



# House Select Committee

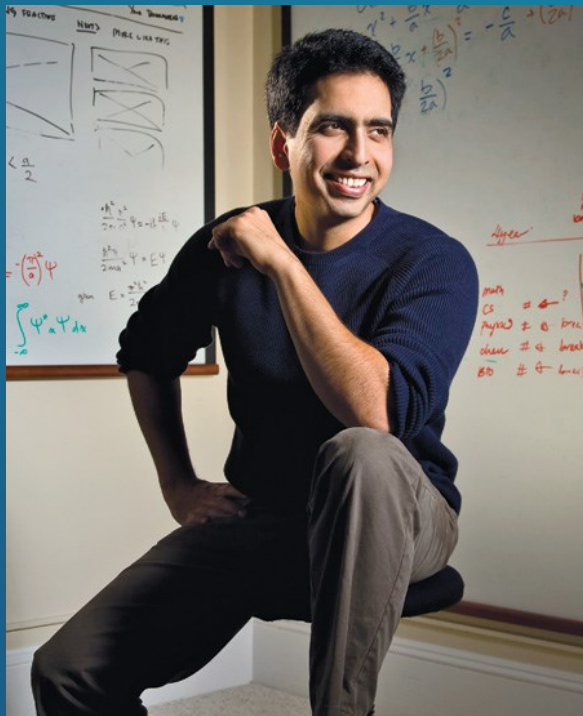
An Education System for North Carolina's Future

*Gaston County Schools*

W. Jeffrey Booker, Superintendent – April 4, 2022

“I’m not telling you  
it’s going to be **easy** -  
I’m telling you it’s  
going to be **worth it.**”

- Art Williams



## Began with one question . . . . .

**“Can you please help me with my homework?”**

## Mission

**Provide a free,  
world-class  
education for  
anyone,  
anywhere.**

# Sal Khan, Founder of Khan Academy

**An innovator who has brilliant ideas, but lacks the discipline and persistence to carry them out is merely a dreamer ...**

*Malcolm Gladwell, David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*

**The vision of  
Gaston County Schools  
is to inspire success and  
a lifetime of learning.**



**Gaston County**

# **Gaston County Schools**

**We are a community of schools  
– with community pride.**

# Gaston County



# Gaston County



# Gaston County Schools



10

North Carolina public school  
enrollment ranking.



