

CEO/Superintendent J. Alvin Wilbanks on the Gwinnett County Board of Education’s move to place SPLOST III on the November 7, 2006 ballot...

“Gwinnett County Public Schools’ proactive approach to managing growth and maximizing resources has allowed the school system to provide more than was promised with the SPLOST for schools. However, we continue to add thousands of students each school year, resulting in a continued need for classrooms.

“Tonight’s action by the Board of Education— approval of the resolution calling for the sales tax extension— is the first step to ensuring we will continue to have the resources we need to provide critically needed classrooms for students. We are asking voters to allow us to continue to use the sales tax to do the things that are so important to keeping Gwinnett’s schools strong and successful for our students.

“The Board and I believe the best way to fund classroom construction is through continued use of the SPLOST. With SPLOST III, we intend to build almost 2,000 needed classrooms in 27 new schools and numerous additions. We also will continue to make technology advancements to support instruction, buy land for future schools, and make needed improvements to existing schools throughout the county.

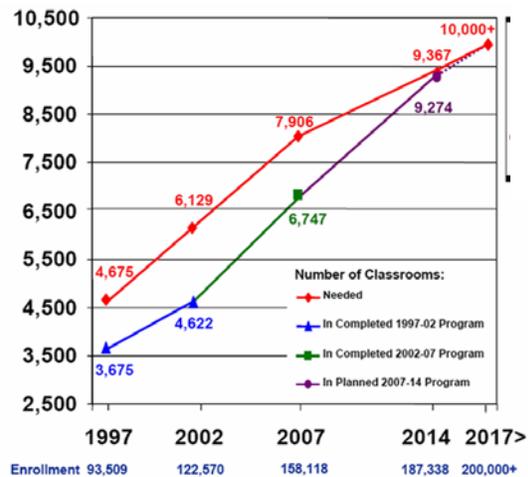
“Moving forward, we will work diligently to raise community awareness of the continuing need for classrooms and technology and “The Plan” for delivering much-needed relief for our students.”

-- J. Alvin Wilbanks, CEO/Superintendent, Gwinnett County Public Schools

Classrooms Needs and Building Plans

The Need—GCPS’ Growing Enrollment

Year	Enrollment	Classrooms Available
1997	93,509	3,675
2007	158,118	6,747
2017	200,000+	10,000+



Success of SPLOST I and II (1997-2007)

- More than 3,000 classrooms provided for students
- Classrooms for more than 70,000 students
- 30 new schools by 2007
- Systemwide technology for teaching and learning

SPLOST III—The Need

- Quality schools are one of the major reasons people choose to live and operate businesses in Gwinnett County, so growth will continue to be a good challenge.
- SPLOST helps GCPS maintain its high standards and meet the public’s expectations by continuing to provide classrooms and technology for teaching and learning.
- “The Plan” is the system’s roadmap for bringing the system’s classroom needs in check by 2014.
- Classroom and technology needs are great and continue to grow. “The Plan” calls for system leaders to look beyond the funding provided by a five-year sales tax extension.
- The projects outlined in “The Plan” are dependent on voters approving the extension of the SPLOST.
- Information on “The Plan” and on the system’s classroom needs will be available on the school system’s Web site (www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us), GCPS-TV, and at meetings in the coming weeks and months.