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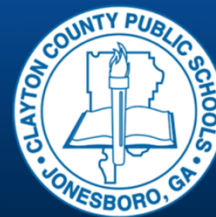
# NEWS RELEASE

**CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Clayton County Public Schools to Enhance Education Equity**

*District to use funds from Georgia Power to enhance student academic and career performance*

**JONESBORO** – Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) announced today that it is one of four districts across the state to benefit from a new education equity initiative, funded by Georgia Power, designed to support impactful local programs in communities of color and facilitate holistic generational change. The program, which also includes Dougherty County School System, Richmond County School System, and Savannah-Chatham County Public School System, represents a \$3 million investment that will address specific needs and opportunities identified by local school districts focused on improving career readiness and multigenerational economic stability.

Clayton County Public Schools will utilize the funding to improve career readiness and workforce opportunities for graduating seniors, to focus on improving access to early education by working with child caring organizations in the county to increase kindergarten readiness, to expand its work-based learning program, and to create a soft skills academy for students. The district has started its internal team meetings and has a scheduled meeting with GA Power in June 2022 with intent to execute programs supported by the initiative shortly thereafter.

“We are excited over the possibilities that our participation in this equity initiative makes available for the students in our school district,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “Our intent is to have a far-reaching impact on early learners throughout our county and to provide the instructional and intellectual support necessary to ensure that our graduates are proficient and globally successful as they exit this district college and career ready.”

“Speaking for the Clayton County Board of Education, our 50,000-plus student population, and more than 7,000 employees, I extend our profound appreciation to Georgia Power for making this amazing opportunity available for the students and families of Clayton County,” Dr. Beasley concluded.

“From efforts focused on enhancing STEM and literacy, to career-centered programs such as the Careers in Energy week, we’re proud of our continued partnership with Clayton County Schools to engage and uplift students,” said Misty Fernandez, Regional Director for Georgia Power. “As Metro Atlanta continues to attract and grow businesses that offer high quality jobs, we believe that investments in education generate opportunity for real, inclusive economic growth and we’re looking forward to seeing the positive impact of this program in Clayton County.”

School districts participating in the new initiative were selected by Georgia Power based on interviews with key influencers in the education space and on research on family poverty rates, unemployment, access to early learning, Kindergarten readiness, postsecondary preparedness and postsecondary

attainment. Enhancing education equity – spanning multiple areas such as early childhood, K-12, higher education and promoting equitable education policy – is one of Georgia Power’s social justice pillars, with the company committed to improving and strengthening education in underserved communities to help students of all ages build brighter futures.

Georgia Power’s longstanding commitment to improving education and supporting the state’s educators include workforce development programs, power plant tours, partnerships with various education nonprofits, and the company’s marquee [Learning Power](#) program. Learn more at [www.GeorgiaPower.com/Education](http://www.GeorgiaPower.com/Education).

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

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 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.

### **About Georgia Power**

Georgia Power is the largest electric subsidiary of Southern Company (NYSE: SO), America's premier energy company. Value, Reliability, Customer Service and Stewardship are the cornerstones of the Company's promise to 2.7 million customers in all but four of Georgia's 159 counties. Committed to delivering clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy at rates below the national average, Georgia Power maintains a diverse, innovative generation mix that includes nuclear, coal and natural gas, as well as renewables such as solar, hydroelectric and wind. Georgia Power focuses on delivering world-class service to its customers every day and the Company is consistently recognized by J.D. Power and Associates as an industry leader in customer satisfaction. For more information, visit [www.GeorgiaPower.com](http://www.GeorgiaPower.com) and connect with the Company on Facebook ([Facebook.com/GeorgiaPower](https://Facebook.com/GeorgiaPower)), Twitter ([Twitter.com/GeorgiaPower](https://Twitter.com/GeorgiaPower)) and Instagram ([Instagram.com/ga\\_power](https://Instagram.com/ga_power)).

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