

**“COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE”**

# NEWS RELEASE

*CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS*

1058 Fifth Avenue | Jonesboro, GA 30236

770-473-2700

[www.clayton.k12.ga.us](http://www.clayton.k12.ga.us)



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Department of Communications, Public Relations & Marketing**

**Jada K. Dawkins**  
Chief of Communications  
Telephone: (770) 472-7257

**March 30, 2022**

## **CCPS Lifts Masks Mandate in Compliance with New Law**

**JONESBORO** – Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) announces that it is ending its mandate on the wearing of masks at schools, on school buses and in district administrative and support facilities for students and employees. The action comes in reaction to the signing into law the *Unmask Georgia Students Act* (Senate Bill 514) by Governor Brian Kemp. The measure says that “No local school superintendent shall make or enforce any rule ... that requires students to wear face masks or face coverings while present in any area of a school or school grounds or other property owned or operated by the local school system ...”

“As of Thursday, March 31, we will no longer require or mandate that masks or face coverings will be worn by students or staff on or in the school district’s property,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO of Schools.

“It is no secret that our leadership has navigated the COVID-19 pandemic with one mission -- to protect the wellbeing of our students and their families as well as our employees and their families,” said Dr. Beasley. “We have used data and guidelines as provided by local, state, and federal officials in making the decisions to accomplish this.”

“Now, by an action of the legislature and by affixing his signature to Senate Bill 514, the Governor has issued his own mandate – that the wearing of masks by students in our schools and on our buses is to be optional and at the discretion of students and parents/guardians,” he added. “We will adhere to the stipulations of this law.”

“Parents/guardians still have the option to send their children to our schools with face coverings if they feel that is the best course of action to protect their health,” he continued. “This goes for our employees as they continue to work daily on our campuses.”

“It is important to note that we remain very concerned regarding the vaccination rate in Clayton County, which at last report stands at 46% of residents receiving two doses of the vaccine,” Dr. Beasley said. “While this decision impedes our local control as educators, it is important to note that our stakeholders have a level of power and position to exercise their voices at the polls during this election season.”

“Please know that our district leadership will continue to monitor data from local, state, and federal health agencies in order to ensure the health and safety of our students and their families and our employees and their families. Our cleaning and sanitizing protocols will continue.”

“We encourage everyone to get vaccinated,” he concluded.

## **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.

###