

A PARENT'S PLAYBOOK



**Your Guide to CTE Pathways in
Guilford County**

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A Parent's Playbook: Your Guide to Career Exploration in Guilford County

1. Introduction

Welcome

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to "**A Parent's Playbook: Your Guide to Career Exploration in Guilford County**" presented by Kareers 4 Kids, Inc. This guide is designed to help you support your child as they explore career options through Career and Technical Education (CTE) within Guilford County Schools.

We understand that guiding your child through educational choices can be both exciting and challenging. This guide aims to simplify the process by providing clear information on available resources, programs, and steps you can take to assist your child in making informed decisions about their future.

Why This Guide Matters

Choosing a career path is a significant milestone in your child's life. Early planning and exploration can set the foundation for long-term success. This guide will help you:

- **Understand CTE and its benefits** for your child's education and future career.
- **Engage effectively with school counselors and administrators** to access resources.
- **Discover classes and programs available** in Guilford County Schools.
- **Utilize resources like NCVPS** (North Carolina Virtual Public School) for additional course offerings.
- **Prepare for magnet and specialty program applications** within the county.
- **Explore the Career and College Promise Program**, apprenticeship, and internship opportunities.
- **Support your child** in setting and achieving their educational and career goals.

Together, we can help your child navigate their educational journey with confidence.



2. Understanding Career and Technical Education (CTE)

What Is CTE?

Career and Technical Education (CTE) combines academic learning with hands-on experiences to prepare students for college and career success. CTE programs offer courses and pathways in various industries, allowing students to gain practical skills and explore potential careers.

CTE in Guilford County includes pathways such as:

- **Agriculture, Food, and Natural Resources**
- **Architecture and Construction**
- **Arts, Audio/Video Technology, and Communications**
- **Business Management and Administration**
- **Finance**
- **Health Science**
- **Hospitality and Tourism**
- **Human Services**
- **Information Technology**
- **Law, Public Safety, Corrections, and Security**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Marketing**
- **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)**
- **Transportation, Distribution, and Logistics**

Benefits of CTE for Your Child

- **Career Exploration:** Helps your child discover interests and talents in specific fields.
- **Skill Development:** Provides practical skills valuable in the workforce.
- **Academic Engagement:** Increases motivation by connecting learning to real-world applications.
- **College and Career Readiness:** Prepares students for post-secondary education or direct entry into a career.
- **Certification Opportunities:** Offers industry-recognized credentials that enhance employability.

By participating in CTE programs, your child can make informed decisions about their future and gain a competitive edge.



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3. Navigating Guilford County School Resources

Engaging with School Counselors and Administrators

Why Engage:

- **Access Information:** Learn about CTE programs, courses, and opportunities.
- **Academic Planning:** Ensure your child's course selections align with their career goals.
- **Support Services:** Address any academic or personal challenges your child may face.

How to Engage:

1. Schedule Meetings:

- a. **Contact the School Counselor:** Call or email to set up an appointment.
- b. **Prepare Questions:** Write down topics you want to discuss, such as CTE pathways or specialty programs.

2. Attend School Events:

- a. **Open Houses and Curriculum Nights:** Gain insights into programs and meet teachers.
- b. **Parent-Teacher Conferences:** Discuss your child's progress and areas for growth.
- c. **CTE Showcases:** Explore student projects and learn about different pathways.

3. Stay Connected:

- a. **Regular Communication:** Keep in touch through phone calls, emails, or school portals like PowerSchool.
- b. **Volunteer Opportunities:** Participate in school activities or parent organizations.

Tips:

- **Be Proactive:** Don't wait for issues to arise before reaching out.
- **Build Relationships:** Establish rapport with school staff for ongoing support.

Exploring Available Classes in Guilford County Schools

Steps to Discover Class Offerings:

1. Access the Course Catalog:

- a. **Online Availability:** Visit the Guilford County Schools (GCS) website to download the [High School Registration Guide](#).
- b. **Physical Copies:** Request a copy from your child's school.

2. Review CTE Programs:

- a. **Identify Pathways:** Look for programs that align with your child's interests.
- b. **Course Descriptions:** Read about each course to understand the content and requirements.

