

GCPS SPOTLIGHT

Gwinnett County Public Schools Awards, Honors, Recognitions, and Milestones

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School Police earn law enforcement certification

The Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police awarded its State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification to the Gwinnett County School Police (GCSP) Department. Of the approximately 700 law enforcement agencies in the state of Georgia, only 95 have met the rigorous standards needed for recognition as a State Certified Agency. GCSP is one of only three school police departments in Georgia to achieve this certification, which is valid for three years.

“State Certification exemplifies the hard work and dedication that Gwinnett County School Police has toward making our schools, students, and staff safe and secure,” says **Officer Tony Lockard**. “It demonstrates that GCSP is consistent with progressive professional standards, strives for greater operational and administrative effectiveness and increased public confidence in our agency.”

To prepare for the onsite assessment, Officer Lockard managed the organizational review of the department's compliance with eight chapters of standards, representing 118 critical elements: Role & Responsibility, Organization & Management, Personnel, Legal, Operations, Support Services, Communications, and Holding Areas. The GCSP team reviewed internal documentation, such as incident reports, training records, and annual reports. They also conducted audits and inspections of the Property/Evidence Room, and examined all GCSP policies and procedures in preparation for the visit.

“Achieving the State of Georgia Law Enforcement Certification validates the quality of work and the extraordinary effort of every member of the Gwinnett County School Police Department,” says **Wayne Rikard**, GCPS’ chief of [Safety and Security](#). “I am proud of the department and the positive recognition the award brings to us in Safety and Security, and to Gwinnett County Public Schools as a whole. Also, a big thank you goes to our co-workers and to the local law enforcement agencies that support us every day as we work to ensure the safety of all GCPS employees and students.”