

**“COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE”**

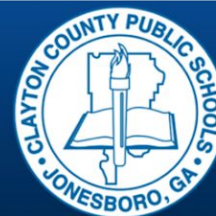
# NEWS RELEASE

**CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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February 5, 2019

## Clayton County BOE Approves Change in District Dress Code

*District to Implement New Start Times for Middle and High Schools in 2019-2020 School Year*

**JONESBORO** – During its February 4, 2019 meeting, the Clayton County Board of Education (CCBOE) approved a recommendation from Clayton County Public Schools Superintendent/CEO Dr. Morcease J. Beasley and district leadership to relax uniform dress restriction for grades 9 through 12. The Board’s action will become effective in the beginning of the Fall 2019-2020 school year. The school district leadership also announced a change in middle and high schools start times, effective in August 2019.

The only exception to this decision for students at the high school level will be Magnet or School Choice programs which may require specific dress or uniform requirements thereby providing students a different experience. Uniform dress expectations will continue in Grades K-8 and Magnet or Choice Programs which requires them. High expectations for student learning applies to all schools.

“It’s time for our principals, teachers and students to put a laser-like focus on the actions that really count toward preparing students to be college and career ready” said Dr. Beasley. “While we will continue to have high expectations for appropriate dress for all students, we will not spend time on enforcing uniforms (e.g. uniform styles or colors) at the high school level.”

“The expectation is that our high school students will understand that this decision is a partnership to create a culture of high performance at every CCPS high school,” he added. “Our high school students are expected to perform at a higher academic level while also demonstrating responsibility for their actions and dress while at school.”

The recommendation to relax high school uniform dress was developed following extensive conversations with student advisory members, principals and parents during the Superintendent’s Critical Conversations and community input sessions. The Board of Education, with the recommendation of the Superintendent, reserves the right to return to uniform dress for high school students if student discipline or academic outcomes do not continue to improve as current data trends reflect. Students are expected to do their part to secure improved academic performance with improvement efforts as follows:

- increasing the number/percent students participating in AP and earning 3 or more on AP exams,
- increasing number/percent of dual enrollment participation and completion,
- increasing number/percent participating in SAT-ACT preparation,

- increasing the number/percent of students passing their courses,
- increasing the number/percent of students participating in credit recovery when needed,
- increasing the number/percent of students participating and completing a career pathway,
- increasing the number/percent of students successfully passing an end of pathway assessment,
- increasing the number/percent of students proficient or distinguished on End-of-Course tests,
- decreasing the number/percent of discipline issues or incidents,
- decreasing the number/percent of students absent more than 10% of their enrollment period, and
- increasing the graduation rate to a minimum of 90% at each high school.

“We do acknowledge that some think the uniform is the cure-all; however, the data does not affirm this,” Dr. Beasley continued. “In light of the crucial work we are doing in lifting all high school students through a culture of high performance with Advanced Learning expectations for all, we are seeking and requesting the full support and the respect of all community stakeholders as we move forward.”

**Note:** Board Policy JCDB-R(1) will include the student code of conduct for SY19-20 as it pertains to the action of not requiring uniform dress for high school (9-12) students unless they attend a Magnet or Choice Program which requires them. The revision of the regulation has outlined clear dress expectations for high school students.

In addition to the decision regarding high school uniform dress, district leadership announced a decision to change the school starting times for middle school and high school students for the 2019-2020 school year. Under this change, high school will begin at 8:20 a.m. and will dismiss at 3:15 p.m. while middle school will begin at 8:45 a.m. and will dismiss at 3:45 p.m. This change will not affect the elementary school day.

“We believe that our decision to change the bell times for our secondary students will have benefits, especially at the high school level,” said Dr. Beasley. “It will provide positive support for our Dual Enrollment and Work Study programs while providing more time for study and extracurricular activities.”

### **About Clayton County Public Schools**

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by 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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