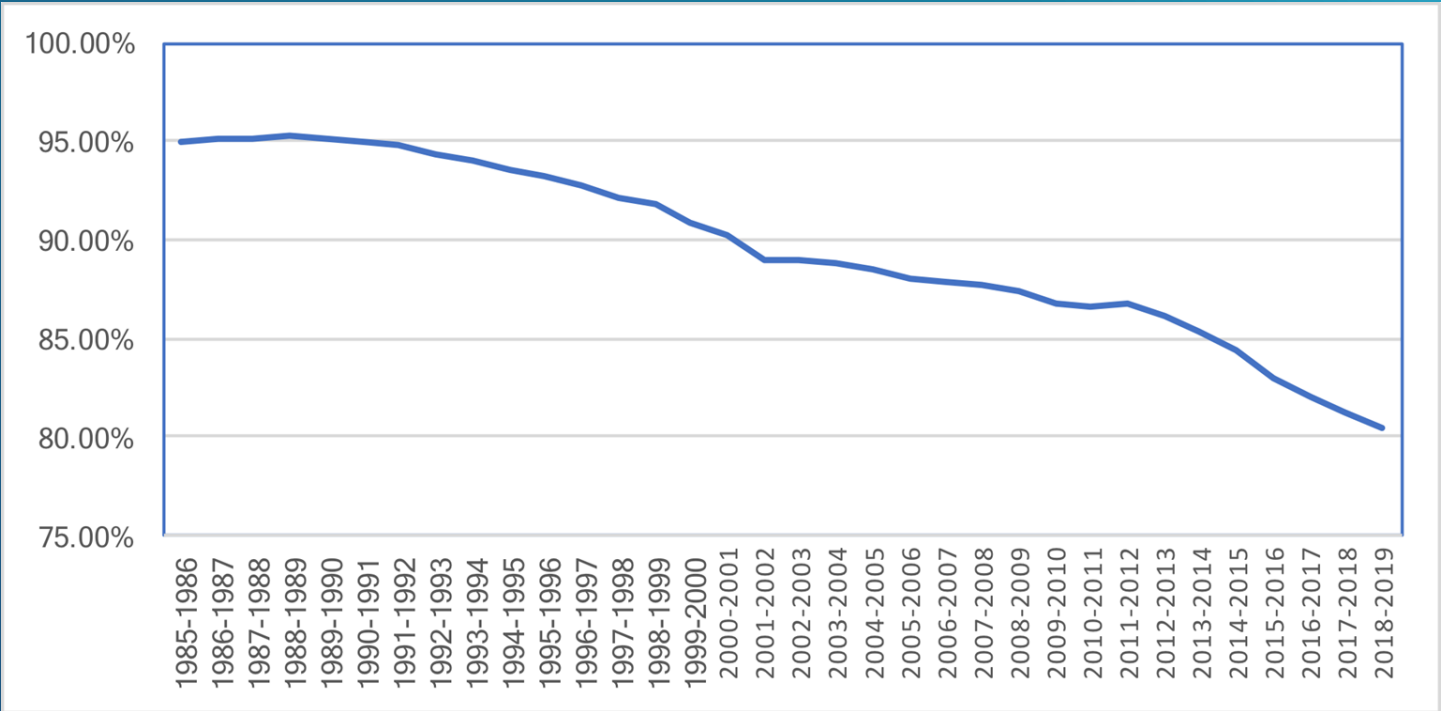
**29,000 Students**



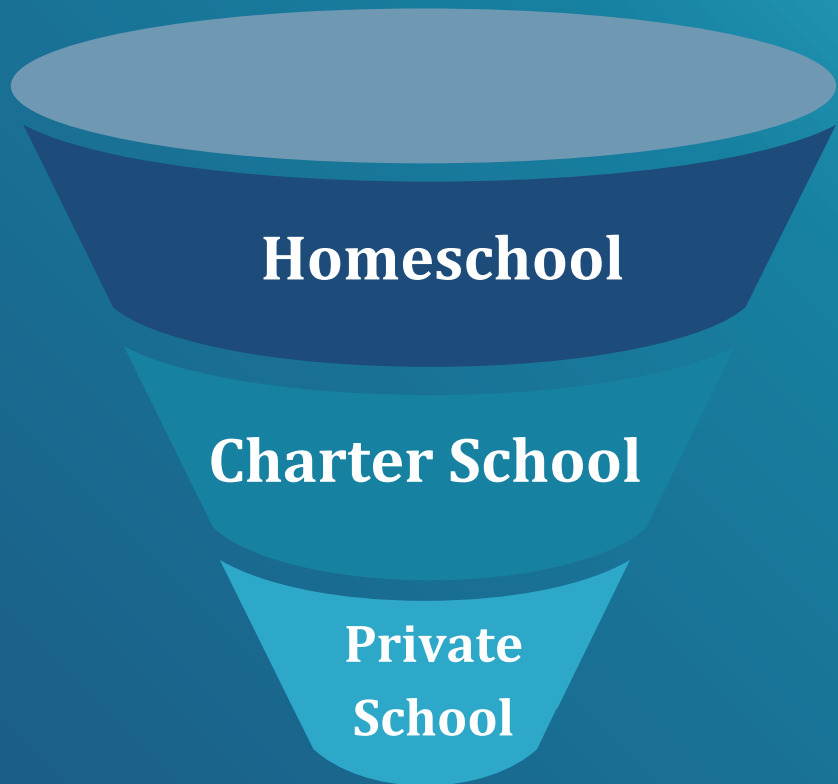
# Evaluate

## Changing Educational Landscape

# Local Education Agency Market Share



# Evaluate



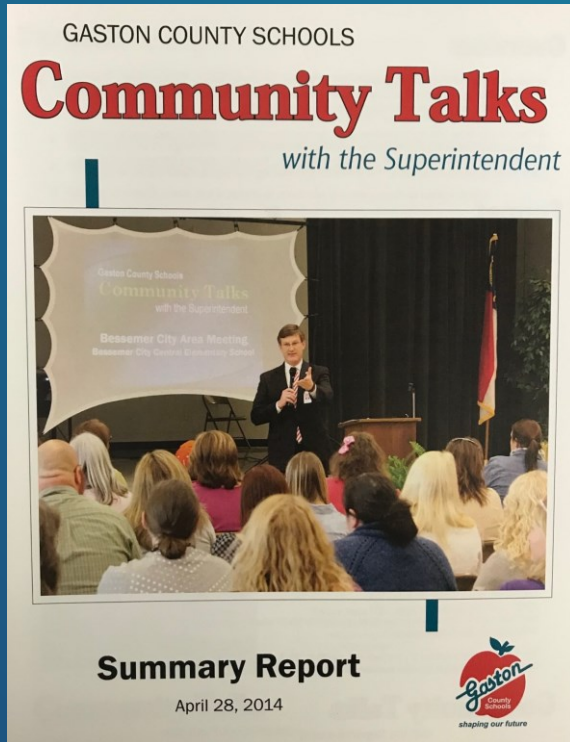
**Where students attend school?**



# Collaborate



# Collaborate



Community  
Talks

Faith Summit

Rotary

Economic  
Development  
Commission

