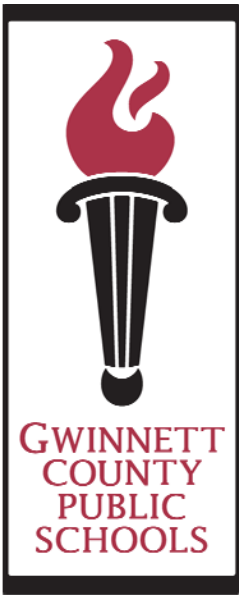


NEWS RELEASE



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**THE MISSION OF
GWINNETT COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOLS**
*is to pursue excellence
in academic knowledge,
skills, and behavior
for each student,
resulting in measured
improvement against
local, national, and
world-class standards.*

437 Old Peachtree Road, NW
Suwanee, GA 30024-2978
678-301-6000
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It is the policy of Gwinnett County Public Schools not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, religion, national origin, age, or disability in any employment practice, educational program, or any other program, activity, or service.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 22, 2008

Contact: Communication and Media Relations, 678-301-6020

Gwinnett reminds visitors schools are tobacco-free 24 hours a day, every day

Starting in 2008-09, **Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS)** visitors will enjoy a tobacco-free environment 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The **Gwinnett County Board of Education** recently reviewed its Drug-Free Workplace Policy, expanding it to include after-school hours, and off-campus student activities.

“Many Gwinnett students participate in extracurricular activities which take place after school hours and/or away from campus. Our revised policy will provide the opportunity for students, employees, parents, and other visitors to continue enjoying these activities, while providing them with a healthier environment,” says **Jorge Gomez**, executive director for administration and policy.

The School Board’s Drug-Free Workplace Policy, in place for many years, provided a tobacco and tobacco-product free learning environment for all students, employees, and visitors. Recent updates to the policy will focus on reminding visitors that the policy also is in effect in any GCPS facility, GCPS sponsored event away from a GCPS facility, and any GCPS transportation vehicle 24 hours a day, every day.

Working along with the Gwinnett County Health Department, the Gwinnett County Board of Education revised and approved the change in April of 2008.

News media representatives who need additional information also can contact the Gwinnett County Health Department by calling Vernon Goines, public relations information coordinator, for the East Metro Healthy District, by calling 678-442-6909.

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