

"COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE"

ADVISORY

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FEMA and FCC to Conduct Nationwide Test of Emergency Alert Systems

Tests Scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2018

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), in coordination with the Federal Communications Commission, will conduct a nationwide test of the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) and Emergency Alert System on October 3, 2018 at 2:18 pm. FEMA will send a WEA test message to WEA-capable wireless devices. Most cell phones will receive the alert within a few minutes. The test message will state: **"This is a test of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."** The alert will have a special tone and vibration will repeat twice. As the message will state, there is NO action necessary in response to the message. There is no charge to receive the message.

As noted, the wireless test will start at 2:18 p.m. followed by the EAS portion (television and radio) at 2:20 p.m. Remember, there is no opt-out for the wireless test, so this means cell phones will be activated (going off) during class time at the middle and high school levels, causing a disruption to learning; elementary schools will be starting their dismissal during the test (hopefully with minimal impact). Schools should be encouraged to have their teachers emphasize the extreme importance of emergency preparedness and use this event (test) as a teachable moment. Most importantly, receiving preparedness tips and timely information about weather conditions and/or other emergency events can make all the difference in knowing when to take action to keep our schools and facilities safe.

FEMA and its partners are working to ensure alerts and warnings are received quickly through several different technologies, regardless of whether an individual is at home, at school, at work, or out in the community, and we truly appreciate their efforts!

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 over 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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