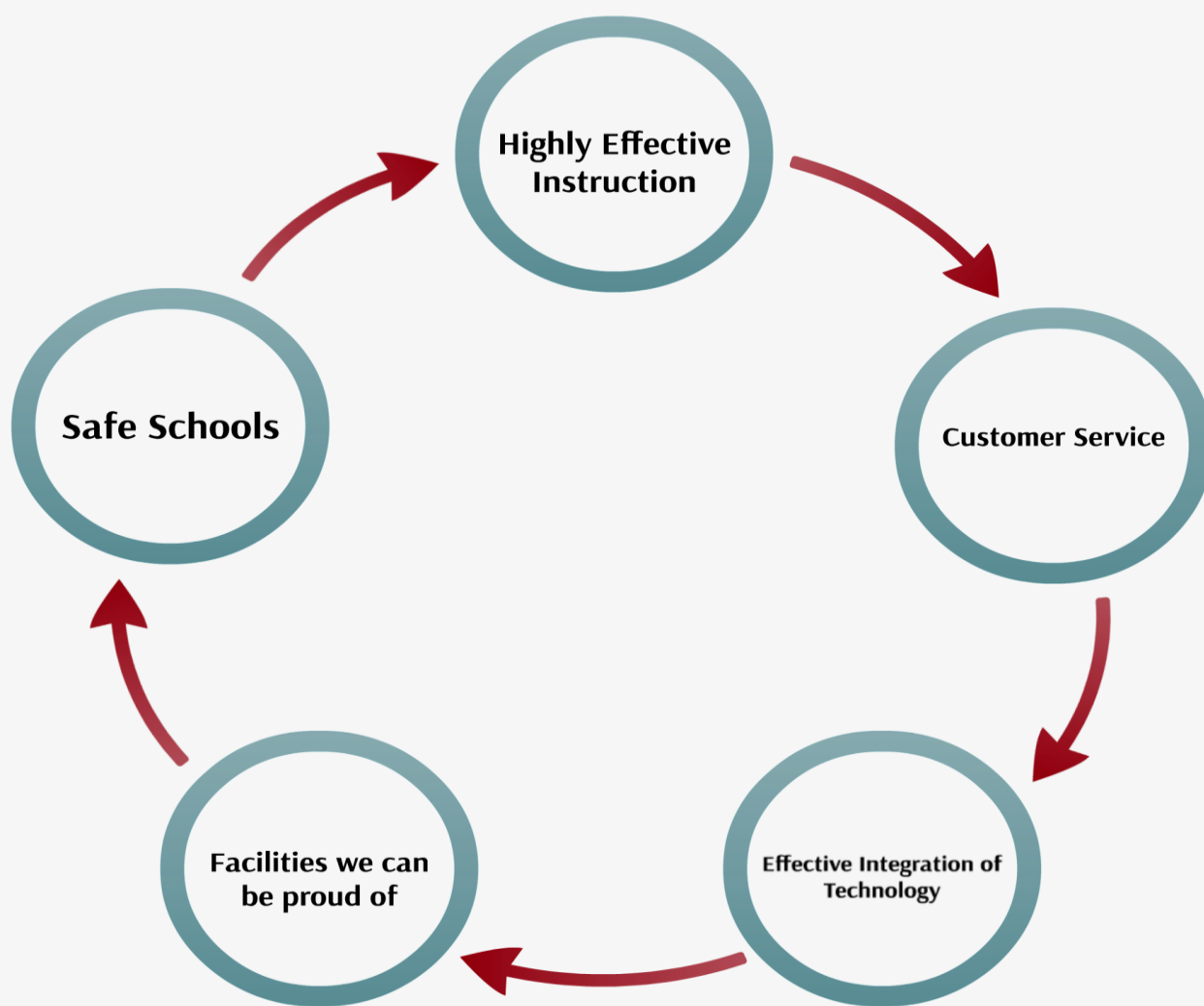


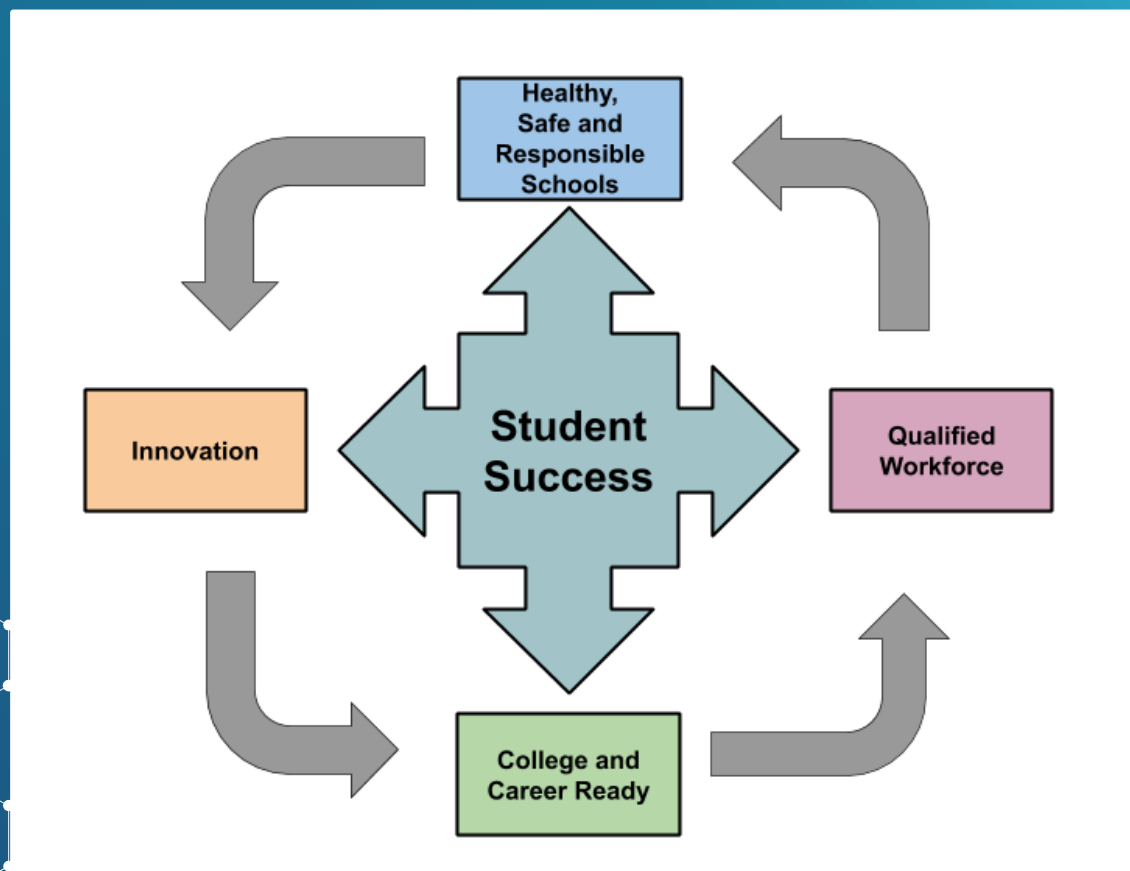
# Vision





## Highly Effective Instruction







# **Innovative Opportunities**



Gaston County Schools  
**Collegiate Prep**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Technology and Industrial  
Engineering**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Health Sciences**  
Academy