3. Understand Prerequisites and Sequencing:

- a. **Plan Ahead:** Some advanced courses require completion of introductory classes.

- b. **Grade Level Recommendations:** Note which courses are appropriate for each grade.
- 4. **Consider Electives and Extracurriculars:**
 - a. **Clubs and Organizations:** Many schools offer clubs related to CTE areas, such as DECA, FBLA, HOSA, or SkillsUSA.
 - b. **Work-Based Learning Opportunities:** Internships, apprenticeships, and job shadowing may be available.

Notable CTE Programs in Guilford County:

- **Academy at Smith High School:** Focuses on health sciences.
- **Kearns Academy:** Offers programs in information technology and advanced manufacturing.
- **Weaver Academy:** Specializes in visual and performing arts and advanced technology courses.
- **The STEM Early College at NC A&T State University:** Provides a rigorous STEM curriculum.

Tip: Collaborate with your child to select courses that are both interesting and beneficial for their future plans.



4. Utilizing NCVPS and Local Resources

What Is NCVPS?

The **North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS)** provides online courses to students across the state, expanding access to classes that may not be available at their local schools.

Benefits of NCVPS:

- **Expanded Course Offerings:** Access to a wider range of subjects, including Advanced Placement (AP) courses and specialized electives.
- **Flexible Scheduling:** Ideal for students needing schedule adjustments or seeking acceleration.
- **Credit Recovery:** Opportunities to retake courses to stay on track for graduation.

How to Enroll Your Child

Steps to Enroll in NCVPS Courses:

1. **Consult the School Counselor:**
 - a. **Discuss Options:** Determine if NCVPS courses fit your child's academic plan.
 - b. **Approval Process:** The school must approve enrollment to ensure credits will be accepted.
2. **Course Selection:**
 - a. **Explore Offerings:** Visit NC Virtual Public Schools website to view its [course catalog](#).
 - b. **Check Prerequisites:** Ensure your child meets any required criteria.
3. **Registration:**
 - a. **School Registration:** The school counselor or e-learning advisor will handle the registration process.
 - b. **Confirm Enrollment:** Receive confirmation and course details.
4. **Prepare for Online Learning:**
 - a. **Technology Requirements:** Ensure your child has a reliable computer and internet access.
 - b. **Time Management:** Help your child create a schedule to manage coursework effectively.

Local Resources:

- **Guilford County Schools E-Learning:** Offers additional online courses and resources.

Tip: Regularly monitor your child's progress in online courses and encourage open communication about any challenges.



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5. Preparing for Magnet and Specialty Program Applications

Understanding Magnet Programs in Guilford County

What Are Magnet Schools?

Magnet schools offer specialized programs focused on specific themes or areas of study, providing unique educational opportunities.

Benefits:

- **Themed Curriculum:** In-depth study in areas like STEM, arts, or international studies.
- **Enhanced Resources:** Access to specialized facilities and instructors.
- **Diverse Learning Environment:** Attract students from across the district.

Notable Magnet Schools in Guilford County:

1. **The Early College at Guilford:**
 - a. **Focus:** Rigorous academic program with college-level courses.
 - b. **Location:** On the campus of Guilford College.
2. **Weaver Academy:**
 - a. **Focus:** Visual and performing arts, advanced technology, and career technical education.
3. **Penn-Griffin School for the Arts:**
 - a. **Focus:** Arts education integrated with core academics.
4. **The STEM Early College at NC A&T State University:**
 - a. **Focus:** Science, technology, engineering, and mathematics with college-level coursework.
5. **Johnson Street Global Studies:**
 - a. **Focus:** International Baccalaureate (IB) programs promoting global awareness.

