THE REVIEW FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

October 27, 2026
Issue # 4

The latest news, views, and announcements

INSIDE

New School Construction
Summary of work activities on the new Quincy K-8

Keeping the District Connected and Protected
Gadsden County School District Instructional Technology and MIS Department

The observer
The latest happenings in other Support Services Departments



October 23, 2026 Photograph

New School Construction

Information taken from Chris Marshall, Senior Project Manager Weekly Updates
Allstate Construction, Inc. (9/11/26)

Major Milestones

- Began Brick Veneer on Central Utility Plant
- Area A1 and A2 Joist and Deck Delivery

Construction Duration: 699 Calendar Days (66 Remaining Weeks)

Sitework In Progress/Completed: South Parking Lot Grading; Stormwater Piping and Structures; Electrical and Sewer Rough In; Foundation Placement; Masonry Walls; Brick Veneer; and Gun Range Abatement

Keeping the District Connected and Protected

By Dr. Sheantika Wiggins, Director; John Thomas, Network Coordinator; Darlean Youmans, MIS Coordinator

Technology Department Progress Updates:
October work focused on state reporting, student testing, reliable school networks, emergency alerts, and daily technology support.

State Reporting and Student Testing:
We worked on Survey 2 submissions and corrections for student and staff records, along with the Survey 5 final submission and corrections. We tested the new School Environmental Safety Incident Reporting (SESIR) platform, submitted student identification files for Progress Monitoring 2 (PM2) and winter testing, and loaded Progress Monitoring 1 (PM1) and End-of-Course (EOC) testing information.

New K–8 School Planning
We met with Allstate Construction to review network equipment needs. A district engineer is reviewing the drawings to determine the number of network switches needed in each equipment closet. These switches connect devices to the school network. We will meet with Allstate every two weeks to review progress. We are also developing requirements for the new school's phone services.

Gadsden County High School Network Upgrade
We began upgrading GCHS to the Fortinet network system ahead of PM2. The upgrade is intended to improve reliability and help prevent testing interruptions if a fiber line is cut.

Raptor Emergency Alerts and Visitor Check In
On October 20, we completed 911 notification testing through Raptor. Each principal initiated a test "Active Shooter" alert. Local authorities, Saferwatch, and staff with Raptor installed on their devices received the alerts.

We began delivering visitor check-in equipment to schools. Each school will receive a new computer, monitors, and an ID scanner. Staff have access to the web-based Raptor portal according to their responsibilities. Installation is targeted for completion by November 13, 2026.

Daily Technology Support
We supported GTC with technology issues and responded to major technology concerns across the district. Throughout October, we responded to all submitted Helpdesk tickets, support calls, and reported issues.

The Technology Department continues to focus on **infrastructure modernization, system reliability, and instructional support**, while aligning all initiatives with district goals for **safety, efficiency, and student success**. District-wide repair, installation, and ongoing maintenance of gates, doors, and other networked entry devices continue as part of our commitment to safety and operational reliability.

The observer

Gadsden Technical College

By Dr. Willie Jackson, Director of Adult, Career and Technical Education

Student Enrollment: Adult Education: 22, CTE Adults: 99, CTE Dual Enrollment: 24

Funding: Seven (7) of the eight (8) grant applications have been submitted. All award letters except Adult With Disabilities (AWD) have been received. The AWD grant for Florida State Hospital request for application (RFA) was completion and upload in September. The concept and proposal for the Equipment Upgrade and Modernization (EUM) Grant was submitted on August 19th. A request for special funding for capital improvement and to construct a new building was given to Lobbyist Steve Winn in September.

Financial Aid (Pell and Open Door): We are preparing for the second round of financial aid disbursements for the year. Open Door scholarship disbursement has been uploaded to the system and disbursement is scheduled for December. One Hundred percent (100%) of enrolled students received a form of Pell Grant or In-house Scholarship.

Student Success: The Nursing Class of 2026 graduated the largest class (15 nurses) in program history. Thirteen (13 for 13) of the 15 Nursing graduates set and passed the NCLEX on the first try. The last two are awaiting clearance by the Florida Board of Nursing. Ten (10) students have completed the requirement for High School Diploma and are currently enrolled in a CTE program. We are at the 50% mark of the 20 graduates set for the year. There are four students with only one test remaining and five with two tests remaining.

Student with Unique Abilities (Pioneer Program): The new Fundamental of Foodservice Skills program (Culinary) has exceeded the 20% (two students) enrollment rate required for a new program. The program is currently at 80% (eight students) of the targeted five-year rate (10 students). All commercial kitchen equipment has arrived and installation is in progress.

Trades Career Fair & EXPO: GTC partnered with the National Housing Endowment and hosted the Big Bend, Build Fest, Home EXPO, and Skills Day on October 17th from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. The event was a huge success and drew agencies and teams from neighboring communities and counties.

Tiny House Update: We have received numerous inquiries but no written offers with honest money deposit. The house was officially listed with a realtor on October 19th.

