



Clayton County Public Schools

"Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!"

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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, & Marketing

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CCPS Shares Enhanced Safety Measures for Stadiums ***Safety Throughout Clayton County Public Schools is Priority One!***

JONESBORO - As the 2023-2024 school year unfolds, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) has put measures in place to foster a safe learning environment for our students and a protected working environment for our employees. This commitment, which is aligned with the five priorities established by Superintendent/CEO Dr. Anthony W. Smith, extends to our athletic facilities and to the district's extra-curricular activities.

District officials and leaders recognize the seriousness of the incidents that took place across the state during the first week of football season and will not rest until we have exhausted all measures to provide a safe environment at all events. The school system will remain vigilant at enforcing current measures and creating new measures for shoring up the safety and security protocols to protect staff, students, and visitors. As a result of a comprehensive review of current protocols, the administrative team will use a collaborative and community-driven approach to enforce additional safety strategies for upcoming football games.

In addition to existing safety precautions enforced by the CCPS Safety and Security officials and their law enforcement partners, the District is requiring all attendees at games to take heed to these heightened safety protocols.

- **Protection of Parameter** - There will be no tailgating and no loitering allowed in the parking lot. Law enforcers and volunteers will carry out regular parking lot sweeps throughout the night to maintain the highest level of security.
- **Game Admission Deadline** - There will be no admittance into the game after the end of the third quarter.
- **No In-and-Out Policy** - Attendees will not be allowed to enter in and out of games. The strict no-in-and-out policy contributes to an environment of safety and consistency for everyone involved.
- **Separate Parking Areas** - District staff will continue to separate visitor spectators from the home team's fans upon arrival.
- **Enforced Boundaries** - Respecting the boundaries and sanctity of team spaces is paramount. Therefore, access to the opposing team's side will be strictly prohibited.
- **Parents' Vital Role** - The district highly encourages parents/guardians to accompany their children to the game and monitor their whereabouts and behavior at all times during the game.
- **Early Arrival for Safety Checks** - Every supporter is asked to arrive at least 30 minutes ahead of time to accommodate necessary safety checks and ensure a seamless entry process.

Existing Safety Protocols

- Spectators attending games at each stadium will enter the facility through digital walk through scanners and/or metal detectors. Bag searches will occur if necessary.
- The Clayton County Public Schools' Athletic Department has adopted standards established by the National Football League as it relates to bags/totes being brought to all CCPS athletic events during the 2023-2024 school year. Each individual attending an athletic event will be limited to a single bag that must conform to the following:
 - Bags/totes that are **clear plastic, vinyl or PVC** and do not exceed 12" x 6" x 12."
 - All bags/totes will be checked at the gate prior to entering the stadiums.
 - No buckles, grommets/hardware or décor can be concealing any part of the bag/tote – the bag/tote literally must be all clear.
 - Attendees may also use a one-gallon clear plastic freezer bag (Ziplock bag or similar).
 - **No outside food or beverages will be allowed inside any of the four stadiums for the 2023-2024 football season.**

Clayton County Public Schools will not tolerate improper behavior at its games. Staff members are actively monitoring social media sites and staying abreast of various challenges that are encouraging outlandish acts. If students partake in such behavior and anything of this nature, they will be banned from participating in or attending all athletic activities for the school year. Students who are suspended from schools or assigned to the alternative school are also not allowed to attend athletic events.

The aforementioned safety protocols apply to staff. There should be no preconceived notion that district employees will not have to adhere to these guidelines as well. We are one community.

It is important to note that Clayton County Public Schools will take further steps, if necessary, to protect staff, students, and visitors who are present to support our teams, even if it means additional restrictions at a future game.

-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by 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 sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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