

***"COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE"***

# **NEWS RELEASE**

***CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS***

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Superintendent Addresses Inquiries Regarding Eddie White K-8 Academy**

**JONESBORO-** Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is in the process of closing out the 2017-18 school year and has begun to focus on the 2018-19 school year. After an internal review, including an analysis of school/community needs and how to best support our continued commitment to high performance, district leadership is realigning principals, assistant principals and various other school-level personnel. As part of this realignment process, it has also been decided to separate Eddie White K-8 Academy (EWA) to create stand-alone elementary (EWA K-5) and middle (EWA 6-8) school facilities. While we appreciate the public input regarding the separation of Eddie White Academy, we are also aware of concerns regarding the school's new direction. As we continue to operate in a culture of transparency please see the following facts regarding the decision to create two stand-alone campuses.

During the 2018-19 School Year, EWA K-5 and EWA 6-8 will continue to operate by utilizing the current operating schedule (7:45 a.m. – 2:15 p.m.). District leadership understands the complexity of adjusting start and end times as well as the potential impact on parents/guardians. With that understanding, after-school programs for EWA K-5 and EWA 6-8 will continue to be provided in the upcoming school year. There have been no definitive discussions of eliminating after-school programs for these students and any reports implying such are false.

“During my tenure as Superintendent/CEO, this administration has placed a special interest on working collaboratively with all stakeholders while emphasizing the importance of instruction and academic achievement,” said Superintendent Dr. Morcease J. Beasley. “We appreciate concerns relative to realigning personnel and the proposed building structure of Eddie White Academy. However, as we remain focused on the best interest of our students, schools and surrounding communities, we ask for your trust and support as we continue to promote student achievement and implement practices to improve all CCPS schools and facilities.”

“Our students and community deserve the best and we are committed to ensuring we provide all students with a top-notch education that will empower them to achieve high-performance academically, personally and professionally,” Beasley concluded.

## **About Clayton County Public Schools**

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through AdvancED – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving almost 55,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the fifth largest school system in Georgia.

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