

George County School District

Superintendent, Wade Whitney, Jr.

Five Year Strategic Plan
February 8, 2022



George County Schools

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Board Members:

Barkley Henderson, President Jessie Ludgood, Vice-President Mike Steede, Secretary Jake Green, Member Christopher Hilbun, Member

MESSAGE FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT AND THE SCHOOL BOARD:

Dear Staff, Students, Families, and Partners of the George County School District,

On behalf of the George County School District - and our five-member School Board - we are pleased to present the *George County School District 5-Year Strategic Plan*. This plan - which has been developed with input from stakeholders and volunteers from across our community - will serve as a necessary blueprint and roadmap for the direction of our school district for not only the next five years, but for many years to come.

The official launch of this 5-Year Strategic Plan provides an exciting new chapter for the George County School District. Our school district strives every single day to become the "absolute best school district in the entire state of Mississippi" - we expect this plan to be the guiding force behind the achievement of this goal.

The George County School District - with input from our five-member School Board and several educational stakeholders - have identified five (5) important areas/goals that will help guide our school district moving forward.

These five goals are as follows:

1 - Academics

<u>GOAL</u>: George County Schools will be an academic powerhouse ranking in the top 10 of all school districts in Mississippi.

2 - Safety

GOAL: George County Schools will provide a safe and secure environment for all district students, staff, and visitors.

3 - Career and Technical Education

<u>GOAL</u>: George County Schools will provide diversified programs which prepare and qualify students for college/career in today's competitive job market.

4 - Infrastructure

<u>GOAL</u>: George County Schools will create connections across campuses to foster relationships, provide equal access to resources and information, and to explore curricular approaches that lead to consistent student learning outcomes.

5 - Facilities

GOAL: George County Schools will provide facilities that meet the needs of our students and staff.

Finally, we strongly believe that the George County School District 5-Year Strategic Plan is the first step in our district becoming the "absolute best school district in the entire state of Mississippi!" Academic excellence - and high-performing student achievement, regardless of the arena - does not happen by accident or chance. To attain the type of success that our district and community deserves, it will take a personal and collective commitment from all stakeholders, focus, dedication, pride, collaboration, and a systemic implementation and execution of a plan. The George County School District 5-Year Strategic Plan is such a plan - the success of this plan ultimately rests on the shoulders of the George County School District, our five-member School Board, and every stakeholder in the George County community.

We thank each of you for your continued support and commitment to the students, staff, and schools of the George County School District.

Regards.

Wade Whitney, Jr.

Superintendent of Education George County School District

Strategy 1: Identify, hire, and retain high quality teachers, leaders, and support staff.					
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible		
The school district will:					
☐ Review and/or revise the district instructional supervision process.	Annually	\$0	Superintendent		
☐ Ensure 100% implementation of the district instructional supervision process to identify strengths and challenges of teachers, leaders, and support staff.	Quarterly	\$0	Superintendent		
Attend, at minimum, two career fairs to recruit teachers and leaders for the district.	Fall and Spring	Travel Expenses	Human Resources Director		
☐ Maintain and grow Teacher Academy for students who are interested in the teaching profession.	Annually	\$80,000	Director of CTE and HS Principal		
☐ Maintain a new teacher mentor program to transition new teachers into the teaching profession.	Monthly	\$1,000	Secondary Curriculum Director		
☐ Continue to utilize GC Leadership Academy to build capacity of existing and potential leaders in the district.	Monthly	\$500	Secondary Curriculum Director		
Develop a support system by which teachers and leaders feel valued and respected by the school district and community.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent		

