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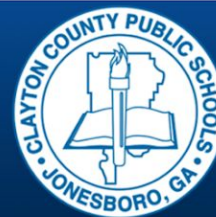
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Clayton County Public Schools Instituting a Two-Week Freeze for Athletics

JONESBORO - In light of the potential impact that high school sporting events could have on the spread of the COVID-19 virus, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) announces that it will halt all mandated athletics-related activities (conditioning, practices, etc.) for the next two weeks. Athletic activities will be reassessed during the two-week freeze. The freeze begins today, August 7. The decision was informed by conversations with metro superintendents and internal deliberations that considered many variables including recent athletic programs in Clayton County experiencing COVID-19 cases, with one as recent as today.

“The situation surrounding high school athletics is complex and complicated, however, the safety of our players, their families and our employees is our primary concern,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO. “While there are many complicated aspects and varied opinions related to this subject to be considered, we will lean towards prioritizing safety and security through this two-week freeze of athletic activity. Our intention is to do everything possible to avoid cancelling any part of the fall sports season. We will be working with principals, coaches, and parents of athletes as we determine our next data informed actions. We are going to approach this methodically and incrementally within the next two weeks and beyond.

In addition to the primary considerations regarding student and adult health and safety, there was also the issue of liability. “COVID-19 shutdowns of different athletic programs statewide are more than likely to occur given the recent rise in cases and have to be taken into account as we plan for the coming months.”

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.