

A stewardship report from the Gwinnett County Board of Education

Phase I and Phase II of The Plan

For every taxable dollar spent in Gwinnett, a penny goes toward building schools and classrooms for children. Gwinnett County Public Schools began collecting a penny in sales tax to benefit schools on July 1, 1997, and since then, the sales tax has been put to good use, providing much-needed classrooms for students as promised. From 1997 to 2002, the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax, called SPLOST I, provided 947 classrooms built in seven new schools and 25 school additions. SPLOST II was overwhelmingly approved by voters in November of 2001. As a result of SPLOST II and a combination of other funding sources, the 2002–07 building program, provided more than 2,000 classrooms. SPLOST III, the current SPLOST, was approved by voters in November of 2006. SPLOST III, coupled with a bond program approved by voters in 2008, provided the funding to complete Phases I and II of “The Plan,” the district’s long range plan for addressing classroom and technology needs.

Schools Built in Phase I of The Plan...

New Schools

- Mulberry ES
- Patrick ES
- Lovin ES
- Trip ES
- Puckett’s Mill ES
- White Oak ES
- Lanier MS (replacement)
- Rosebud ES
- Benefield ES (replacement)
- North Gwinnett MS
- Archer HS
- Mountain View HS
- Twin Rivers MS
- Bay Creek MS
- Couch MS
- Woodward Mill ES
- Dyer ES (replacement)
- Starling ES
- Lanier HS

Additions at Existing Schools

- Knight ES
- Crews MS



Delivering on Phase II of The Plan...

New Schools

- Jenkins ES
- Burnette ES
- Ferguson ES
- Roberts ES
- Grace Snell MS
- Anderson-Livsey ES
- Gwinnett School of Mathematics, Science
- and Technology
- Moore MS

Additions at Existing Schools

- Radloff MS
- Shiloh HS
- Shiloh MS
- Meadowcreek HS
- Sugar Hill ES
- Chesney ES
- South Gwinnett HS
- Norcross ES



Besides classrooms, Phases I and II included...

- The purchase of **land for future school sites**.
- **A wide range of furniture and equipment**— from desks and chairs, to projectors and laboratory supplies.
- **Technology enhancements throughout the school system.** Computers were certainly a focus of the district's technology improvements. However, more than just buying computers, our district expanded its networking and infrastructure capabilities, increasing access to online learning tools for students and teachers.

Accountable to the Community...

Gwinnett citizens have consistently supported critical school funding initiatives, including multiple bond and sales tax referenda. The taxpayers' trust in the school system has been well-placed, based on findings from external audits of GCPS' building programs. In recent audits, MGT of America commended GCPS on the management of its construction program. MGT found GCPS in full compliance in all areas audited, noting that the school system effectively has met its SPLOST objectives. GCPS also was commended for implementing processes that resulted in lower construction costs than those in neighboring counties.

Looking Ahead...

Over the past two decades, Gwinnett County Public Schools has continued to be a school system of choice. "The Plan" for the 2007–14 building program helped ensure that remained the case, providing the classrooms and technology that parents and citizens expect as part of a quality and effective education.

The current SPLOST for schools, SPLOST III, will expire June 30, 2012. Recently, the Gwinnett County Board of Education approved asking voters to keep the one-cent SPLOST for another five years. The extension of the current SPLOST will appear on the November 8, 2011, ballot. Key facts regarding SPLOST IV:

- Anticipated revenue of \$876 million (By law, Buford will get \$17.1 million based on their student enrollment, leaving GCPS with \$858.9 million.)
- Projects include 5 new schools, 1 bus facility, and 9 additions and renovations.
- Also included is air conditioning for all middle and high school gyms and all elementary activity buildings, along with all kitchens that currently do not have air conditioning.
- Significant technology upgrades including retrofits for all schools and infrastructure support and digital content to expand the walls of the classroom and make learning more engaging and relevant to today's world.
- Facility improvements to address preventive maintenance that has been postponed due to budget cuts (roofing, painting, carpeting, etc.)

The next phase of school construction is contingent on voter approval of an extension of the current sales tax for schools. That vote will occur November 8, 2011. For more on SPLOST IV go to www.gwinnett.k12.ga.us.