

Education & Workforce Conference

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Leah Carper
Director of Stakeholder Engagement
Guilford County Schools
2022 North Carolina Teacher of the Year

Leah Carper serves as Director of Stakeholder Engagement for Guilford County Schools, where she leads the district's government relations, policy advocacy, and community engagement work. She builds and sustains relationships with state legislators, county commissioners, and the region's congressional delegation, tracking and shaping legislation that affects public education, and translating complex policy shifts into action for school leaders, staff, and families. She also leads GCS's engagement with business partners, families, and community stakeholders to build broad-based support for public education.



Carper brings a rare vantage point to this work: she was named 2022 North Carolina Teacher of the Year after more than a decade in the high school English classroom and served as an advisor to the North Carolina State Board of Education. That classroom experience shapes how she approaches policy with a clear-eyed focus on what actually helps students and educators, not just what's politically expedient. She continues to serve on state commissions and writes and speaks on education policy, chronicling what's happening in schools, what students and educators are experiencing, and what's possible for public education in North Carolina and beyond.

Carper lives in Guilford County with her husband, to whom she's been married since 2005, and their three children, all of whom attend North Carolina public schools.