Steps to Apply

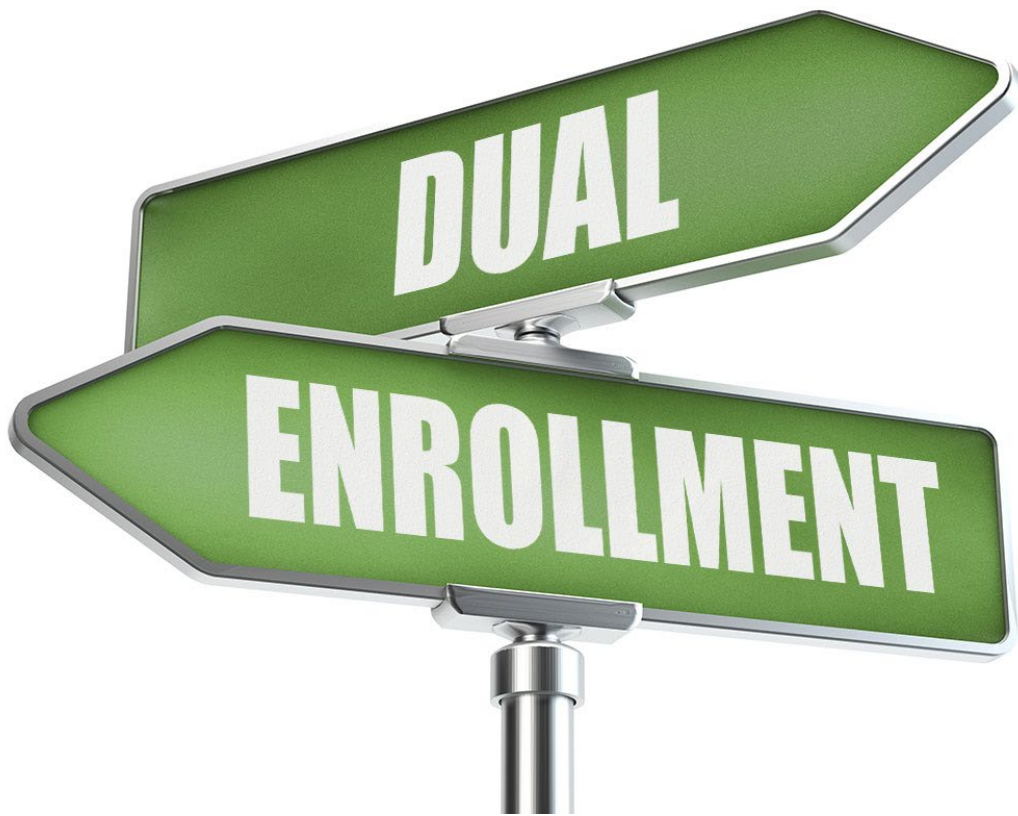
Application Process:

1. **Research Schools:**
 - a. **Visit the GCS Choice Schools Website:** [GCS Choice Options](#)
 - b. **Attend Open Houses:** Learn about programs and meet staff.
2. **Check Eligibility:**
 - a. **Grade Level Requirements:** Ensure your child is within the accepted grade range.
 - b. **Prerequisites:** Some programs may require prior coursework or assessments.
3. **Complete the Application:**
 - a. **Online Application:** Submit through the GCS School Mint portal.
 - b. **Required Documents:** Prepare any necessary materials, such as transcripts or recommendation letters.
4. **Meet Deadlines:**

- a. **Application Period:** Typically opens in January and closes in February.
- b. **Notifications:** Acceptance letters are usually sent out in the spring.
- 5. **Prepare for Auditions or Assessments (if applicable):**
 - a. **Arts Programs:** May require auditions or portfolio submissions.
 - b. **STEM Programs:** Could involve assessments or interviews.

Tips:

- **Stay Informed:** Check the GCS website for updates and important dates.
- **Communicate with the School:** Reach out if you have questions about the application process.



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6. Exploring the Career and College Promise Program

What Is the Career and College Promise Program?

The **Career and College Promise (CCP)** program allows eligible high school students to enroll in college courses at Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC) and earn college credits tuition-free while still in high school.

How Your Child Can Benefit

- **Accelerated Learning:** Get a head start on college education.
- **Cost Savings:** Earn college credits without paying tuition, reducing future college expenses.
- **Career Readiness:** Gain skills and credentials for immediate employment after high school.
- **Transferable Credits:** Credits may transfer to universities within the University of North Carolina system and other institutions.