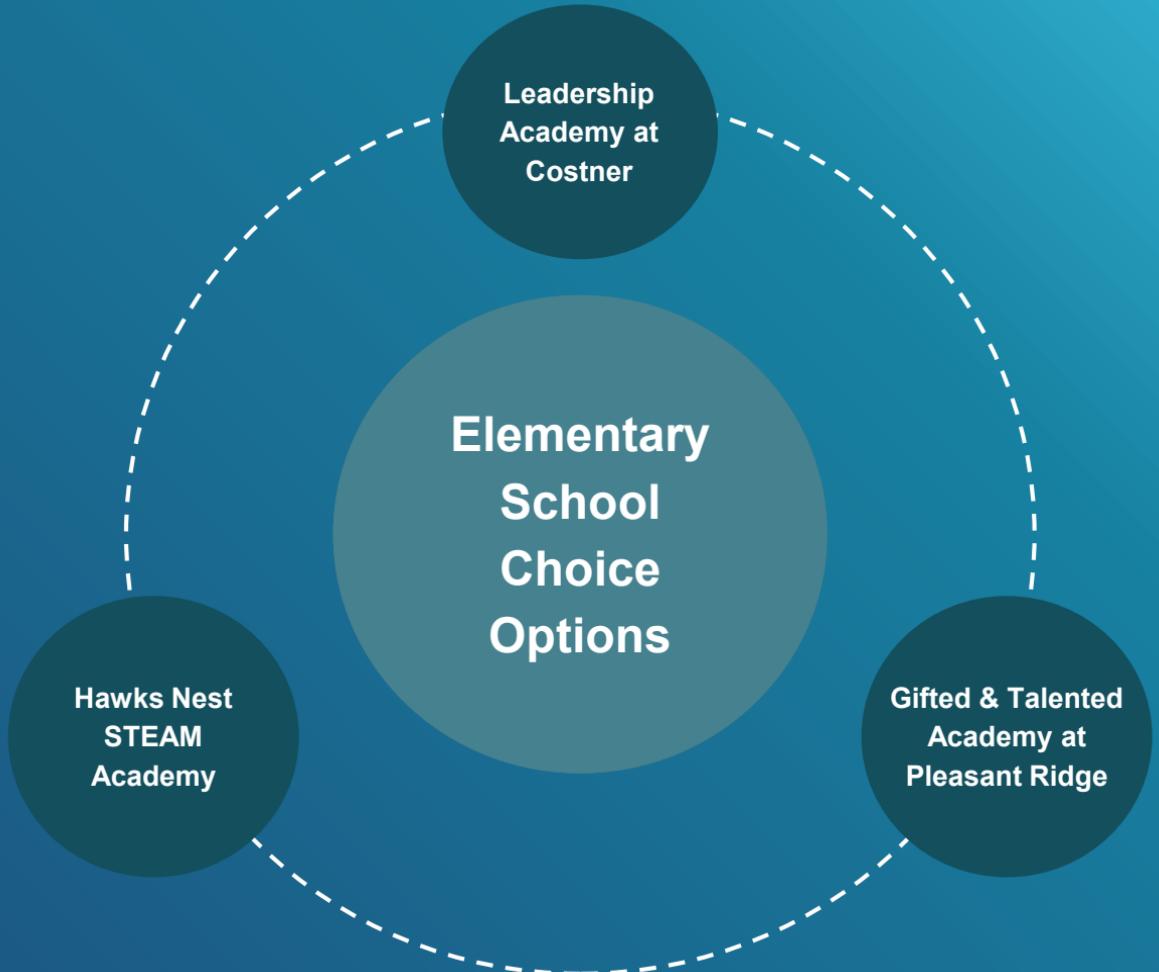
Gaston County Schools  
**Public Service**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Career**  
Academy



