

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo caption (left to right): Dr. Michelle Burton and Mrs. Carla Murray
Photo credit: Chatham County Schools

Chatham County Schools Announces Leadership Changes

PITTSBORO, N.C. — Chatham County Schools has announced two district leadership changes within existing resources designed to support academic excellence, student success, and continued innovation across the district.

Dr. Michelle Burton, currently the Executive Director of Secondary Education & Career and Technical Education, has been named Deputy Chief of Student Support & Innovative Programs, also effective July 1, 2026. In her new assignment, Burton will support districtwide efforts related to student services, innovative programming, and expanded opportunities for students.

Mrs. Carla Murray, currently the district's Executive Director of Elementary Instruction, has been named Deputy Chief of Academic Services & School Leadership, effective July 1, 2026. In this assignment, Murray will help lead the district's academic services and provide support for school leadership across Chatham County Schools.

Incoming Superintendent Dr. Kelly Batten said the changes reflect the district's commitment to reorganization and financial stability within existing positions using strong leadership, collaboration, and student-centered decision-making.

"Chatham County Schools is fortunate to have experienced, thoughtful leaders who understand our schools, our students, and our community," Batten said. "Mrs. Murray and Dr. Burton have demonstrated a deep commitment to student success, academic growth, and supporting the educators who make that work possible. I am excited to work alongside

them as we reorganize our Central Services in support of student learning and continue moving Chatham County Schools forward.”

Burton said she is excited to help expand student support and innovative opportunities across the district.

“It is a privilege to serve Chatham County Schools in this new role,” Burton said. “I am passionate about helping students access the support, resources, and opportunities they need to be successful in school and beyond. I look forward to working with our teams to continue building programs that meet the needs of our students and prepare them for their futures.”

Murray said she is honored to continue serving the district in this new capacity.

“I am grateful for the opportunity to continue serving Chatham County Schools and to support the incredible work happening in our classrooms and schools each day,” Murray said. “I look forward to partnering with school leaders, teachers, staff, students, and families as we continue strengthening instruction and creating learning environments where all students can thrive.”

Both leadership changes will take effect July 1, 2026.

For more information about Chatham County Schools, visit www.chatham.k12.nc.us, or contact Chatham County Schools Public Information Officer Jessica Pasi3n.

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About Chatham County Schools

Chatham County Schools serves more than 9,000 students across 20 schools in central North Carolina. With a commitment to excellence, equity, and engagement, the district works in partnership with families and the community to prepare ALL students for success in college, careers, and life.