Enrollment Procedures

Eligibility Requirements:

- **Grade Level:** Typically for juniors and seniors (11th and 12th grade).
- **Academic Standing:** Meet GPA requirements (usually a minimum unweighted GPA of 2.8) or demonstrate college readiness through test scores.
- **Parental and School Approval:** Obtain necessary permissions.

Steps to Enroll:

1. **Meet with the School Counselor:**
 - a. **Discuss Interest:** Express your child's desire to participate in the CCP program.
 - b. **Review Eligibility:** Confirm that your child meets the requirements.
2. **Choose a Pathway:**
 - a. **College Transfer Pathways:** For students planning to pursue a bachelor's degree.
 - b. **Career and Technical Education Pathways:** For students aiming to enter the workforce after high school.
3. **Complete the Application:**
 - a. **GTCC Application:** Submit an application through the college's admissions portal.
 - b. **Submit Required Documents:** Transcripts, test scores, and any additional forms.
4. **Attend Orientation:**
 - a. **Mandatory Session:** Participate in an orientation program provided by GTCC.
5. **Register for Classes:**
 - a. **Course Selection:** Work with a GTCC advisor to select appropriate courses.
6. **Manage Schedules:**

- a. **Coordinate with High School:** Ensure that college classes fit into your child's overall schedule.

Tips:

- **Stay Organized:** Keep track of deadlines and required documents.
- **Monitor Progress:** Regularly check in on your child's academic performance.

Contact Information:

- **Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC):**
 - **Website:** www.gtcc.edu
 - **Phone:** (336) 334-4822



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7. Apprenticeship and Internship Opportunities

Apprenticeship Programs in Guilford County

ApprenticeshipNC:

- **Overview:** A state-supported program that connects students with employers offering apprenticeships.
- **Benefits:**
 - **Earn While Learning:** Receive a wage while gaining on-the-job training.
 - **Credentials:** Earn industry-recognized certifications.
 - **Career Opportunities:** Potential for full-time employment upon completion.

Guilford Apprenticeship Partners (GAP):

- **Focus:** Collaborates with local businesses to offer apprenticeship opportunities in fields like advanced manufacturing, automotive technology, HVAC, and more.
- **Eligibility:** High school juniors and seniors.
- **Program Structure:**
 - **Combination of Work and Study:** Split between classroom instruction and hands-on training.
 - **Duration:** Typically a 4-year commitment.

How to Get Involved:

1. **Attend Information Sessions:**
 - a. **GAP Events:** Learn about available apprenticeships and meet employers.
2. **Apply to the Program:**
 - a. **Application Process:** Includes submitting an application, interviews, and assessments.
3. **Meet Requirements:**
 - a. **Academic Standing:** Maintain good grades.
 - b. **Commitment:** Willingness to commit to the program duration.

Contact Information:

- **Guilford Apprenticeship Partners (GAP):**
 - **Website:** www.gapnc.org
 - **Email:**

Internship Opportunities for High School Students

Work-Based Learning Programs:

- **Overview:** Allows students to gain real-world experience related to their field of study.
- **Benefits:**
 - **Professional Skills:** Develop workplace etiquette and networking abilities.
 - **Career Exploration:** Confirm interest in a career path.

How to Get Involved:

1. **Consult with the Career Development Coordinator (CDC):**
 - a. **At Your Child's School:** The CDC helps connect students with internship opportunities.
2. **Identify Opportunities:**
 - a. **Local Businesses:** Many companies partner with schools to offer internships.
 - b. **Non-Profit Organizations:** Opportunities in community service fields.
3. **Application Process:**
 - a. **Resume and Cover Letter:** Prepare necessary documents.
 - b. **Interviews:** Practice interview skills.

Tips:

- **Start Early:** Begin searching for internships well before the desired start date.
- **Stay Engaged:** Encourage your child to actively seek and follow up on opportunities.



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8. Other Career and College Preparation Initiatives

College Preparation Resources

SAT/ACT Prep Programs:

- **School Resources:** Many schools offer test prep courses or workshops.
- **Online Resources:** Utilize free tools like Khan Academy for SAT prep.