Gaston County Schools  
**Leadership**  
Academy



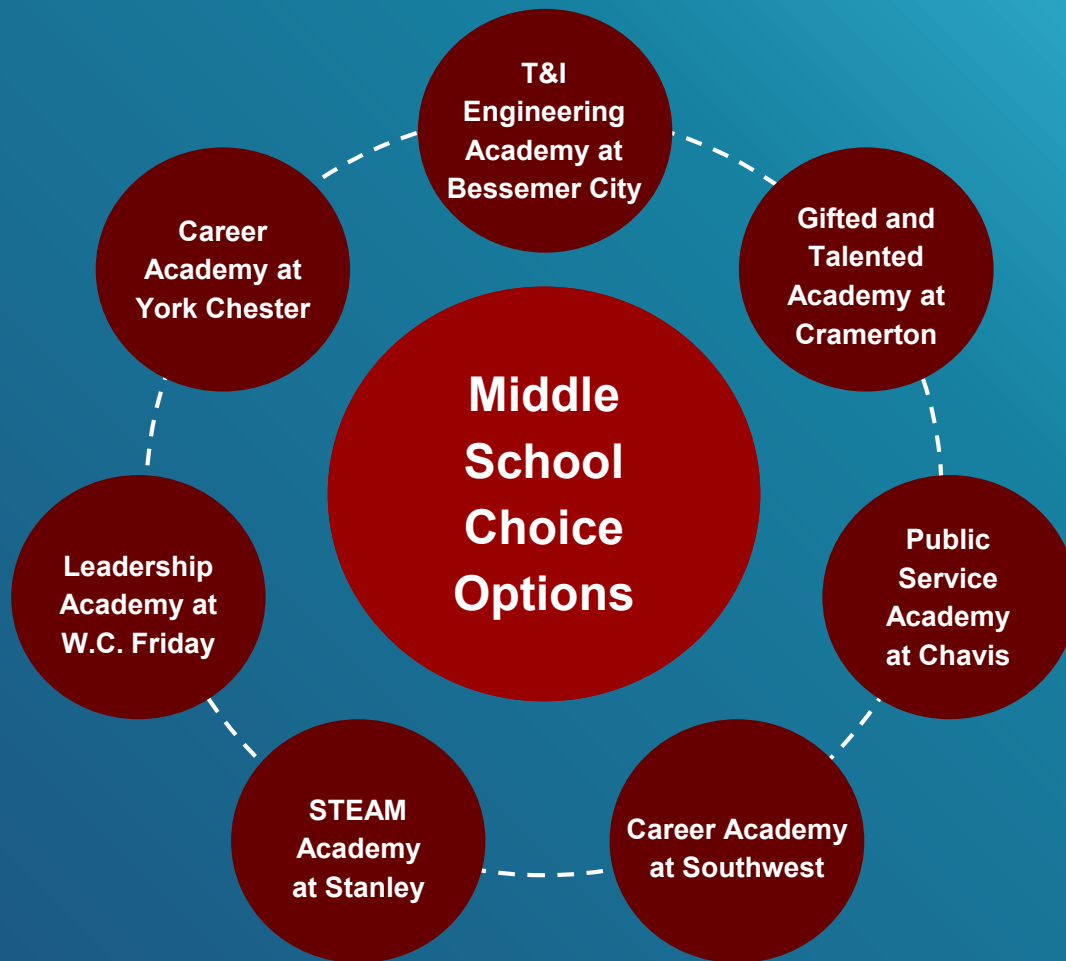
A diagram illustrating elementary school choice options. A central light blue circle contains the text "Elementary School Choice Options". Surrounding this central circle are three smaller dark blue circles, each containing the name of a specific program. These three outer circles are connected by a dashed white line that forms a larger circle around the center.

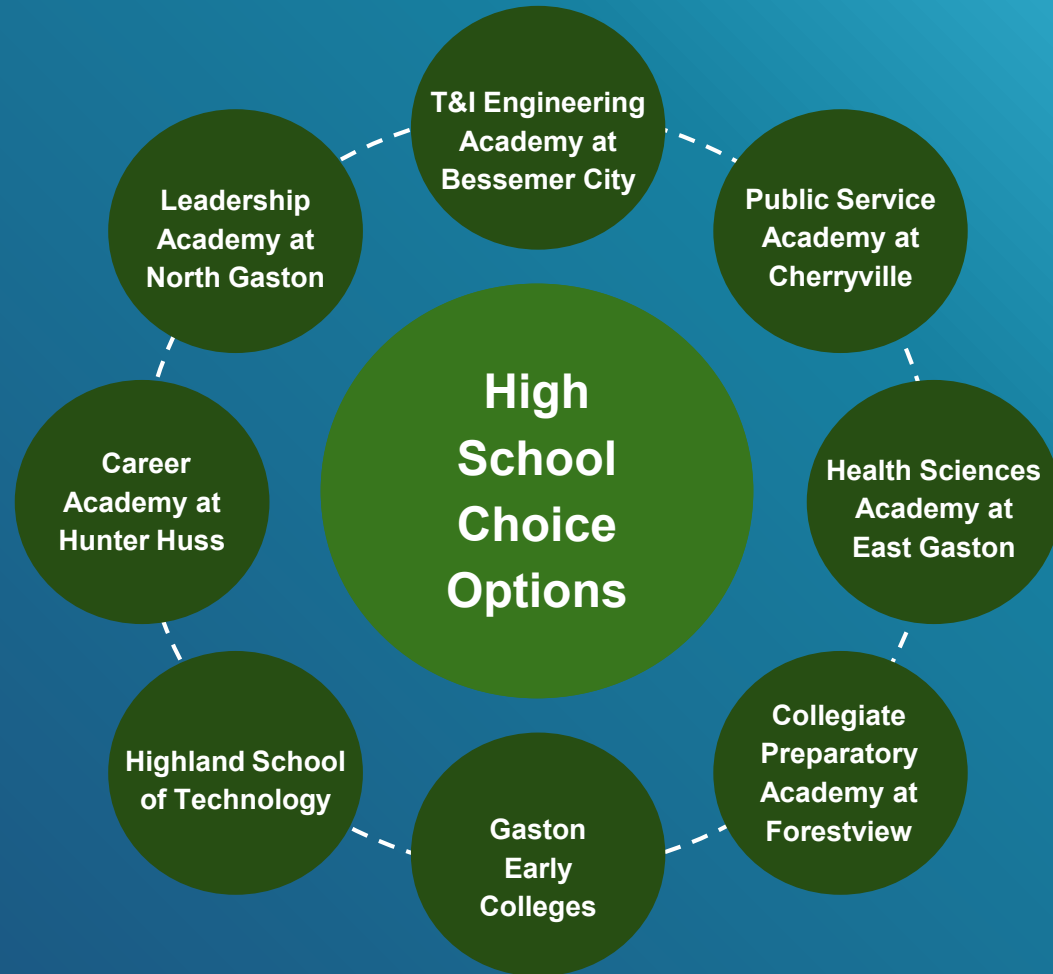
**Elementary  
School  
Choice  
Options**

**Leadership  
Academy at  
Costner**

**Hawks Nest  
STEAM  
Academy**

**Gifted & Talented  
Academy at  
Pleasant Ridge**





# Innovative Opportunities



# COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

iAccelerate Academy

Career and College Promise  
(CCP) at Gaston College

Attend University

## Ashbrook High School

- ❖ Complete high school graduation requirements.
- ❖ Earn college credit.

