

NEW THIS YEAR

BACK-TO-SCHOOL UPDATES | 2026-27



To read more, find full details on *Connected, the Parent Resource Guide* found here: <https://tinyurl.com/GCSCConnected2026>

GRADING POLICY CHANGES

NO MORE "GRADE FLOOR"	EARNED GRADES ONLY	COMPLETE ALL ASSIGNMENTS	UNSUBMITTED WORK = ZERO
A new South Carolina law, H. 5073, prohibits public schools and districts from using "grade floors."	Students must receive the actual numerical grade earned on assignments, assessments, and marking-period grades. A minimum grade of 50% is no longer applied when a student earns a lower score.	Every assignment contributes to student's overall grade. Students and families should understand the importance of completing and submitting all assigned work.	Consistent participation and timely completion of assignments is essential to academic success. Assignments not turned in receive a zero in the grade book.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (AI) USE

NO AI IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	AI USE IN GRADES 6-12	TEACHER GUIDED AI USE	FOR MORE INFORMATION
Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools are not permitted for students in elementary school.	Students in grades 6-12 may use only district-approved AI platforms and only when permitted by the teacher for a specific class or assignment.	Teachers communicate when approved AI tools may be used and identify those opportunities in course syllabi and instructional materials.	These updates are reflected in updated Board Policy IA and Administrative Rule IA . (see links below)

TECHNOLOGY USE UPDATES

REDUCED SCREEN TIME/AGE-APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY USE	TECHNOLOGY USE BY GRADE LEVEL
GCS assessed the use of instructional technology and reduced screen time to ensure technology access is age-appropriate by grade level . Updates reflected in Board Policy IA (https://tinyurl.com/4jc469v8) and Administrative Rule IA (https://tinyurl.com/3r3yhbud).	4K-GRADE 1: Classrooms are provided a limited number of devices to support required state and district assessments and teacher-directed small-group instruction. Students do not receive individual devices. New e-Learning guidelines will be provided. GRADES 2-5: Students are issued a Chromebook for the school year. Device use is limited to required assessments and district-approved instructional applications accessed through ClassLink. Schools are expected to prioritize non-technology teaching and learning experiences whenever possible. GRADES 6-12: Students are issued a Chromebook for the school year to support assessments, research, collaboration, content creation, and other instructional activities. Teachers are expected to balance technology use with direct instruction and interpersonal learning experiences.

CONTENT AND CREDIT RECOVERY UPDATES

CREDIT & CONTENT RECOVERY	WHO CAN PARTICIPATE	WHAT IS CONTENT RECOVERY?	WHAT IS CREDIT RECOVERY?
Based on South Carolina law, H. 5073 , guidelines on content and credit recovery were updated. Content and Credit Recovery Guidelines - https://tinyurl.com/ContentCreditRecovery26	High School students may participate in district-approved Credit Recovery or Content Recovery after completing required coursework and assignments in line with district expectations for the timely submission of work.	Content Recovery is available to all students currently enrolled in a course and focuses on specific standards, units, assignments, assessments, or other course components identified as necessary for the student to demonstrate mastery.	Credit recovery is an opportunity for students who have previously failed to master content required to receive credit.