College Fairs and Information Sessions:

- **Attend Events:** Stay informed about upcoming college fairs in Guilford County.
- **Virtual Tours:** Explore colleges through online tours and webinars.

Career Exploration Tools

CFNC (College Foundation of North Carolina):

- **Website:** www.cfnc.org
- **Features:**
 - **Career Assessments:** Helps students identify interests and strengths.
 - **College Planning:** Provides information on colleges, scholarships, and financial aid.

NC Careers:

- **Website:** www.nccareers.org
- **Features:**
 - **Career Information:** Detailed descriptions of various occupations.
 - **Job Market Data:** Insights into demand and salary expectations.

Career Development Coordinators (CDC):

- **Role:** Assist students with career planning and exploration.
- **Services:**
 - **Resume Building:** Help create and improve resumes.
 - **Interview Preparation:** Offer tips and practice sessions.



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9. Making the Most of CTE Course Offerings

Selecting the Right Courses

Align with Interests and Goals:

- **Interest Inventories:** Use tools to identify your child's strengths and preferences.
- **Career Exploration:** Research potential careers related to different CTE pathways.

Plan Academically:

- **Graduation Requirements:** Ensure core classes are included.
- **CTE Sequences:** Some programs have recommended course sequences for skill development.

Collaborate with Counselors:

- **Academic Advising:** Counselors can help balance course loads and prerequisites.
- **Adjust as Needed:** Be flexible to accommodate changing interests.

Tips for Success

- **Encourage Engagement:**
 - **Clubs and Organizations:** Join groups like DECA, FBLA, HOSA, or SkillsUSA.
 - **Competitions and Events:** Participate in local, state, or national contests.
- **Develop Soft Skills:**
 - **Communication:** Practice effective speaking and writing.
 - **Teamwork:** Collaborate on projects and group activities.
 - **Time Management:** Prioritize tasks and meet deadlines.
- **Seek Work-Based Learning Opportunities:**
 - **Internships:** Gain real-world experience in a chosen field.
 - **Job Shadowing:** Observe professionals in the workplace.
- **Utilize Resources:**
 - **Tutoring Services:** Access academic support if needed.
 - **Technology Tools:** Use software and online platforms provided by the school.

Parent Involvement:

- **Monitor Progress:** Regularly check grades and attendance.
- **Provide Support:** Offer encouragement and assistance with assignments.



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10. Supporting Your Child's Career Journey

Setting Goals Together

Importance of Goal Setting:

- **Direction:** Provides a roadmap for academic and career planning.
- **Motivation:** Helps your child stay focused and engaged.

Steps to Set Goals:

1. **Identify Interests:**
 - a. **Discuss Passions:** What activities make your child excited?
 - b. **Explore Careers:** Research jobs related to their interests.
2. **Set SMART Goals:**
 - a. **Specific:** Clear and well-defined.
 - b. **Measurable:** Track progress and completion.
 - c. **Achievable:** Realistic and attainable.
 - d. **Relevant:** Aligns with long-term objectives.
 - e. **Time-bound:** Has a deadline or timeframe.
3. **Create an Action Plan:**
 - a. **Short-Term Goals:** Steps to take in the near future.
 - b. **Long-Term Goals:** Objectives to achieve over several years.
4. **Monitor and Adjust:**
 - a. **Regular Check-Ins:** Discuss progress and challenges.
 - b. **Flexibility:** Be open to changing goals as interests evolve.

Helpful Tools and Resources

- **Career Exploration Websites:**
 - **CFNC:** www.cfnc.org
 - **NC Careers:** www.nccareers.org
- **Assessment Tools:**
 - **Interest Inventories:** Identify areas of interest.
 - **Aptitude Tests:** Discover natural abilities.
- **Educational Planning:**
 - **Four-Year Plans:** Map out high school courses.
 - **College and Career Readiness Programs:** Access resources for post-secondary planning.
- **Community Resources:**
 - **Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC):** Offers programs for high school students.
 - **Local Libraries and Community Centers:** Provide workshops and informational sessions.