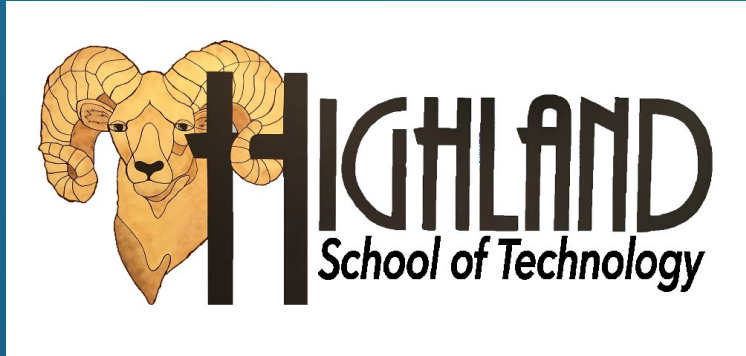
## Degree:

- ❖ Associate Degree along with their high school diploma.

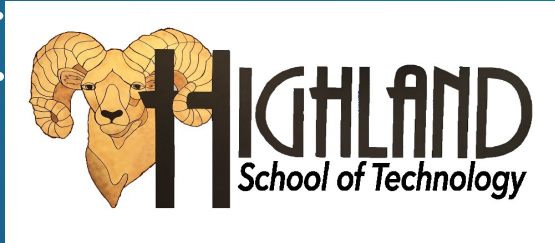
## Enter state university:

- ❖ Attend four-year institution.
- ❖ The associate degree satisfies the general education requirements and allows high school graduates to go directly into their major field of study.

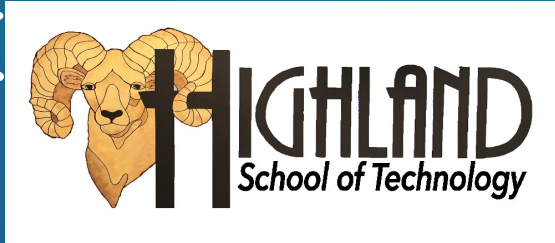
# Gaston County Schools



# Gaston County Schools



# Gaston County Schools



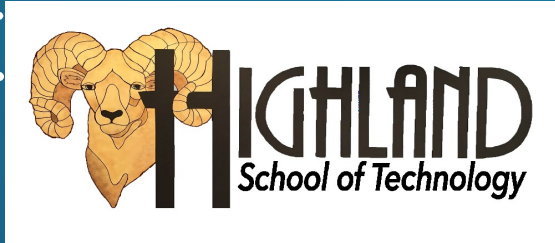
Gaston County Virtual  
Academy



# **Gaston Virtual Academy**

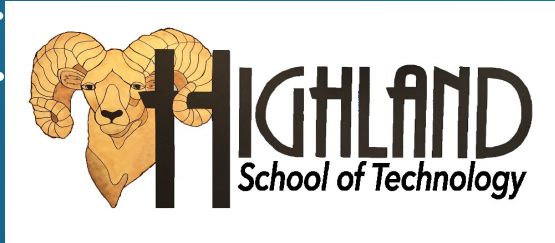
**Kindergarten to Twelfth Grade**

# Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Virtual  
Academy

# Gaston County Schools



Gaston County Virtual  
Academy

**GASTON EARLY  
COLLEGE**  
*of*  
**MEDICAL SCIENCES**



## **ASSOCIATE DEGREES**

- General Education in Nursing
- Applied Science in Biotechnology
- Applied Science in Health Information Technology
- Applied Science in Human Services

