New construction and renovation of facilities in Guilford County Schools should provide optimal learning environments that are attractive, safe, and cost effective.
At the completion of two previous bond programs, and while preparing for the upcoming 2008 bond program, the Facilities staff recognized the need for a comprehensive set of facilities standards.
VI.6 Adopt educational specifications, design guidelines and the Guilford Green Guide.

During the 2007-08 school year, the district completed a process involving more than 140 stakeholders to establish educational specifications and design guidelines. These documents will address, among other areas, infrastructure to support security, food service, technology, etc. During the 2008-09 school year, we will encourage the Board of Education to adopt these documents as part of the district’s construction guidelines for building new schools. These standards also will be used for major renovations where feasible and practical.
GCS Facility Design Standards

Facilities Design Standards include:

• Educational Specifications
• Design Guidelines
• Guilford County Schools Green Guide (G3).
Educational Specifications

Definition

Educational Specifications define learning activities and the spaces in which they need to occur, how they are to be configured, both individually and in relation to each other and the desired end result.

Purpose

- Provides a written means of communication between stakeholders and design professionals.
- Articulates educational and community needs and facilities that will support those needs.
- Guides development of facilities that are flexible and dynamic to support evolving programs over time.
- Provides a document to be used to evaluate during the design process.
- Provides a means to achieve consistency in facilities throughout the district.
Educational Specifications

Development

• Process developed and facilitated by Planning Alliance
• Spring of 2008, group of stakeholders participated in planning process to develop vision to serve as foundation for construction and renovation of educational environments in Guilford County Schools.
• Stakeholder group consisted of over 140 educators, administrators, school staff, parents, and community members
• Educators who participated were experts in their respective fields, which brought an indispensable perspective regarding the future of teaching and learning.
• Conducted post-occupancy surveys of recently constructed schools.
• Shared best practices and described optimal learning environments.
• Document is a result of the ideas that were generated during that planning process.
• Educational Specifications presented to the Construction Advisory Committee and recommended changes have been incorporated.
Design Guidelines

Definition

• Design Guidelines define the physical requirements and specific systems necessary to build or renovate schools.

Purpose

• Provides a means to achieve consistency in facilities throughout the district.

• Provides a document to be used to evaluate during the design process.

• Provides consistent systems to maintain.
Development Process

• Compiled data from existing GCS construction guidelines, Department of Public Instruction, and other school districts.

• Conducted collaborative meetings with review panel consisting of design, construction, and maintenance representatives. (approximately 40 participants).

• Draft document created from comments received.

• Reviewed draft document with development committee and Construction Advisory Committee.
Definition
Guilford County Schools is actively encouraging our school designers to implement strategies that will result in school designs that are energy efficient and environmentally sound.

Development
The “Guilford Green Guide (G3)” Energy-Efficient and Environmentally Sound Architectural and Engineering Specifications have been developed for Guilford County Schools, by Innovative Design, Inc.
Access to Documents

Design Standards Link Provided on GCS Facilities Department Webpage

The Facilities Planning and Construction Department of Guilford County Schools provides, coordinates, and maintains space requirements in order to facilitate the learning environment. The department forecasts student population in order to determine adequacy of classroom space. This information is also used by other departments and the school district as whole to plan for the students and staff requirements.

The department provides temporary space solutions in form of mobile classrooms to help ease the overcrowding in some schools. In order to efficiently use the resources available the department coordinates the sharing of facilities and the construction of new facilities. Year round upkeep of the facilities and grounds is one of the key functions of the department.

With the passing of the 2003 school construction bond, the department is charged with coordinating the construction, renovation, and replacement of schools identified in the bond referendum proposal.

To view the construction update video, click here.

Click here to view the Capital Outlay Budget Cut Facts and Figures.
Access to Documents
Construction Plan Review

• At each stage of design, architectural and engineering drawings are compared to GCS Facilities Standards.

• Exceptions are noted and communicated back through the design process for revisions where necessary.
Revisions

- Requests for changes submitted to staff for evaluation.
- On a routine basis, staff reports changes to Facilities Standards to the Construction Advisory Committee.