

About Clayton County Public Schools

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. Serving over 52,000 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.

The system has 38 primary/elementary schools, 16 middle schools, 12 high schools, two district-approved charters, one alternative education center, one psychological education center, and one multi-purpose education center. Among these campuses are the state's first dual language immersion school, five school-wide magnet schools, 12 magnet programs, one state-certified STEM program, one Cognia (AdvancED) certified STEM program, and two International Baccalaureate Candidate schools.

CCPS is culturally rich with nearly 22 percent of our students speaking a language other than English. English Learners are 10 percent (approximately 5,000) of our student population, speaking 72 diverse languages with Spanish and Vietnamese as the two major languages spoken. We currently have approximately 6,180 students with disabilities (about 11.4% of our student population).

Clayton County Public Schools has participated in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program since 2011. CEP is a meal service option for schools and school districts in low income areas which provides students with meals at no cost. CCPS averages serving over 12.1 million meals each year CEP has been in place.

Additionally, our half-billion dollar plus budget supports an infrastructure that employs more than 7,000 individuals, making the district one of the largest public sector employers in Clayton County.

BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

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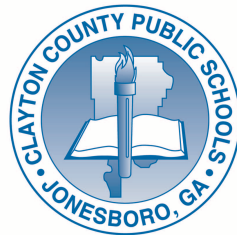
Mr. Benjamin Straker

Ms. Victoria Williams

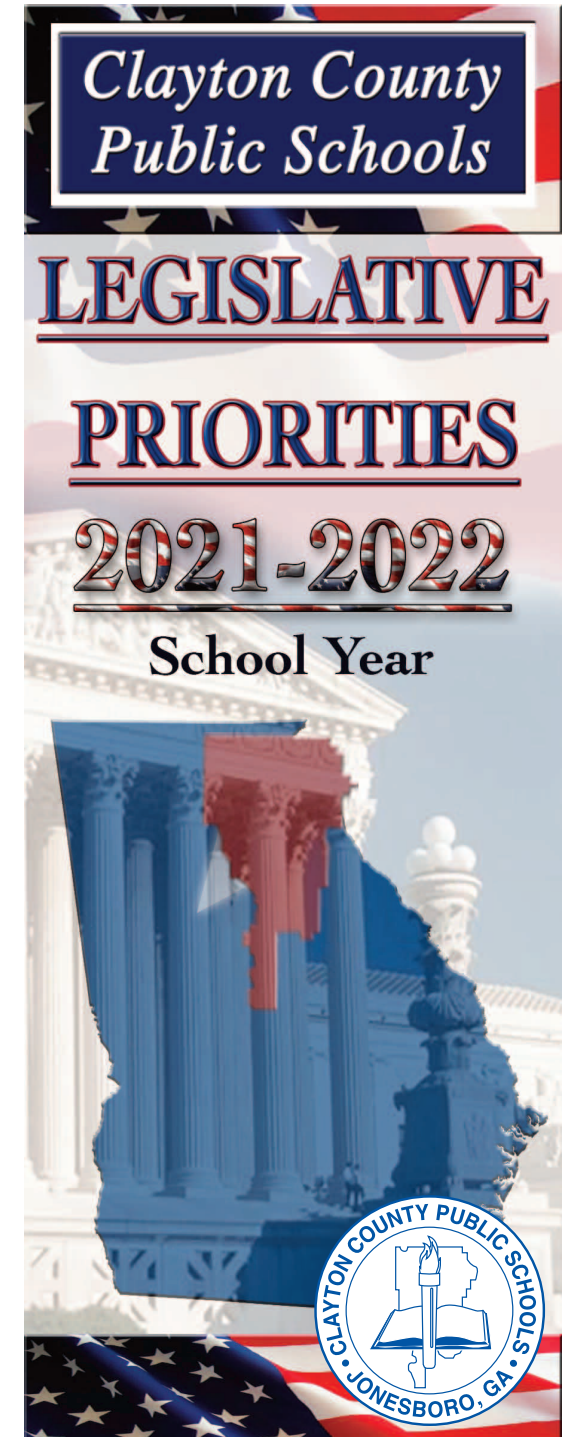
Dr. Morcease J. Beasley

Superintendent/CEO of Schools

**“COMMITTED TO
HIGH PERFORMANCE”**



Clayton County Public Schools
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Jonesboro, Georgia 30236
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CCPS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES FOR 2021-2022

PRIORITY 1

Support full Quality Basic Education (QBE) funding and increase educational funding to provide an adequate public education for all students. Finance often drives policy and school operations; changes in the economy will continue to drastically affect the amount of funds available for education. The current QBE Act does not address all aspects of an adequate education to every student in Georgia.

PRIORITY 2

Support efforts to discontinue ongoing changes to the State's Accountability System. Allow states more latitude to design their own approaches to accountability rather than uniform measures for all jurisdictions and states to address any inequities in the K-12 system. Prescribe and implement a strong accountability system with clear and specific standards in all core content areas and rigorous assessment of those standards to produce improved student outcomes and measure opportunities. Advocate for greater flexibility in assessments to include utilizing more fair and equitable testing practices for students that address their cultural and linguistic diversity, while supporting efforts to decrease standardized tests.

PRIORITY 3

Support for Clayton County to benefit from Hartsfield-Jackson Airport like Fulton County by lowering the population threshold that prevents Clayton from benefiting from certain tax options.

PRIORITY 4

Advocate for policies and laws that allow adequate protection to school systems due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to include: 1) targeted funding to reduce fiscal impacts to school systems, 2) temporary, targeted, and reasonable flexibilities to the mandates associated with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) including flexibilities to the definition of Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and associated timeline and budgetary mandates, and 3) statutory shields from civil lawsuits for claims related to the coronavirus that provide limitations from liability where responsible action has been demonstrated; provides eliminate structures & systems that perpetuate and fortify poverty; embrace inclusion and equity; encourage family-supporting wages; provide pathways to prosperity; remove barriers to access healthcare and education; reduce mobility rates.

PRIORITY 5

Advocate and fund more support for Special Education. Fund Progressive Policy to improve the quality of life and achieve an equitable public education for students with disabilities. Fully funding Special Education services such as: Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), educating children with disabilities realizing that special education needs and expenses vary widely depending on state policies in identifying and educating students in need of special education services and the extent of individual students' needs. More federal funding could cover the costs of services provided by speech, physical, and occupational therapists, and more intensive one-on-one support. If allotted more funding, it could also address student-support services, early intervention, and counseling for students that may not be identified under IDEA.

PRIORITY 6

Support additional funding for the School Nutrition Services Program to facilitate the preparation, packaging and delivery of nutritional meals to students in whatever manner they receive instruction. Flexibilities for program operators are also needed to combat the numerous obstacles that serving in the midst of a pandemic presents. The School Nutrition Program's role in ensuring that children meet their nutritional needs for good health and embrace lifelong habits cannot be overemphasized.

PRIORITY 7

Improve school readiness and literacy levels through early learning; support for early learning are paramount for both early foundations and strong instructional systems. All children in the state of Georgia should have access to free, high-quality pre-kindergarten to develop the knowledge and skills that are foundational to all learning that will occur in the K-12 trajectory.