**HOME OF THE PHOENIX**

*Established 2021*

# Gaston County Schools Today

6



21

Choice = Opportunity

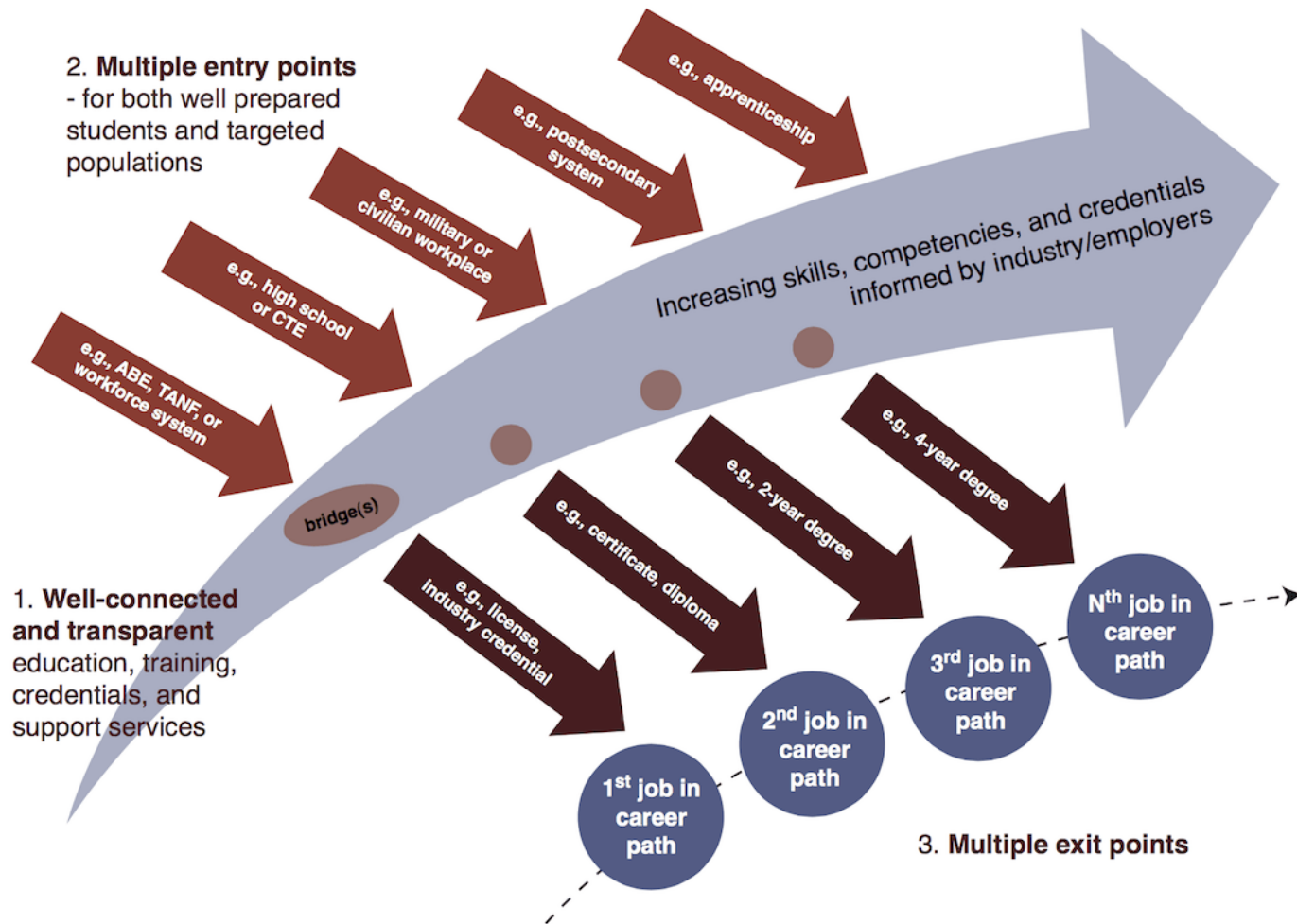




**Collaborate**

## 2. Multiple entry points

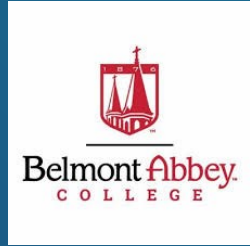
- for both well prepared students and targeted populations



# Top 5 Industries by Projected Growth

Industry	Associated Curriculum & Location
Financial Activities (20,498)	<u>Personal Finance</u> - All high schools, <b>Gaston College</b> , NCVPS <u>Marketing</u> - Ashbrook, East Gaston, South Point, Highland, <b>Gaston College</b> , NCVPS <u>Business Law</u> - Ashbrook, Highland, <b>Gaston College</b> <u>Office Software Applications</u> - All high schools, <b>Gaston College</b> <u>Intro to Business</u> - All high schools, <b>Gaston College</b> , NCVPS <u>Entrepreneurship</u> - All high schools, NCVPS
Construction (18,782)	<u>Carpentry</u> - Ashbrook, Bessemer City, Cherryville, Hunter Huss, North Gaston, South Point <u>Masonry</u> - Bessemer City, Warlick Academy
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services (16,057)	<u>Drafting</u> - Ashbrook, East Gaston, Highland, North Gaston, South Point, Cherryville, <b>Gaston College</b> <u>Engineering</u> - Highland, Stuart Cramer, <b>Gaston College</b> <u>Advanced Manufacturing</u> - <b>Gaston College</b> (Mechatronics) <u>IT (Information Technology)</u> - Highland, <b>Gaston College</b> <u>Computer Programming</u> - Highland, <b>Gaston College</b> , NCVPS
Specialty Trade Contractors (14,220)	<u>Welding</u> - Stuart Cramer, <b>Gaston College</b> <u>Electrical</u> - Ashbrook, East Gaston, Forestview, <b>Gaston College</b> <u>HVAC</u> - <b>Gaston College</b>
Ambulatory Health Care Services (11,656)	<u>Emergency Medical Science</u> - <b>Gaston College</b>

# Collaborate



# QUALIFIED WORKFORCE

Gaston Early College of  
Medical Sciences

Associate Degree

Workforce Opportunity

## Medical Science Pathways

- ❖ General Education for Nursing
- ❖ Biotechnology Sciences
- ❖ Health Information Technology
- ❖ Human Services Technology

**Degree:**  
**Associate in General  
Education Nursing**

**Next Steps:**  
Transfer to four (4) year  
college

## Workforce Opportunities:

- ❖ Take Boards for RN;
- ❖ Employment in hospitals, medical offices, insurance carriers, nursing homes
- ❖ **Base salary \$69,500**

# Gaston County Schools Today

Highest Number Of Credentials Earned			
	Public School Unit Name	2019-20 Earned	2018-19 Earned
360	<b>Gaston County Schools</b>	14,986	10,811
920	Wake County Schools	12,895	16,154
260	Cumberland County Schools	12,883	5,817
800	Rowan-Salisbury Schools	7,660	5,597
600	Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	7,016	8,415
430	Harnett County Schools	6,337	8,415
900	Union County Public Schools	6,121	6,174
760	Randolph County School System	5,625	6,563
140	<b>Caldwell County Schools</b>	5,195	4,616
670	Onslow County Schools	5,107	7,676

# Gaston County Schools Today

## Highest Percent of Credentials Earned

	Public School Unit Name	2019-20 % Earned	2018-19 % Earned
360	<b>Gaston County Schools</b>	219% ★	161%
182	Newton Conover City Schools	211%	122%
140	<b>Caldwell County Schools</b>	204% ★	204%
830	Scotland County Schools	199%	174%
470	Hoke County Schools	170%	97%
40	Anson County Schools	168%	101%
421	Roanoke Rapids City Schools	164%	191%
720	Perquimans County Schools	162%	120%
30	Alleghany County Schools	161%	149%
400	Greene County Schools	154%	213%

# Performance

**#1**

**Among the 115 school districts in  
North Carolina for student earned  
industry certifications**



# **Innovative Opportunities**

# Gaston County Schools Today

## Career Signing Day

Patterned after National Signing Day for athletes.

