

MARCH 2026 SUPPORT SERVICES UPDATE



GADSDEN TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Director Dr. Willie Jackson

Vision and strategic planning are the recipe for maintaining effective Adult Career and Technical Education in Gadsden County. No one can do this better for our community than Gadsden County School District and Gadsden Technical College.

GTC is Physically and Financially Sound: We are managing two entitlement grants (PIPELINE and Workforce), six noncompetitive grants (Perkins-2, Adult Education-2, FPCTP-1, and AWD-1), and five state scholars (GATE, ODG, HDGAP, FWEF, and Dual Enrollment).

Staffing: The new data secretary and Adults with Disabilities Coordinator are scheduled to join the team on April 1st. Interviews for the Culinary Arts instructor and paraprofessional are scheduled for May.

Enrollment/Attendance: Adult enrollment and attendance is up due mainly to availability of grants and scholarships.

Scholarships and Grants Disbursement: Pell second semester award was disbursed in January. Open Door, GATE, Dual Enrollment, Honorable Discharge Veteran second semester award disbursement is scheduled for 3-12-26.

Annual Scholarships: It has been recommended to the GTC Advisory Board that GTC offers two annual full scholarships (The Superintendent and Gadsden County Board of Education CTE Scholarship) for qualifying high school graduates to attend GTC. Applicants will be required to submit applications to Ms. Mary Davis for the Superintendent and Board Chairman to considered.

Student Outcomes: Eleven of the 11 Nursing students passed the NCLEX on the first try (100%). Class B Driving Class completion and pass rate is also 100%. Eleven students completed the GED requirements and four have only one test remaining.

Projects: The Tiny House construction is almost Complete. An expected completion date is set for April. The AS Degree classroom renovation is complete.

Applications: AS degree

Operations: The student management system (FOCUS) challenging areas have been reduced to better support student operations. The Assessment Center upgrade is Complete. The Nursing Suite Upgrade is nearing completion.

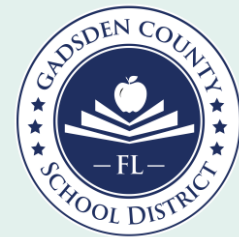
Expansion and Growth: The campus is running out of space to accommodate growth based on the Gadsden Technical College Strategic Plan. Over the next year, GTC will seek funding to build a new 3500 square feet building to house the School of Education

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

March 23, 2026



NEW SCHOOL CONSTRUCTION
CUP Foundation Forms and
Plumbing Rough In



FOR NEW K8 UPDATES VISIT

<https://www.gadsdenschools.org/newk8school>

Earth Work Nearing Completion



Gadsden County School Board Half Cent Sales Tax Initiative

HALF CENT SALES TAX TIMELINE

Month	Activity
October 2025	School Board approves Resolution to place Half Cent Sales Tax Referendum on the November 2026 ballot.
November 2025	District submits approved Resolution to the Board of County Commissioners for approval.
December 2025	County Commissioners approve an Ordinance to place the Half Cent Sales Tax Referendum on the November 2026 ballot.
January 2026	Gadsden County School Board submits the Half Cent Sales Tax Referendum to Florida OPPAGA (Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability). The Ordinance must be submitted to OPPAGA at least 180 days (approximately 6 months) before the referendum is held.
January 2026	OPPAGA assigns an Audit Team to conduct a Financial and Facilities Maintenance Audit.
March-July 2026	The OPPAGA audit team conducts a Financial and Facilities Maintenance Audit and submits a Final Report to the District and OPPAGA.

Office of Program Policy Analysis and Government Accountability (OPPAGA) Audit

OPPAGA has contracted with Ressel & Associates to conduct the performance audit required for the Half Cent Sales Tax initiative scheduled for the November ballot. There are two team members: Betty Ressel and Leslie Cathey. Betty Ressel, a Florida Certified Public Accountant will serve as project director for the performance audit.

Team Member	Assigned Functional Area	Component Functions	
Betty Ressel	Project Director	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary contact with OPPAGA Primary contact with District Coordinate team activities Prepare and submit regular progress updates to OPPAGA Perform quality assurance for all work products and deliverables Compile, publish and submit deliverables in a timely manner Provide presentation or legislative testimony if requested Examine financial statements, budgets, audits, and reports relating to the program areas under review. Examine financial policies and procedures and the strength of internal controls that would impact the District's ability to manage purchasing, competitive bidding, contracting, and contract management activities. 	
	Financial Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess current bonded indebtedness and the District's future plans for bond issuance in conjunction with the planned projects resulting from the proposed surtax, Assess the District's plans and abilities to distribute a portion of the funds to local charter schools. 	
	Instructional Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the District's current infrastructure, hardware, and software capabilities Confirm the proposed use of funds outlined in the Surtax resolution Assess current staffing, performance monitoring and planning efforts. Address the six research tasks required in the ITN relating to this program area Assess district-level support for the program areas under review, including the current organization structure, governance structure, legal services, and administrative staffing 	
	Organization & Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess policies and procedures supporting the program areas under review Assess management and staffing levels throughout the District Assess Board and Administrator plans for monitoring and controlling the use of the Surtax dollars for the intended purposes. 	
	Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the current strategic planning efforts, linkages to budgets, progress monitoring and reporting and linkages to departmental planning efforts Assess the planning efforts that led to the decision that a Surtax was needed. Determine how the strategic planning efforts will be modified if the surtax passes. Assess the District's current facility conditions and the conditions that exist that led to the need for a surtax. Confirm the proposed use of funds outlined in the Surtax resolution 	
	Facilities Use and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess current staffing in terms of numbers and levels of expertise, performance monitoring and planning efforts. Address the six research tasks required in the ITN relating to this program area Conduct case studies of at least three past facility projects and determine the effectiveness of contracting methods, management controls, etc. 	
	Lesli Cathey	Safety & Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess current safety and security efforts as they relate to facilities and any identified weaknesses that will be addressed by the proposed surtax projects. Confirm the proposed use of funds outlined in the Surtax resolution or embedded within the facility projects themselves If applicable, assess current staffing, performance monitoring and planning efforts. Address the six research tasks required in the ITN pertaining to facility-related safety and security. Assess the current and proposed use of portable classrooms districtwide.
		Portable Classroom Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Confirm the proposed use of funds outlined in the Surtax resolution or embedded within the facility projects themselves that pertain to portable classroom use. If applicable, address the six research tasks required in the ITN pertaining to portable classroom use.

GADSDEN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

