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CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CCPS Modifies GMAS testing 14 days for grades 3-8

Friday, February 16 to be expanded to a full instructional day

JONESBORO – Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) will use an extended Professional Learning Day (PLD) and an adjusted GMAS testing schedule for students in Grades 3-8 to respond to the loss of instructional time due to adverse weather conditions.

The district's leadership made this decision on the heels of a stakeholder survey that sought opinions as to how the district should recapture lost instructional time. Discussions centered on each of the options offered the potential financial and scheduling impact that would be caused by activating any of the survey options. Included in the decision-making process was data from the Department of Transportation, the School Nutrition Department, the Maintenance Department and the Department of Athletics.

"Our district is not mandated to make up any of our lost instructional days under our present Strategic Waiver School System (SWSS) contract with the state," said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, Superintendent of Schools referring to the district's SWSS agreement. "However, we feel compelled to provide as much academic support for our students, while protecting the fiscal future of our organization."

"We have changed our last Professional Learning Day (early dismissal for students) scheduled for February 16 to reflect a full day of instruction," he said. "This means that students will now be attending school for a full day on Friday, February 16."

"We have also adjusted our Georgia Milestones Assessment System (GMAS) testing schedule for grades 3 through 8 to provide additional preparation time," Beasley said.

This decision was based on leadership discussions with the CCPS Testing Coordinator and extending a survey to all elementary and middle school leadership. As a result, the school district has moved the start date for the 2017-2018 End of Grade (EOG) testing back to allow students an additional two weeks of preparation. As a result, **testing dates for students in grades 3-8 are now scheduled for Tuesday, May 8 – Friday, May 18, 2018. Testing dates for high school students will remain unchanged.**

"This action is being taken to ensure student readiness," Beasley said. "We want to maximize instructional time for our students and we believe moving the end of year testing back 14 days will provide our students and teachers ample time to prepare." "We are also encouraging our parents/guardians to take full advantage of our online resources," he added.

"The Division of School Leadership and Improvement has developed a process for ***Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom*** for students and their families to engage in learning by accessing available online resources that can be found on the district's website."

“We have taken these steps in the belief that our focus will be steadfast on being committed to high performance as we continue through the 2017-18 school year,” Beasley said.

Please note that we will continue to provide updates and inform our stakeholders with any new developments. In the event of future hazardous inclement weather, CCPS will continue to remind our stakeholders about the availability of our *Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom* efforts.

About the Make-Up Days Survey

The survey asked for opinions as to different potential ways of making-up three instructional days. It attracted 14,594 responses. Most came from CCPS employees (40.77 percent), students (30.86 percent) and parents (27.16 percent).

A full listing of the survey’s results can be found on the district’s website

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