

GCEA

JUNE 2023

# MTN. TOP MISSION

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IT'S BEEN A TUMULTUOUS YEAR FOR GARRETT COUNTY SCHOOLS, BUT GCEA IS LOOKING AHEAD...



2023 presented numerous challenges for Garrett County public schools, as well as the dedicated educators and support staff. The prospect of school closures triggered intense public debates, while budget constraints continued to be a pressing concern for administrators throughout the county. However, amidst these formidable obstacles, GCPS staff demonstrated remarkable resilience, and their unwavering commitment yielded exceptional outcomes. Notably, several local schools excelled and achieved top rankings on the MD Report Card, reaffirming the district's ability to deliver excellent education.

Despite the challenges faced by GCEA in 2023, the association achieved significant victories for its members, resulting in a positive impact on their professional lives. These accomplishments included a well-deserved salary increase, restored steps, and an overall improved contract. Moreover, GCEA successfully oversaw governing board elections, with the introduction of several new officers (starting on July 1st), ensuring strong representation for members in the upcoming 2023/2024 school year. The ratification vote witnessed a substantial turnout, with numerous GCEA members having their voices heard as they approved the negotiated terms secured by the association.

Under the current governing board's leadership, GCEA's financial position has significantly improved, marking a positive trajectory towards recovery. The association remains committed to transparency and will diligently work towards maintaining a robust financial standing as it progresses into the next school year. As summer approaches, GCEA continues its dedication to expanding its membership, fostering professional connections throughout Garrett County, and providing members with the necessary tools for collaboration, communication, and achieving effective results. While anticipating the challenges that lie ahead in the 2023/2024 school year, GCEA is confident in its ability to overcome them through collective effort and unity.

# WHAT CAN MEMBERS DO TO SUPPORT GCEA AND GCPS EDUCATORS/SUPPORT STAFF?

- Check gceamsea.org frequently for recent news, and resources that can help individual members.
- Read the NEA, MSEA, and GCEA newsletters.
- Visit marylandeducators.org - MSEA's website and follow MSEA on Facebook and Twitter.
- Always read emails from Garrett County Education Association.
- Make sure to vote in any/all Governing Board and Ratification elections/etc.
- Attend GCEA Governing Board meetings and events.
- Join the GCEA Facebook Page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/gceamseanea/>
- Communicate with other members and share ideas.
- Be vocal in support of policies that enhance and support public education.
- Grow our numbers by encouraging new or non-unionized staff to join GCEA.
- Use the power of positivity when discussing GCEA, or union-led campaigns and initiatives.
- Leverage the tools provided by GCEA, such as the GCEA Members Slack Channel

