

# Guilford Education Alliance

## Background Information on the Board of Education Budget Request to the Board of County Commissioners May 2008

The 2008 -2009 Budget request of the Board of Education to the Guilford County Board of Commissioners is for an increase of \$15.8 million in local dollars which addresses **the fixed costs of operating our school system** and addresses the recommendations proposed in the **School Climate Task Force report** that address student safety, and **increases arts/music/PE teachers in elementary grades** by redirecting dollars from leases and fees no longer needed.

Specifically, the request supports the following:

- Increase in locally paid teachers' salaries and benefits to meet those approved by the NC General Assembly for state supported teachers totaling \$5,752,664
- Local funding to support the Enrollment growth of 1,204 students totaling \$2,945,848 (\$2277/child)
- Increase in utilities/energy cost of \$2,415,146
- Increase for maintenance/upkeep of new/renovated school building space of \$473,522
- Increase in risk management costs due to increase in property and pupil accident insurance of \$186,491
- Increase of gas/diesel fuel costs of \$71,066
- School Climate Task Force Recommendations of \$1,668,799:
  - Increase of 5.5 Social Workers and a Social Worker Coordinator
  - Expansion of Positive Behavior Supports to 10 schools
  - Dean of Students for every high school
- Adjustment of classified employee salaries 1.5% to move salary scale toward living wage criteria for total of \$245,156.

The redirection of dollars from the 2007-2008 Budget that will result in:

- 32 Music/Art/PE teachers
- Reinstating Arts Coordinator Position
- Placing Reading Teachers in Middle Schools and High Schools

And the utilization of Student Growth funds to provide:

- Personal email accounts for each student to enhance student/teacher/parent communication
- Testing Coordinators for Middle Schools, freeing School Counselors from this responsibility
- Translation of the Guilford County Schools website into other languages
- Enhanced elementary school science education (hands on science education with Science Kits)
- Expanding teaching Chinese to three additional schools