



For Immediate Release: Dec. 19, 2013

Contact: Nora Shoptaw (336) 370-8386
Media Desk (336) 574-5730

Guilford County Schools to Launch Disparity Study

Findings will help district reach Strategic Plan goal of increasing MWBE participation

Greensboro, N.C. – How does Guilford County Schools (GCS) decide with whom it does business? That's the question a district-wide disparity study launching this month will seek to answer.

The yearlong study will evaluate how well the district's current policies promote equal opportunity in awarding contracts or if a disparity exists in choosing minority and women-owned businesses. The study is designed to strengthen the district's [Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise](#) program initiatives.

"The city and county business environment is as diverse as the district's student population," said Tammie Hall, MWBE administrator. "It is only fair that participation in contracting opportunities reflect this diversity. The study will help us ensure that historically underutilized small, minority and women-owned companies will get a fair chance to compete for district opportunities."

Since 2007, GCS has established policies and procedures meant to expand access to GCS contracts for MWBE firms, particularly in the area of construction. GCS routinely exceeds the goal of having 12.46 percent of contractors and subcontractors come from MWBE companies. The disparity study will look at all areas of GCS expenditures.

The study will take about 12 months to complete. The district will begin advertising for a consultant this month and will hope to have results of the study by April 2015. The disparity study is a strategy outlined in the district's [2016 Strategic Plan](#) in Area IV, Educator and Organizational Excellence, with the goal of increasing MWBE participation.

About Guilford County Schools

Guilford County Schools, the third largest school district in North Carolina, serves more than 72,300 students at 126 schools. With approximately 10,000 employees, the district's mission is to graduate responsible citizens who are prepared to succeed in higher education or the career of their choice. Guilford County Schools is a national leader in providing specialized schools and instructional programs designed to meet the educational needs of a culturally diverse citizenship. For more information, visit the district's website at www.gcsnc.com.

-GCS-