout rate of 2.81 percent, down from 3.13 percent the previous year. [Click here](#) to read more...

Senate Agrees to Drop School Tests

RALEIGH -- The state Senate followed the House on Thursday in passing a bill that would drop four standardized tests for high school students.

The House had approved the measure last month, 94-13. It had bipartisan support in the Senate with a 44-5 vote Thursday before winning final approval on a voice vote.

Under the bill, high schools would no longer give four end-of-course tests in U.S. history, civics and economics, Algebra II and physical science. [Read more...](#)

Flexibility Urged in U.S. Education

WASHINGTON -- Saying the current rules on school are failing children, U. S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan and a group of Democratic senators led by U.S. Sen. Kay Hagan plan to introduce a set of education reforms that would move away from rigid testing and toward flexibility for local school districts.

Congress is four years overdue for reauthorizing the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, known as ESEA, which offers a slate of regulations and funding for K-12 education. [Read more...](#)



Guilford Education Alliance is once again the proud sponsor of the On Stage! Student Talent Showcase starring over 600 Guilford County student performers! If you're looking for a fun night out while supporting the arts and local students, this is one event you won't want to miss!

In addition to watching dazzling student performances, you'll see four-time GRAMMY® Award winning tenor and High Point Central High School graduate [Anthony Dean Griffey](#) perform with students during the grand finale!

Mr. Griffey is also serving as this year's Honorary Chair of On Stage!

On Stage! will be held April 14 at 7:00 p.m. at War Memorial Auditorium. Tickets are on sale now for just \$20 and may be purchased on our [website](#) at [Ticketmaster.com](#) or by phone at 1-800-745-3000. Tickets are also available at the Coliseum Box Office.

All tickets are for reserved seating, so get your tickets early for the best seats.

A portion of On Stage! ticket sales will directly benefit GCS arts education programs. It's also the major fundraising event for Guilford Education Alliance.

If you're interested in sponsoring the event or volunteering the day of the event, please contact our office at 336-841-4332 or GEA@GuilfordEducationAlliance.org.

[Click here to learn more](#)

Support Guilford Education Alliance

Guilford Education Alliance is dependent on donations from the community for its operating expenses. Please consider making a donation to support our initiatives and work to promote quality education in Guilford County.

Together, we can motivate our entire community to promote and support education for our students and our future.

[Click here to donate](#)

How Teacher Development Could Revolutionize Our Schools

As the nation's governors gather in Washington for their annual meeting, they are grappling with more than state budget deficits. They're confronting deep education deficits as well.

Over the past four decades, the per-student cost of running our K-12 schools has more than doubled, while our student achievement has remained virtually flat. Meanwhile, other countries have raced ahead. The same pattern holds for higher education. Spending has climbed, but our percentage of college graduates has dropped compared with other countries. [Read more...](#)

New Vanderbilt Study Shows Strong Gains by Kids Who Attend Pre-Kindergarten

NASHVILLE -- A new Vanderbilt University study found that children who attended Tennessee's public prekindergarten gained an average of 82 percent more on early literacy and math skills than comparable children who did not attend.

The study released Thursday by Vanderbilt's Peabody Research Institute compared the performance of 303 children -- pupils randomly admitted to state-funded pre-K classes in 23 schools and others who applied but were not admitted due to space limits. [Read more...](#)

Wake Cannot Use Subsidized-Lunch Data

RALEIGH -- A federal agency says Wake County can't use subsidized-lunch data to determine which schools students attend.

That revelation could dim hopes for those who want to return to the county's old student-assignment policy, which relied on socioeconomic factors to balance enrollment. Wake had used data on students who get free and reduced-price lunches for more than decade to develop student assignment plans. [Read more...](#)

Bernanke for Early Childhood Education

Traditionally, Federal Reserve chairmen have generally avoided wading into fiscal policy matters, in order to help preserve the independence of the Fed. The Fed, after all, sets monetary policy, and it doesn't want politicians sticking their noses into interest rates either. [Read more...](#)

Today there are over 130 projects for Guilford County classrooms listed on



This is Zeus. Zeus loves any reason to celebrate. For his 3rd birthday, he's going to party *and* give back, thanks to DonorsChoose.org [Celebrations](#).

