



# Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

1058 Fifth Avenue, Jonesboro, GA, 30236 | Tel: 770-473-2700 | Web: [www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us)

## ADVISORY

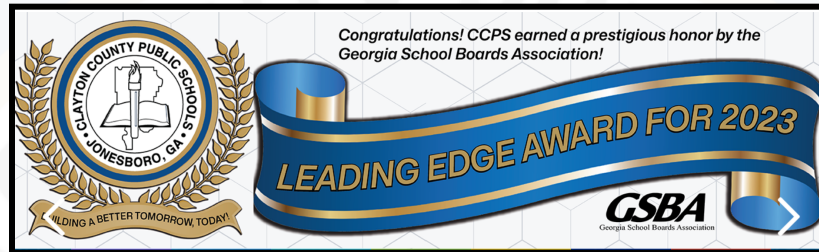
## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

December 4, 2023

### Clayton County Public Schools Earns 2023 Leading Edge Award

*Prestigious recognition for the School System and the CCPS Board of Education*



**JONESBORO** - On Friday, December 1, 2023, the Georgia School Board Association (GSBA) and Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) held their 5th annual awards ceremony at the Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel & Convention Center in Atlanta, Georgia. Clayton County attendees included Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Dr. Anthony W. Smith; Mark Christmas, Board Member (District 2); Joy Tellis Cooper, Board Member (District 8); Dr. Douglas Hendrix Sr., Senior Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Staff; and Dr. Ebony T. Lee, Acting Chief of Communications and Strategic Improvement.

During the occasion, Clayton County Public Schools received a prestigious recognition. In the area of Teaching and Learning Resources, the school system received a Leading Edge Award for 2023. This special honor recognizes the District's innovative design and implementation of projects and programs that are having a significant and positive impact on our students. More specifically, in the area of Teaching and Learning Resources, the District received this esteemed award due to its exemplification of the following:

- Effective use of instructional models and learning supports
- Full integration of current technology and training into the classroom
- Implementation of a comprehensive data system for monitoring student progress (PreK-12) and making decisions to improve educational practice
- Partnership development with businesses, industries, public agencies, and the community to promote the shared use of services and facilities

“This is an important honor for our district. Teaching and Learning is our core business, and receiving an award of this prestige affirms that we are on the right track as we *Build a Better Tomorrow, Today!* Special appreciation is extended to the district's academic leadership team for coordinating the completion of the rigorous award application, and a special acknowledgment to our staff and partners in education who helped to remove barriers to learning to unleash our students' academic potential. I accept the 2023 Leading Edge Award on behalf of our Board of Education, our 7,000 employees, our 50,000 students, and our valued families/community members,” added Superintendent Smith.

For the 9th year in a row, the Clayton County Board of Education received the Exemplary School Board recognition. “We are incredibly honored to be the recipients of such a distinguished award,” said Ms. Jessie Goree, Chair of the Clayton County Board of Education representing District 3. “This recognition is symbolic of our commitment to

provide our students, their families, and our community with the highest quality education to ensure that our students are college and career-ready upon graduation.”

Other event highlights include:

- A soulful and spirited opening by GSBA/GSSA President, Shakila Henderson-Baker
- An inspiring message by the 2024 Georgia Teacher of the Year, Ms. Christy Todd, who challenged policy-makers, school system leaders, and board members to make Georgia the #1 place for teachers to work and to invite more teachers to the decision-making table
- An informative message by Superintendent Richard Woods about how Georgia is working to attract the very best; and to put our teachers in the best position to be successful
- An incredibly impressive panel discussion with our Youth Advisory Council, which includes Clayton County Public Schools' very own, Judah Whaley, a sophomore at Jonesboro High School - Judah and his other Youth Advisory peers shared the following insight and advice with system superintendents and board of education members:
  - Students are more than data/numbers; they are real people with real challenges.
  - Students need to have at least one adult at school whom they trust.
  - Students need to see how school successfully “branches” them into other endeavors and how to leverage the resources at their school.
  - There is a need to improve the overall educational experience for more of their peers.
  - The state of Georgia appears to “genuinely” want to improve learning conditions.

Overall, the awards ceremony affirmed that Clayton County Public Schools is building a better tomorrow, today through innovation, signature programming, and high-quality educational opportunities for its students.

To see highlights from the GSBA/GSSA Annual Award Ceremony, click on this link:

<https://ccpscommunications.client-gallery.com/gallery/gsba-annual-conference-2023>



**-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-**

**About Clayton County Public Schools:** Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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