Strategy 2: Ensure all students are reading on grade level by the end of grade one.				
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible	
The school district will: ☐ Provide professional development for Pre-K-1 reading teachers on the science of teaching reading.	Ongoing	\$15,000	Elementary Curriculum Director/ Elementary Principals	
☐ Implement, with fidelity, the district's instructional supervision program to ensure high quality Tier I instruction in reading grades Pre-K-1.	Ongoing	\$0	Elementary Curriculum Director/ Elementary Principals	
☐ Provide evidenced-based reading interventions which are targeted, intensive, and intentional, for students scoring below grade level on the end-of-year benchmark assessments.	Ongoing	\$250,000	Elementary Curriculum Director/ Elementary Principals	
Strategy 3: All students in grade 3 will meet the requirements of Mi.	ssissippi's Literac	y Based Pro	motion Act.	
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible	
The school district will:				
Provide evidenced-based reading interventions which are targeted, intensive, and intentional for Pre-K-2nd grade students scoring below grade level on end-of-year assessments. Provide reading interventions by certified personnel.	Ongoing	\$450,000	Elementary Curriculum Director/Elementary Principals	
☐ Conduct a yearly review of the alignment of curriculum and instruction from pre-kindergarten through grade three.	Spring, Annually	\$0	Elementary Curriculum Director	
☐ Implement, with fidelity, the district's instructional supervision program to ensure high quality Tier I instruction in reading grades Pre-K-3.	Ongoing	\$0	Elementary Curriculum Director	

Strategy 4: Attendance- Maintain a 95% attendance rate in all schools.				
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible	
The school district will:				
☐ Develop a school attendance priority plan to improve student attendance and inform the community of the importance of school attendance.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent	
Conduct (at minimum) yearly meetings between the school district, attendance officers, and the local court system, to ensure school attendance is a priority.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent	
☐ Develop school attendance incentive programs for students and parents.	Ongoing	\$5,000	Principals	
☐ Develop a school attendance public relations plan.	Ongoing	\$500	Public Relations Coordinator	
Conduct a review of the district's attendance and grading policies and make any needed changes to incentivize school attendance.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent and School Board	

Strategy 5: All students will be proficient and meet growth expectations on all Mississippi state assessments.			
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will:			
☐ Develop a school attendance priority plan to improve student attendance and inform the community of the importance of school attendance for grades 3-12.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent
☐ Implement, with fidelity, the district's instructional supervision program to ensure high quality Tier I instruction in all grades.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent
☐ Provide evidence-based professional development where needed to build teacher capacity.	Ongoing	\$15,000	ElementarySecondary Curriculum Director & Principals
Develop individual, data-based, learning plans for all students scoring below the proficiency level and/or not meeting growth expectations on all state assessments.	Ongoing	\$0	Principals
Provide evidence-based interventions which are targeted, intensive, and intentional for students that are not proficient on benchmark assessments.	Ongoing	\$250,000	Principals
Strategy 6: Increase parent, family, and community stakeholder engage	gement in the l	earning pro	cess.
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will:			
Develop a public relations plan to keep the school district, parents, families, stakeholders, and community informed.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent
☐ Create a public relations position which will be responsible for all public relations activities in the school district.	2023-2024	\$50,000	Superintendent
☐ Develop an internal and external communication plan for the school district that will clearly and consistently communicate with district employees and the community.	Ongoing	\$0	Public Relations Coordinator

Strategy 7: All students graduate college and/or career ready (CCR).				
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible	
The school district will:				
Develop a public relations plan to keep the school district and community informed as to Mississippi's graduation requirements, as well as requirements for students to be college and/or career ready (CCR).	Ongoing	\$0	Public Relations Coordinator	
☐ Implement, with fidelity, the district's instructional supervision program to ensure high quality Tier I instruction in all grades.	Ongoing	\$25,000	Superintendent	
☐ Provide evidence-based professional development where needed to build teacher capacity.	Ongoing	\$1,500	Secondary Curriculum Director	
Develop a plan to communicate with the middle school and elementary school personnel of their role in students meeting graduation requirements and the skills necessary for students to be CCR.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent	
☐ Provide additional ACT testing opportunities for middle and high school students.	Spring annually	\$20,000	Testing Coordinator	
☐ Provide certified ACT training for English, Math, and Science teachers at the middle and high school level.	Ongoing	\$1,500	Secondary Curriculum Director	
☐ Provide ACT workshops for high school students.	Spring each year	\$25,000	Secondary Curriculum Director	

GOAL 2: SAFETY

George County School District will provide a safe and secure environment for all district students, staff, and visitors.