Family and Community Engagement
By Cheryl Moody, Coordinator

Community Engagement

- The office of F.A.C.E. participated in the NAACP Get out and Vote Community Event on October 2, 2026. We provided information regarding Half-Cent Sales Tax.
- The office of F.A.C.E. held three Community Meetings providing information about Half-Cent Sales Tax across Gadsden County. The locations included: Quincy Tuesday, September 29th, Greensboro/Chattahoochee Tuesday, October 13th, and Havana Thursday, October 15th.
- The office of F.A.C.E. participated in the Senior Citizens Monthly Luncheon on October 23, 2026, where Superintendent Key provided information on the Half-Cent Sales Tax.
- The office of F.A.C.E. participated in the FSU Health Fair on Saturday, October 17, 2026. We provided information on McKinney-Vento and Volunteering.
- The office of F.A.C.E. participated in West Gadsden's All Pro Dad on October 21, 2026. We encouraged parents and guardians to volunteer and reviewed the application on how to become a volunteer.
- The office of F.A.C.E. invites Gadsden County Schools to participate in Gadsden County Trunk of Treats at Wards Lot on October 31, 2026, from 6pm until.
- The office of F.A.C.E. hosted their collaborative partners breakfast on October 20, 2026. The partners participated in an activity that demonstrated how their community resources are meeting the needs of the children of Gadsden County.
- The office of F.A.C.E. would like to give a shout out to **ALL** the Principals for submitting their Parent and Family Engagement Plans and School Advisory Rosters that has been submitted to the Board for approval.
- The office of F.A.C.E. is preparing ballots for TOY and SREOY voting that will start on Tuesday, October 27, 2026, and continue through October 29, 2026.
- We have had 13 visitors regarding records requests.
- The Office of F.A.C.E. assisted Mrs. Armesto in identifying a deserving scholar at Gadsden County High School to present a gift card and Kindle. The recipient was the student government President.

We now have 73 volunteers who have completed the background screening. That is 19 more volunteers than last month.

Transportation Department
Matthew Bryant, Director

October 6-8, 2026, Matthew Bryant along with other transportation directors attended the Highland LA 28 workshop in Colorado Springs, Colorado to discuss routing logistics and brainstorm ideas as Highland will be sponsoring the 2028 Summer Olympics to be held in Los Angeles.

On October 9, 2026, The Transportation Department assisted with Gadsden County Emergency Management procedures by providing several of our buses and vans to transport families to both Gadsden County High School and West Gadsden Middle during the Hurricane Isaias storm.

The transportation departments welcome four new drivers. All new hires are currently going through their new hire training and will be starting their assigned routes November 2, 2026. The department advertised five drivers' positions during the summer break and will have our fifth driver to start hopefully in November as well. The following drivers that have currently started are listed below.

- Okoye Smith - Westside Driver
- Veranda Peoples - Northside Driver
- Sharaine Williams - Eastside Driver
- Lorenzo Watson - Set to start November 2nd

Saying Goodbye with Love and Gratitude: Ms. Deborah Gail Rittman and Ms. Lucy Wood who have both been employed with GCPS for many years are retiring. They have been a great asset as well as team players to both the department and the school district. We wish them well on their next endeavors.

School Safety
Lieutenant Tiffany Parsons-Buckhalt, Safety Specialist

- Conducted safety & compliance inspections on every school campus and every campus was 100% in compliance.
- Worked with Mr. Thomas to get Raptor 911 alert up and live.
- Conducted a 911 alert system testing with SaferWatch and the Gadsden County 911 dispatch center on October 20, 2026.
- Conducted safety training at George W. Munroe during staff meeting.
- While conducting campus walk through, I discovered safety issues and requested work orders for repairs.
- Held two meetings at Crossroad Academy to assist with threat management cases and safety compliance.

Human Resource Department
Dr. Sonya Jackson, Director

Status of Ongoing Key Departmental Activities/Projects
- Collaborating with OPLS
- Assisted Principals and District office staff in filling vacant positions
- New Hires in the District: September New Hires (10), Deaths (0), Resignations (9), Terminations (0), Retirements (3)
- Assisted MIS in completing Survey 5 and Survey 2
- Office visits for September in the Human Resources Department (101)

Anticipated Activities/Projects for the Subsequent Month
- Preparation for the November Board Meeting (Personnel)
- Verification of vacancies in schools
- Site visits with Principals
- Schedule Union Negotiation Meetings, GCCTA, GESPA.

PICTURES ARE WORTH A 1000 WORDS



Gadsden Technical College Trades Career Fair & EXPO 2026



GTC Expo Bird House Project October 17, 2026



Director Matthew Bryant Completes Level II FSBIT Certification

THE HALF CENT SALES TAX INITIATIVE
Stronger Schools, Stronger Community, Brighter Futures

Examples of What Checking YES Means for Our Schools

- Routine Maintenance of Heating and Air Systems
- Timely Replacement of HVAC Systems
- Better Maintained School and District Facilities
- Modern P.E. Facilities
- Modern Classroom Facilities
- Enhanced School Security and Safety
- Improved Classroom Technology
- Timely Renovations and Repairs