We're launching [Celebrations](#) today so that you can **help classrooms as part of any special occasion** - birthdays, weddings, bar and bat mitzvahs, and of course your pet's birthday.

Want to follow Zeus' lead? It takes 60 seconds to [create a Giving Page](#) for the celebration of your choice. Then, add your favorite classroom projects, and ask friends and family to support those projects in lieu of gifts.

We look forward to celebrating with you!

Our Pacesetter Sponsors

American Express
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Duke Energy Corporation
Greensboro Grasshoppers
Hillsdale Fund
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The News & Record
Weaver Foundation

Please join in thanking them for their support

To become a sponsor of the Guilford Education Alliance, visit www.GuilfordEducationAlliance.org/support/index.php

NAEP 2009 Science Assessment

The Trial Urban District Assessment (TUDA) Science 2009 describes results from the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) in science for 17 participating urban districts from across the U.S. Representative samples, of between 900 and 2,200 fourth- and eighth-grade public school students, were assessed in each of the districts. Among the results:

- At grade 4, the average scores in large cities overall and 14 of the 17 districts were lower than the average score for the nation. Scores for Austin, Charlotte, and Jefferson County [KY] were not significantly different from the score for the nation.
- At grade 8, the average scores in large cities overall and 16 of the 17 districts were lower than the average score for the nation. Austin's score was not significantly different from the score for the nation.
- Four of the 17 districts -- Austin, Charlotte, Jefferson County, and Miami-Dade -- had higher scores at both grades than large cities nationally. Boston and San Diego had higher scores at grade 4, while Houston had a higher score at grade 8. Eight of the 17 districts had lower scores at both grades than large cities nationally.
- There was also good news related to the performance of some racial/ethnic groups in several districts.

NAEP is administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), part of the Institute of Education Sciences (IES). TUDA reading and math results were released last year. The science framework was recently updated to incorporate new advances in science, research on science learning, and components from international science assessments, so 2009 results cannot be compared to those from previous years. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE GO TO http://nationsreportcard.gov/science_2009/. (Note: Secretary Duncan's statement on the TUDA results, noting students in cities are further behind in science than reading and math, is available at <http://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/statement-us-education-secretary-duncan-nations-report-card-trial-urban-district>.)

Bipartisan Group Backs Common School Curriculum

A bipartisan group of educators and business and labor leaders announced on Monday their support for a common curriculum that states could adopt for public schools across the nation.

The proposal, if it gains traction, would go beyond the common academic standards in English and mathematics that about 40 states adopted last year, by providing specific guidelines for schools and teachers about what should be taught in each grade. [Read more...](#)

Corporate Education Council

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High Point Community Foundation
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Weaver Foundation
WFMY
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YMCA of Greensboro

Tight Budgets Mean Squeeze In Classrooms

Millions of public school students across the nation are seeing their class sizes swell because of budget cuts and teacher layoffs, undermining a decades-long push by parents, administrators and policy makers to shrink class sizes.

Over the past two years, California, Georgia, Nevada, Ohio, Utah and Wisconsin have loosened legal restrictions on class size. And Idaho and Texas are debating whether to fit more students in classrooms.

[Read more...](#)

Leaders Call for Shared Curriculum Guidelines

Seventy-five respected leaders in education, business, and government issued a call this week to devise shared curriculum guidelines for the new common standards.

The move is notable for finding common ground on a sensitive topic among an ideologically diverse group of thinkers. Signatories include political liberals and conservatives, and those with varying views on controversial education issues such as charter schools, testing policy, and ways to evaluate and compensate teachers. [Read more...](#)

Sincerely,

Guilford Education Alliance

Click [here](#) to learn more about the Corporate Education Council and how you can become involved in education today!

Guilford County Council of PTAs newsletter

[Click here](#) for the most current edition of the newsletter

Grant Opportunities

Kenan Fellowships

Available online beginning December 15

<http://www.ncsu.edu/kenanfellows/>

NCDPI Publications Available Online

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