Encouragement:

- **Celebrate Achievements:** Acknowledge successes, big and small.
- **Provide Guidance:** Offer advice without pressuring your child.



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11. Real-Life Success Stories

Families Who Navigated the Path

The Johnson Family

- **Challenge:** Their daughter, Maya, was interested in biotechnology but didn't know how to pursue it in high school.
- **Solution:** Enrolled her in the STEM Early College at NC A&T State University.
- **Outcome:** Maya participated in advanced STEM courses, conducted research projects, and received a scholarship to study biomedical engineering.

The Smith Family

- **Challenge:** Their son, Alex, wanted to pursue a career in culinary arts, but his school didn't offer specialized courses.
- **Solution:** Transferred to Weaver Academy, which offers culinary arts programs.
- **Outcome:** Alex excelled in his classes, won regional culinary competitions, and is now attending a prestigious culinary institute.

Lessons Learned

- **Be Proactive:** Early planning opens up more opportunities.
- **Utilize Resources:** Take advantage of specialized schools and programs.
- **Stay Involved:** Regular communication with educators supports your child's success.

Inspiration:

- **Every Child Is Unique:** Encourage your child to follow their passions.
- **Overcome Obstacles:** Challenges can be overcome with determination and support.



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12. Additional Information

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Can my child participate in CTE programs and still prepare for college?

A: Yes, CTE programs complement academic studies and can enhance college applications by providing practical experience and certifications.

Q: How can my child access courses not offered at their base school?

A: Options include attending a magnet school, enrolling in NCVPS courses, or participating in dual-enrollment programs with community colleges.

Q: Are transportation options available for students attending schools outside their zone?

A: Guilford County Schools provides transportation for magnet school students within certain guidelines. Contact the GCS Transportation Department for specific information.

Q: What costs are associated with CTE programs or specialty schools?

A: Most programs are part of the public school system and do not require additional tuition. Some courses may have fees for materials or certification exams.

Who to Contact for Help

Guilford County Schools:

- **Website:** www.gcsnc.com
- **Phone:** (336) 370-8100

Career and Technical Education Department:

- **CTE Director:** Dr. Holly Pore poreh@gcsnc.com
- **Website:** [GCS CTE Programs](#)

Guilford Technical Community College (GTCC):

- **Email:** Linda Whitlow, Instructional Director, CTE and World Languages
lwhitlow@gtcc.edu
- **Website:** www.gtcc.edu
- **Phone:** (336) 334-4822, ext. 50562

NCVPS Support:

- **Email:** Ellen Hart, Instructional Director, CTE and World Languages
ellen.hart@ncpublicschools.gov
- **Website:** www.ncvps.org

Guilford Apprenticeship Partners (GAP):

- Website: www.gapnc.org

Career Exploration Resources:

- CFNC: www.cfnc.org
- NC Careers: www.nccareers.org

Some useful Resources to assist your journey



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13. Conclusion

Key Takeaways

- **Parental Involvement Is Crucial:** Your engagement significantly impacts your child's educational experience.
- **CTE Provides Valuable Opportunities:** Explore programs that align with your child's interests and career goals.
- **Utilize Available Resources:** Take advantage of school counselors, specialized programs, and online courses.
- **Support and Encourage Exploration:** Help your child discover their passions without pressure.

Next Steps

1. **Schedule a Meeting:**
 - a. Set up an appointment with your child's school counselor to discuss academic plans and CTE opportunities.
2. **Research Together:**
 - a. Explore courses, programs, and career options with your child.
3. **Create an Action Plan:**
 - a. Develop a roadmap for course selections, extracurricular activities, and goal setting.
4. **Stay Informed:**
 - a. Keep up-to-date with school communications and district announcements.



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Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read "**Kareers 4 Kids: A Parent's Guide to Navigating Your Child's Career Path in Guilford County.**" Your dedication to your child's future is invaluable. By working together, we can empower your child to achieve their dreams and build a successful career.

Together, let's pave the way for your child's bright future in Guilford County.

Note: This guide is based on available information about Guilford County schools and its programs. For the most current and detailed information, please contact the schools or visit their official websites.

Thank You!



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