Strategy 1: Increase visibility of the security resource officers.				
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Cost	Person(s) Responsible	
The school district will				
☐ Hire one additional school resource officer (SRO).	Fall 2023	\$50,000	Superintendent	
Perform annual active shooter and emergency training with all applicable teachers, leaders, and support staff (CRASE Training).	Ongoing	\$5,000	School District Chief of Police	
☐ Conduct annual safety and emergency training via NASRO.	Fall 2023	\$10,000	School District Chief of Police	
☐ Purchase bullet proof vests and tactical vest for additional SROs.	Fall 2023	\$4,000	School District Chief of Police	
☐ Purchase rifles for additional SROs.	Fall 2023	\$1,500	School District Chief of Police	
 Purchase additional radios for communication between schools, resource officers, and local authorities. 	Ongoing	\$5,000	School District Chief of Police	
☐ Purchase district SRO vehicles when needed.	Ongoing	\$40,000	School District Chief of Police	
Strategy 2: Provide safety training for students and staff – classroom management	t, security, restraint	training, and	crisis de-escalation.	
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible	
The school district will				
Provide classroom management training as needed for teachers, assistant teachers, and administrators.	Ongoing	\$0	Curriculum Directors	
☐ Provide yearly restraint training for applicable employees.	Ongoing	\$1,000	Positive Behavior Specialist	
☐ Provide yearly de-escalation training for applicable employees.	Ongoing	\$1,000	Positive Behavior Specialist	
☐ Conduct ongoing social emotional learning training for teachers utilizing the state's social-emotional standards.	Ongoing	\$10,000	Social Emotional Coordinator	

GOAL 2: SAFETYGeorge County School District will provide a safe and secure environment for all district students, staff, and visitors.

Strategy 3: Promote the prevention of communicable disease.			
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected	Person(s)
		Costs	Responsible
The school district will			
☐ Provide communicable disease prevention training for applicable employees.	Ongoing	\$3,000	Lead Nurse
☐ Develop an action plan for the prevention and spread of communicable diseases.	Ongoing	\$0	Lead Nurse
☐ Develop a public relations plan to keep the school district and community informed of the importance of prevention and spread of communicable diseases.	Ongoing	\$0	Public Relations Coordinator
Provide adequate equipment to promote the prevention and spread of communicable diseases.	Ongoing	\$50,000	Lead Nurse
Strategy 4: Invest in the technology and security measures nee	ded to provide a sa	ife environn	ient.
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected	Person(s)
		Costs	Responsible
The school district will			
☐ Provide security cameras in all schools.	2022-2023	\$250,000	Director of Operations
☐ Conduct a yearly security threat analysis of all district facilities.	Ongoing	\$0	Director of Operations
☐ Conduct a yearly internet security threat analysis.	Annual	\$0	Technology Director
Strategy 5: Ensure the security and safety of	all district facilitie	2S.	
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected	Person(s)
		Costs	Responsible
The school district will			
☐ Conduct routine and unscheduled campus evaluations to check accessibility and safety protocols for all facilities and campuses.	Ongoing	\$0	Director of Operations
☐ Review, update, and keep current all crisis prevention and response plans.	Ongoing	\$0	Director of Operations
☐ Train all staff members on standard emergency operating procedures.	Ongoing	\$0	Director of Operations

GOAL 3: CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

George County School District will provide diversified programs which prepare and qualify students for college/career in today's competitive job market.

Strategy 1: Increase the Career Technical Education (CTE) enrollment by 2% each year for the next five years.			
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will:			
☐ Actively recruit students for all 2-year programs.	Ongoing	\$0	CTE Director
☐ Provide opportunities for 9 th grade to enroll in select two-year CTE programs.	August 2023 & 2024	\$0	CTE Director
Conduct an evaluation of the high school's master schedule to increase opportunities of enrollment in CTE programs.	Spring, annually	\$0	CTE Director
☐ Continue to conduct middle school student recruitment and campus tours.	Fall & Spring	\$0	CTE Director
☐ Implement 6 th grade student recruitment and campus tours.	Spring, annually	\$0	CTE Director
Research and implement additional credit-bearing electives at the middle school to increase flexibility in the high school master schedule.	Ongoing	\$0	CTE Director
Strategy 2: Add additional Career & Technical Education course	es at George Coun	ty High Sch	ool.
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will:			
☐ Evaluate the allocation of teacher units at each school and reallocate as needed.	Spring	\$0	CTE Director
☐ Evaluate course offerings at the high school to ensure relevance to the current job market and student interests.	Ongoing	\$0	CTE Director
☐ Conduct an annual stakeholder survey to gauge interest in potential new CTE course offerings.	Yearly	\$0	CTE Director

GOAL 3: CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

George County School District will provide diversified programs which prepare and qualify students for college/career in today's competitive job market.

