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# NEWS RELEASE

**CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CCPS Resumes Athletic Activity on Monday, August 24**

*District cites data and communication with stakeholder groups as reasons*

**JONESBORO**— Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) announces that the district’s comprehensive high schools will resume all athletic activity on Monday, August 24, 2020. The decision to lift the freeze that was established on Friday, August 7, was based on careful monitoring of data from local/state health organizations, communication with student athletes and their families and first-hand observations of the challenges surrounding COVID-19 and the sustaining of a robust athletic program as provided by athletic directors and coaches.

“Our decision to resume athletic activity is being made with a watchful eye on the safety of our players, their families and our employees,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO. “This is a fluid situation and district leadership will continue to monitor the status of the pandemic and will abide by the recommendations supplied by our health officials. We will also be in close contact with the Georgia High School Association (GHSA) and competitor districts to determine the best and safest course of action.”

The decision carries with it an important commitment from the athletic leaders at the district’s campuses the Superintendent indicated. “They must demonstrate a full understanding of all risks associated with continuing our athletic program at this time,” Dr. Beasley said. “They must also ensure that the student athletes they lead know and accept their responsibility in keeping our athletic seasons vibrant by demonstrating and adhering to all safety practices whether on or away from the field of play.”

One other deciding factor in resuming athletic activity on August 24 has been understanding the important role that athletics plays in the overall social-emotional wellbeing of the district’s athletes and student population.

“As I have stated before, this situation is extremely complex, especially as it relates to the district’s reopening process,” Dr. Beasley added. “We will lean towards prioritizing the health and safety of all concerned to avoid cancelling any part of the fall sports season and will continue to communicate and strategize with district leadership, principals, coaches and our student athletes and their parents/guardians to make our best data informed decisions as they relate to our athletic program,” he concluded.

**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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