Gives graduating seniors an opportunity to accept a job offer from a local business.

# Gaston County Schools Today

## Career Signing Day



### Manufacturers Increase Efforts to Woo Workers to Rural Areas



Craig Klug, an extrusion press operator at Alexandria Industries in Alexandria, Minn. The component manufacturer, with about 550 employees, is facing a shortage of workers to fill skilled and unskilled positions. Jenn Ackerman for The New York Times

By Ellen Rosen

AUG. 3, 2018

# Gaston County Schools Today

## Students @ Work

Gives all eighth grade students an opportunity to visit a local business or organization.



# Gaston County Schools Today



## Educators in the Workplace

Teachers and other school personnel visit businesses and organizations to find out what career options are available in Gaston County.

# **Gaston County Schools Today**

## **Manufacturing and Career Expo**

Offers students a chance to learn about local businesses, talk with company representatives about job opportunities, and find out what it takes to land an entry-level position.

# Gaston County Schools Today

## Career Signing Day

Patterned after National Signing Day for athletes.

Gives graduating seniors an opportunity to accept a job offer from a local business.

## Students @ Work

Gives all eighth grade students an opportunity to visit a local business or organization.



## Manufacturing and Career Expo

Offers students a chance to learn about local businesses, talk with company representatives about job opportunities, and find out what it takes to land an entry-level position.

# 2021 Virtual Manufacturing Career Expo



**Over 700 Students Participated  
10 Gaston College Scholarships Awarded**

# 2021 Virtual Students @ Work



**19 Businesses participated**  
**23 Videos for students to review**  
**18 Seniors introduced to businesses (2-hired)**

# Gaston County Schools Today

Fifth grade career awareness.

Exposure to healthcare and trades.



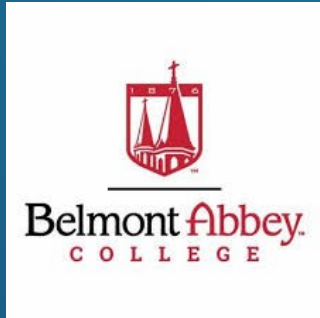
# 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Career Awareness



**5-10 min. instructional video (from business rep. or teacher) about careers.**

**Students participated in a hands on activity displayed to them during the instructional video.**

# Gaston County Schools Today



## Leadership Pathway

- Assistant Principal
- Curriculum/Academic Facilitator
- Dean of Students
- Lead/Content Teacher

# Gaston County Schools Today

Attract and retain a high quality workforce in all schools, including high needs areas.

Increase access to quality, research-based academic credentials for employees.

## NEWS

### Want to be a principal? Gaston County Schools offers free pathway for teachers



Gavin Stewart

The Gaston Gazette

Published 7:24 a.m. ET Sept. 1, 2021

[View Comments](#)



Teachers of Gaston County's public school district have a shot to take the next step in their career while saving a few bucks.

Gaston County Schools will soon select 12 teachers to earn master's degrees in school administration from Gardner-Webb University in Boiling Springs. Teachers who complete the 20-month program will be next up for a principal, assistant principal or central office supervisor position within Gaston County Schools.



# Gaston County Schools Today

## Principals

Receive professional development in the following areas:

- Franklin Covey -The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Leaders
- Get Better Faster by Paul Bambrick Santoyo
- Social and Emotional Learning

## Assistant Principals

Get Better Faster by Paul Bambrick Santoyo  
Instructional Leadership Training

## Future Leaders

The Gardner-Webb partnership will be offered to qualified GCS applicants!

No GRE or MAT required

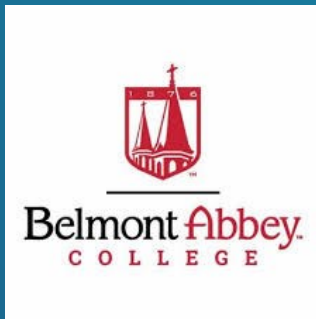
# Gaston County Schools Today

## Teacher Assistant



Gaston County Schools will partner with regional higher education institutions.

- Teacher Assistant to Teacher Opportunity



## Teacher

Identifies highly qualified workforce to meet the instructional needs of schools.

- 4-Year Commitment to Gaston County Schools



# Gaston County Schools

## Portrait of a Graduate



### Character

Growth Mindset & Perseverance  
Adaptable & Resilient • Compassionate & Empathetic  
Independent & Responsible

### Knowledge

Subject Mastery • Digital Literacy  
Health & Wellness • Civic and Cultural Awareness

### Future Ready Skills

Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving  
Creative & Innovative • Collaborative • Communicator



"THE WHOLE PURPOSE  
OF *education*  
IS TO TURN MIRRORS  
into WINDOWS."

- Sydney J. Harris

**The vision of  
Gaston County Schools  
is to inspire success and  
a lifetime of learning.**



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