Strategy 3: Increase the focus on CTE student academic performance to become a CTE powerhouse.			
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected	Person(s)
		Costs	Responsible
The school district will			
☐ Conduct annual review of each CTE program and identify growth opportunities.	Ongoing	\$0	CTE Director
☐ Utilize data driven instruction for student performance and growth in each CTE program/class.	Ongoing	\$0	CTE Director
		\$5,000 per	
Continue to identify, hire, and retain high quality personnel.	Ongoing	employee	CTE Director
☐ Conduct annual training of CTE teachers and leaders.	Ongoing	\$6,000 per year	CTE Director
☐ Ensure that all CTE students score at the Silver Level or above on all components of the ACT WorkKeys assessment.	Fall 2023	\$5,600 per year	CTE Director
Strategy 4: Promote, Market, and Re-Energize the Ca	reer Academy app	proach.	
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will:			
☐ Develop a comprehensive plan to implement National Career Academy standards.	2023-2024	\$16,000	CTE Director
☐ Realign academic course offerings and CTE courses.	2023-2024	\$0	CTE Director
☐ Provide exposure and training for internal and external stakeholders.	2023-2024	\$20,000	CTE Director
☐ Develop a public relations plan to promote, market, and re-energize the Career Academy approach.	2024-2025	\$5,000	Public Relations Coordinator

GOAL 4: INFRASTRUCTURE

George County School District will create connections across campuses to foster relationships, provide equal access to resources and information, and to explore curricular approaches that lead to consistent student learning outcomes.

Strategy 1: Ensure the consistent utilization of management systems in all schools and departments in the GCSD.			
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will:			
☐ Identify and evaluate all GCSD management systems.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent
Provide timely, appropriate, and job-specific training for all applicable employees.	Ongoing	\$25,000	Superintendent
☐ Designate a district-level point of contact for all management systems to monitor consistency of all training across schools and departments.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent
Designate a trained point of contact for all management systems specific to each department and/or school.	Ongoing	\$0	Superintendent
Develop a management system point of contact flow chart for each school and department.	Fall 2022	\$0	Superintendent
Strategy 2: Create clear communication channels to ensure collaboration	among all interna	l and extern	al stakeholders.
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will:			
 Develop and implement Professional Learning Communities vertically and horizontally within schools, across disciplines, and across school campuses. 	2023-2024	\$0	Curriculum Directors
Develop a public relations plan to communicate the vision and expectations of the district and all stakeholders.	2023-2024	\$0	Public Relations Coordinator
☐ Utilize, with fidelity, the current district-approved communication systems.	2023-2024	\$0	Superintendent

GOAL 4: INFRASTRUCTURE

George County School District will create connections across campuses to foster relationships, provide equal access to resources and information, and to explore curricular approaches that lead to consistent student learning outcomes.

Strategy 3: Ensure that all schools and departments have current technology which meets the instructional needs of teachers and students. Projected **Action Steps Timeline** Person(s) Responsible **Costs** The school district will... \$0 Technology ☐ Conduct annual technology needs assessment for all schools and departments. Annually Coordinator Develop and implement an instructional device replacement cycle utilizing 2021-\$0 Technology Coordinator federal, state, and local funding. Ongoing Ongoing \$0 Provide training to individuals on implementation and utilization of new Technology Coordinator instructional technology. ☐ Conduct annual review of funding opportunities to invest in current and future Ongoing Superintendent \$0 instructional technology. Strategy 4: Conduct a yearly review of curricular options. **Projected** Person(s) **Action Steps** Timeline Responsible Costs The school district will... Curriculum Ouarterly \$0 Develop a quarterly teacher review team to assess current curriculum and teacher Directors needs. Conduct an annual review of local school data, district data, and the results from Spring \$10,000 Curriculum the annual comprehensive needs assessment to drive curriculum decisions for the Directors upcoming school year. Conduct an annual budget meeting with the Business Department and Federal Chief Financial Spring As needed Programs Department to review curriculum needs and allocations. Officer and Federal **Programs** Department

GOAL 5: FACILITIES

George County School District will provide facilities that will meet the needs of our students and staff.

