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CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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## **CCPS Transportation Department Opens New Garden Walk Fueling Station** *Projected to save department nearly \$300,000 annually*

**JONESBORO** – Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Department of Transportation opened a new fueling station at the Garden Walk Bus Depot on Monday, January 29, as the department looks to reduce unnecessary spending. Projected to save nearly \$300,000 annually by reducing daily fuel costs and weekly labor expenses, the fueling station features a 20,000 gallon above ground diesel fuel tank and three fuel pumps.

“We are very excited to open a fueling station on the north end of the county as it will better assist us in managing costs,” said Harold Walker, CCPS Director of Transportation. “By adding the new station, it will eliminate the need of the 224 buses, which service that portion of the school system, to travel to the fueling station in Jonesboro or utilize public fueling stations and ultimately reduces bus mileage and bus maintenance,” he explained.

Approved by the Clayton County Board of Education in July of 2017, the Garden Walk Fueling Station will also protect district transportation operations from the fluctuating retail market prices and stabilize fuel inventory. According to Walker, each year the department solicit bids for fuel, which are awarded annually at a fixed price. This year the district paid a rate of \$1.81 per gallon for 500,000 gallons of diesel fuel. The construction of the new fueling station will also eliminate the need of Fuel Master Cards -- credit cards available to drivers to purchase fuel from public gas stations. The use of these cards subjects the district to paying market value for diesel fuel – an average cost of \$2.94 per gallon statewide.

“I am very proud of the work Transportation as well as Construction departments have done to ensure the successful completion of this much-needed fueling station,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley. “Our students deserve the best and as we continue to identify ways to operate our school system by being more fiscally efficient and controlling our resources, we will be able to provide greater opportunities and experiences for our students”

Built at a cost of \$985,400, the fueling station also features surveillance cameras, a canopy, lighting system as well as a fuel management system.

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