

2002–07 Building Program

A stewardship report from the Gwinnett County Board of Education

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. The current SPLOST, known as SPLOST II, was overwhelmingly approved by voters in November 2001. As a result of SPLOST II and a combination of other funding sources, the 2002–07 building program, when complete in 2007, will have provided 2,125 classrooms, almost 150 more classrooms than originally promised.

2002-07 Building Program Update...

- **Already occupied— two new high schools, four new middle schools, two replacement middle schools, and 11 new elementary schools.** These 19 new schools opened in 2003 and 2004, marking the most aggressive and impressive building schedules in the school system’s history. All of these projects opened on or ahead of schedule, and within budget.
- **Additions at 28 existing Gwinnett schools** have eased overcrowding in other fast-growing areas across the county.
- **Currently under construction are four more new schools:** the Oakland Meadow School (replacement facility), and three elementary schools that were added to the 2002–07 building program that will be funded through alternative revenue sources (see back page). These additional schools are located in the Dacula Cluster, in the Grayson/Dacula area, and in the Mill Creek Cluster.
- **In August 2006, over 1,600 classrooms will have been built—** more than three-quarters of the 2,000-plus classrooms in the building program.
- **Besides classrooms SPLOST II has funded...**
 - 1) The purchase of **land for 25 future school sites.**
 - 2) **A wide range of furniture and equipment—** from desks and chairs, to projectors and laboratory supplies.
 - 3) **Technology enhancements throughout the school system:**
 - Computers for the increase in students and to replace obsolete technology. (More than 27,000 computers have been purchased with SPLOST II funds.)
 - Wiring upgrades at all schools. (To increase school connectivity, more than 425 miles of copper cabling and more than 30 miles of optical fiber cabling have been installed.)
 - Laptops for all full-time elementary teachers and special education teachers, as well as all teachers at recently constructed schools.



A look at the 2002-2007 building program

New Schools

- Peachtree Ridge HS
- Sycamore ES
- W.J. Cooper ES
- Ivy Creek ES
- J.A. Alford ES
- Corley ES
- Parsons ES
- Duncan Creek ES
- Mill Creek HS
- Frank N. Osborne MS
- Alcova ES
- Margaret Winn Holt ES
- Berkmar MS
- Glenn C. Jones MS
- Level Creek ES
- Louise Radloff MS
- Charlest Brant Chesney ES
- Duluth MS Replacement School
- Trickum MS Replacement School
- Oakland Meadow Replacement School (2007)
- Dacula Area Relief ES (2007)
- Mill Creek Cluster Relief ES (2007)
- Grayson/Dacula Area Relief ES (2007)

Additions at Existing Schools

- Meadowcreek HS
- McConnell MS
- Harbins ES
- Central Gwinnett HS
- Magill ES
- Duluth HS
- Richards MS
- Dacula MS
- Rock Springs ES
- North Gwinnett HS
- Snellville MS
- Jackson ES
- Craig ES
- Chattahoochee ES
- Hopkins ES
- Lilburn ES
- Grayson HS
- Simpson ES
- Walnut Grove ES
- South Gwinnett HS
- Brookwood ES
- Norton ES
- Brookwood HS

- Dacula ES
- Nesbit ES
- Camp Creek ES
- Beaver Ridge ES
- W.J. Cooper ES
- Parkview HS (2007)
- Stripling ES (2007)
- Arcado ES (2007)
- Shiloh HS (2007)
- Dacula HS (2007)
- Knight ES (2007)
- Sycamore ES (2007)
- J.A. Alford ES (2007)
- Corley ES (2007)
- Duncan Creek ES (2007)
- Ivy Creek ES (2007)
- Monarch School (renovation/2007)
- Lawrenceville East (renovation/2007)
- Hooper Renwick/GIVE Center (renovation/2007)

KEY

- Completed as scheduled
- Opening Year



Looking Ahead...

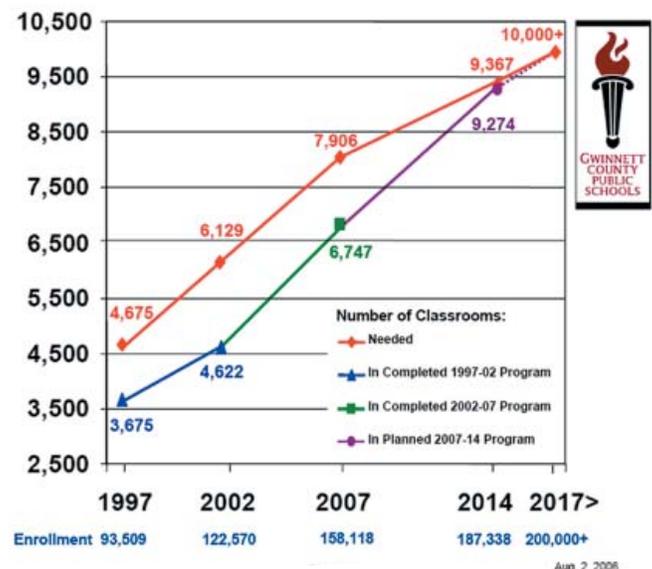
Shortly into the 2002–07 building program, a downturn in the economy resulted in sluggish sales tax collections. Through January 2006, GCPS had collected almost \$614 million for its capital program, only about 70% of what was projected. To fill the funding gap, the system turned to alternative revenue sources—a lease/purchase agreement and a sale-leaseback on the system’s Instructional Support Center—to ensure it could deliver the classrooms promised. Leveraging its history of outstanding financial stewardship, GCPS has continued to raise the funds it needs to deliver classrooms that are critical to the system’s ability to manage growth.

While the promises of SPLOST II have been exceeded, the need for more classrooms continues to be tremendous. By 2011, GCPS will have more than 175,000 students—thousands more than are enrolled today.

The school system will need an extension of the current sales tax (SPLOST III) in order to implement the first phase of construction that will bring classroom needs in check. The system’s long-range building program, called “The Plan” calls for 37 new schools to be built through 2014. The plan also includes a number of additions across the county.

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 will ensure that remains the case, providing the classrooms and technology that parents and citizens expect as part of a quality and effective education. The next five-year building program is a part of “The Plan,” which is outlined on the school system’s Web site. 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 7, 2006.

GCPS Classroom Needs & Building Plans



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