

Grantee Name: Guilford County Schools
Project Name: Guilford County Schools Alternative Certification Track (GCS-ACT)
Project Director: [Tina Johnson](#) 336.378.8823. x 2

Partner Districts/ LEAs: Guilford County Schools

Guilford County Schools Alternative Certification Track (GCS-ACT) is a North Carolina State School Board approved teacher preparation program. The state of North Carolina has granted Guilford County Schools permission to award full teacher licensure to participants who successfully complete the GCS-ACT program. GCS-ACT was developed by Guilford County Schools in conjunction with Guilford Technical Community College, and uses a co-teaching model with representatives from each institution delivering teacher preparation curriculum. This Transition to Teaching (T3) funded initiative has three major goals—to recruit, retain, and place teachers in high-need schools and in hard to staff positions. Recruiting efforts focus on hiring high-achieving recent college graduates, highly qualified paraprofessionals, and highly qualified mid-career professionals as teachers into our school system. Retention efforts focus on providing intensive teacher preparation, and the provision of support structures that will aid in retaining recruited teachers for a minimum of three years in the field of education. Finally, placement efforts focus on assigning these teachers to math, science, special education, and foreign language positions in our high-need schools. Program components include but are not limited to: teacher preparation and licensure cohorts of 50 per year, the provision of a laptop to facilitate preparation and learning, the provision of a New Teacher Toolkit, and participation in an annual Teacher Leadership Conference co-hosted by Guilford County Schools and the Center for Creative Leadership.