Strategy 1: Develop a district facilities improvement plan.			
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will: ☐ Develop a team of internal and external stakeholders from each school and	2022-2023	\$0	Superintendent
community to assess and prioritize the facility needs at each school. Develop a plan of action, utilizing the information compiled from the facility	2022-2023	\$0	Superintendent
stakeholder meetings. Implement the facilities plan of action based on funding availability.	2022-2023	\$0	Superintendent
Strategy 2: Research potential funding sources for	needed improvem	ents.	
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will: Identify all available funding sources which can be used to improve district facilities.	Annually	\$0	Chief Financial Officer
Develop a team to research, analyze, evaluate, and create a plan to utilize all available funding sources and options for improvements to all district facilities.	Annually	\$0	Superintendent
☐ Present a facilities improvement financial plan to stakeholders for feedback and to the school board for approval.	Annually	\$0	Superintendent
Strategy 3: Ensure equitable improvements among cal	mpuses and depar	tments.	
Action Steps	Timeline	Projected Costs	Person(s) Responsible
The school district will: □ Evaluate the needs of all facilities. □ Prioritize facility improvements based upon the following: □ Safety Needs □ Equitable needs for each facility	Ongoing Ongoing	As needed As needed	Director of Logistics Superintendent
☐ Funding availability ☐ Ensure all facilities are in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.	Ongoing	As needed	Director of Maintenance

DEFINITION OF TERMS

<u>Tier 1 Instruction</u>: Tier 1 instruction is a teaching method where instructions and assignments are created with varying levels to be attainable by all students.

<u>Tier 2 Instruction</u>: Tier 2 instruction is designed for students that are not making progress during core curriculum lessons. These students need supplemental research-based instruction in a small group setting.

<u>Tier 3 Instruction</u>: Tier 3 instruction involves intensive intervention and is provided in a smaller-group setting of one to three students or more frequently than in targeted instruction to meet the individual needs of students.

Evidence-based intervention: Evidence-based intervention refers to any concept or intervention strategy that is derived from or informed by objective evidence—most commonly, educational research or metrics of school, teacher, and student performance.

NASRO Training (National Association of School Resource Officers): NASRO training is designed for law enforcement officers and school safety professionals working in an educational environment and with school administrators.

<u>CRASE Training (Civilian Response to Active Shooter Events</u>): CRASE training provides strategies, guidance, and a proven plan for surviving an active shooter event.

<u>Workkeys Assessment Silver Level:</u> The Work Keys Assessment is an assessment-based credential issued at four levels; Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze. It measures and certifies the essential work skills needed for success in jobs across industries and occupations.

<u>Career Academy:</u> Career academies are designed to prepare students for both college and careers. They are schools within schools that link students with peers, teachers, and community partners in a structured environment that fosters academic success.

Internal Stakeholders: Internal stakeholders are those who are committed to serving your organization as current board members and/or employees.

External Stakeholders: External stakeholders are those who are impacted by your organization as parents/guardians, constituents, community members, and others.

<u>Vertical Meetings</u>: Vertical meetings refer to meetings of teams of teachers and administrators across multiple grade levels (Example: 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade planning meetings).

Horizontal meetings: Horizontal meetings refer to meetings of teams and administrators at one particular grade level (Example: 5th grade Math, and Science planning meetings).

<u>Comprehensive Needs Assessment</u>: A comprehensive needs assessment is a systematic process for determining and addressing needs, or gaps in individual student achievement.

Americans with Disabilities Act: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities and guarantees that they have equal opportunity to participate in mainstream American life. Passed in 1990, this federal law made it illegal to discriminate against disabled persons in terms of employment opportunities, access to transportation, public accommodations, communications, and government activities.