

THE REVIEW FROM SUPPORT SERVICES

September 22, 2026,
Issue # 3

The latest news, views, and announcements

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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

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.

TECHNOLOGY SERVICES

New K-8 School Phone System: DMS/Hayes was onsite September 9 to begin discussions and planning for phone services for the new K-8 school.

Old GEMS Equipment & Storage: The department began reviewing technology equipment and other items that need to be moved from the Old GEMS campus. CPA was also evaluated as a possible location for secure storage.

RAPTOR Preparation: Materials needed for the installation of the RAPTOR system were ordered and received. The department is preparing for installation and implementation.

PM1 Testing Support: Technology staff provided districtwide support during PM1 testing to help ensure devices, networks, and technology systems were working properly.

School & Department Support: The department continued providing technology assistance to Gadsden Technical College

MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEMS (MIS)

MIS staff continued working behind the scenes to make sure district and state-required information is accurate and ready for reporting. September activities included:

- Preparing student and staff information for Survey 2.
- Working with Professional Development on the rollout of Vector.
- Planning for the new FSTMP process.
- Working with Human Resources on information related to the teacher salary increase.
- Preparing for the ESE Notification Letter requirement.

The department continues to focus on keeping technology systems working, supporting classroom instruction and testing, protecting district resources, and providing timely assistance to schools and departments.

The observer

Gadsden Technical College

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

Staffing: Only one position is unfilled (Media Technician). Administrators: 5 of 5, Support Staff: 7 of 8, and Instructional Staff: 14 of 14.

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

Funding: Seven (7) of the eight (8) grant applications have been submitted. The Adults with Disabilities grant for Florida State Hospital request for application (RFA) was released and received on September 17th. The RFA completion and upload are scheduled for September 25. 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.

Financial Aid (Pell and Open Door): The first round of financial aid disbursements for the year is completed. 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. Three (3 for 3) of the 15 Nursing graduates set and passed the NCLEX on the first try. Four are scheduled to take the test next week.

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).

Trades Career Fair & EXPO: GTC is partnering with the National Housing Endowment and hosting the Big Bend, Build Fest, Home EXPO, and Skills Day on October 17th from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. Admission is 100% free to the public.

Tiny House Update: The house is not advertised by a realtor but is for sale. We have received numerous inquiries but no written offers with honest money deposit. The house will be advertised by a realtor on October 1st if a written offer isn't received by September 30th.

Congressmen Visit: Senator Corey Simon and Representative Gallop Franklin visited and toured GTC on August 31st.

Family and Community Engagement

By Cheryl Moody, Coordinator

Community Engagement

- The F.A.C.E. are in partnership with the NAACP is invited to participate in the 'Get Out and Vote Community Day' on October 2, 2026, on the Court House Square from 5:00p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

Volunteer Services

- We now have 54 volunteers who have been cleared to volunteer in the schools.

Families in Transition Services

- DOE Self-Certification for compliance for Title IX was completed and provided to Federal programs to ensure that the office is aligned to monitoring metrics.
- We are in the process of conducting McKinney-Vento Program training at schools and for the transportation department to ensure that teachers, staff, bus drivers and bus aides can identify and support students in need of support services.
- We currently have 48 volunteers who have completed the background screening process.
- Mrs. Watkins and Cheryl Moody attended the Quarterly Liaison Meeting for McKinney-Vento.

Truancy & Attendance Compliance Services

- At the end of the first 9 weeks, we will begin scheduling AIT meetings with school-level teams to examine what interventions have been implemented, as well as what steps need to be taken to support students.

Home Education & Virtual Instruction Office

- We are continuing to have students sign up for Home Education, Flex, and PAEC FLVS Franchise. This month, 33 families visited the office to inquire about Home /Virtual Education. There have been **(11)** letters of intent, **(4)** notice of terminations and **(1)** annual evaluation reported. There were also **(1)** Affidavit of completion and **(1)** Student Transitioned to Adult Education.
- We currently have 269 students enrolled in home education. There are 11 students enrolled in Gadsden K-12 education.

Upcoming Event:

- Get Out and Vote Community Day will take place on the Court House Square on Friday, October 2, 2026, from 5:00p.m. until 8:00p.m.
- Title I & Family Community Engagement Parent Night, **Thursday, October 8th** Greensboro Elementary School-Library @ 6:00 pm.

Teacher of the Year & School-Related Employee of the Year Voting – **Tuesday, Oct. 27th - Wednesday, Oct. 28th**

Safe Schools

By Lt. Tiffany Parsons-Buckhalt, School Safety Specialist

- September 8th & 9th I conducted safety & compliance inspections on every school campus.
- Registered administrators and school resource officers for threat management training.
- Ordered safety equipment and distributed the equipment to school campuses.
- Attended Office of Safe School DTMC monthly meeting.
- Conducting safety checks while walking through campuses weekly.
- Attended several school-based threat management team meetings and assisted with threat assessments.
- Will be covering as the safe school officer at GCHS while the assigned SRO is in crisis intervention training September 28th through October 2nd.
- Completed a School Safety Specialist webinar provided by FS3 and OSS.
- While conducting campus walk throughs, I discovered safety issues and requested work orders for repair.
- Conducted threat management assessment team meetings at several schools and assisted with documentation.
- Compiling annual data and certificates for OSS compliance.
- Prepared and executed new Memorandum Of Understandings with the Chief of Gretna and the Chief of Midway.
- Continue to prepare schedules, invoices, and maintain coverage for safe school officers at all school campuses.

Human Resources

By Dr. Sonya Jackson

The Human Resource department collaborates with and assist district schools and departments. In addition, this departments completes FLDOE human resources required certification and professional practices reporting and works closely with the district's Professional Learning department to ensure district employees obtain relevant training. The director is also the District's chief negotiator for GCCTA and GESPA.

Transportation Department

Matthew Bryant, Director

The transportation department will be meeting Highland Electric on September 29th at the Transportation Department from 9am-3pm. Training will be provided to drivers regarding the proper operating procedures and road safety of electric buses. The scheduled launch of the electric buses on routes will take place on the afternoon of September 29th.

SUPPORTING THE HALF CENT SALES TAX INITIATIVE

WILL HELP KEEP OUR DISTRICT FACILITIES SAFE AND WELL-MAINTAINED



HMS



GCHS



CACS



WGMS



GBES



CES

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



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- ❖ **Gadsden County High School Homecoming Parade - October 30, 2026 (Line-up Starts at 3:00 pm)**
- ❖ **Transportation Department:** Florida Transportation Systems will be speaking with Gadsden County's First Responders and Law Enforcement from 1-3pm on the 29th to discuss the safety awareness when it relates to any hazards with electric buses.