

*Clayton County Public Schools*



# STATE *of the* SCHOOLS

ADDRESS 2019-2020



TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2020 | 6:00 P.M.  
CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



# Clayton County Public Schools

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1058 Fifth Avenue • Jonesboro, Georgia 30236 • (770) 473-2700

MORCEASE J. BEASLEY  
Superintendent of Schools

Greetings,

It is with special pride and great excitement that I welcome you to the 2019-2020 State of the Schools Address! As Superintendent/CEO of Schools of the fifth-largest school district in the state of Georgia, I am honored to have you here in support of our ever-improving school system, more than 55,000 students and nearly 7,000 employees.

As we are gathered tonight to celebrate the many accomplishments and upward trajectory of Clayton County Public Schools, I encourage everyone to embrace the opportunity to reflect, recharge, and refocus. Reflect upon where we have been as a district, recharge your passions and dedication to our students, and refocus on the task at hand which is to provide this community with a high performing school system that offers its scholars every opportunity to succeed. The efforts we have embarked on together is legacy work that is worthy of our students. While our efforts are not finished, I couldn't be prouder of the work that is underway throughout our district that prepares our students to be college and career ready upon graduation and able to successfully compete in any post-secondary area of their choice.

Rest assured, Clayton County Public Schools is focused on the business of educating students, supporting the community, and safeguarding the future of our county, state, and nation by producing scholars who are prepared to be successful in our global society in whatever career they claim as their own. Together, I know we can accomplish this goal. As I close, I want to express my sincere gratitude to all individuals involved in making this event possible, especially our student participants for their willingness to showcase their talents tonight. I also thank our stakeholders for their continued support of our scholars and their families as well as our employees. We are Clayton County Public Schools! We are Committed to High Performance!

Again, thank you for attending and welcome to the 2019-2020 State of the Schools!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Beasley".

Dr. Morcease J. Beasley,  
Superintendent/CEO of Schools  
Clayton County Public Schools

# THE LEADER - THE WORK- THE IMPACT

Dr. Morcease J. Beasley is a charismatic, visionary, and transformational leader who has dedicated his life to ensuring that thousands of children receive a quality education. In just a short period of time, he has been instrumental in transforming the culture of our district and helping the school system as well as surrounding community transcend a conversation that focuses on accreditation to one that speaks proudly about the world class programs which our students experience. He has done a remarkable job of setting the tone, charting the course of the district, and working closely with the Board of Education and community to cultivate greater coherence of the work.

For decades, it has been echoed by many leaders in education that when it comes to producing more promising outcomes for children in our nation's schools, *leadership matters*. While this is a simple declaration, the weight of it is quite profound. Dr. Beasley has managed to positively impact the trajectory of our students' futures – and our community - in less than three years, first as the Chief of School Leadership and Improvement and now, as our Superintendent/Chief Executive Officer. He is – indeed - an exceptional example of what America's schools are craving within their school district leaders. He has defined for our school district what it means to truly *Deepen and Advance Our Commitment to High Performance*; this mantra governs our vision, mission, core beliefs, and strategic goals.





Dr. Beasley continues to emphasize and mobilize the research from the *Nine Characteristics of High Performing Schools* (Bergeson, 2007) and the *Nine Building Blocks for a World Class School System* (National Center on Education and the Economy); these precepts have shaped expectations for how we lead, support, learn, and teach. From these practices grew the district's five focus areas, which are: (1) fostering academically challenging, relevant, and safe learning environments; (2) providing wrap-around support for learners and parents; (3) providing ongoing professional learning to increase pedagogy, capacity, and efficacy; (4) engaging all internal and external stakeholders, and (5) reimagining our school district's communication strategies and processes to restore trust and pride and to empower all stakeholders. He has done this by making a concerted effort to communicate the needs and accomplishments of the district in a variety of formats: through video recordings, written reports, emails, social media, blogs, communication with the media, public meetings, and attendance at school events. Dr. Beasley is highly present and purposeful in his interactions with internal and external stakeholders.

Dr. Beasley maintains a laser-like focus on effective processes that result in continuous improvement for educational systems. He does that through cultivating positive and sincere relationships with his staff, students, and community, and by establishing clear expectations of performance. Dr. Beasley's personal and professional core beliefs align to create a healthy and positive culture that inspires people to want to be a part of it and take ownership.

There is no doubt that others are noticing the shifts in culture, students' performance data, and overall community priorities as Dr. Beasley has been called upon frequently to deliver keynotes and plenary talks, as well as participate in panelist discussions both locally and beyond. Some of these occasions include, but are not limited to: The Governor's Summit on Early Language and Literacy, The American Association of School Administrators/ Howard University National Superintendent Academy, Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA), Atlanta Leadership Trip: Building a Pipeline of Diverse 21st Century Talent, 21st Annual Pinnacle Leadership Award Luncheon, United Way of Greater Atlanta, State of the Children's Summit, and the Georgia Leadership Institution for School Improvement.





Without question, Dr. Beasley is one of the noblest and forward-thinking people in the world. He has been called to serve at a time that will ignite and inspire confidence in an entire county. He is the best example of someone who is truly living in his moment. He was born to assume the role as Superintendent, and he operates as if he has been doing this job for years. He is a deep thinker, who is highly intellectual with common and realistic strategies for improvement. He has a vision for the district and understands that Clayton County is a global hub; therefore, he ensures that our students are postured to secure careers that require communication, collaboration, creativity and critical thinking skills.



In a historical moment for our district, the Board of Education unanimously voted to secure Dr. Beasley as the Superintendent in May of 2017. They continue to collectively believe that Dr. Beasley has the district headed in the right direction. Both the Board and the Superintendent have student achievement as the core focus, and based on the momentous efforts and impact thus far, Superintendent Beasley's leadership and direction will place our district on track for being among the highest performing districts in the state and nation.

Dr. Beasley has brought to the forefront of every stakeholder's attention the need to provide our students the very best environment to succeed. He has done this by talking to as many stakeholders in this county as possible and helping these stakeholders to understand all aspects of the Clayton County Public School organization. He has been able to unite us in a common voice that not only do our students merit high performance, but also demands this for all stakeholders. He has created a vibrant, exciting culture that puts our children first. To that end, we see remarkable changes and feel proud knowing that each of us share a significant part of this transformation for our students.



He has been recognized locally and nationally for developing and implementing strategies and plans that improve student achievement, graduation rates, employee morale, family engagement, and community support of schools. He continues to receive a plethora of invitations to serve as a key expert in education practices in conferences throughout the state and nation. His educational expertise and ability to inspire and enact positive changes for children are often commended by peers and various organizations. It is for his innovativeness, professionalism, perseverance, transformational leadership traits and dedication as an educator that depicts

him as a trendsetter.

Dr. Beasley holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics from the University of Montevallo in Montevallo, Alabama and a Master of Science in Mathematics Education from Samford University located in Birmingham, Alabama. In addition to an Education Specialist as well as a Doctorate degree in Education with an emphasis in Educational Leadership from Samford University. He has also completed Harvard University's Public Educational Leadership Program. More so than being recognized as a distinguished leader with over 26 years of service in the education profession, he is affectionately known by family and friends as a beloved husband and father of four children, a dynamic leader in ministry, and an active member in the community, who has an affinity for the arts, politics and a variety of social awarenesses. Dr. Morcease J. Beasley is - indeed - a noble educational leader that's ***Committed to High Performance!***

# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JOURNEY

In just **THREE YEARS**, having a keen focus on five core tenets have led to copious successful outcomes. Some of these include, but are not limited to the following:

- Adoption/revision of school improvement framework to achieve greater coherence and operate more effectively towards producing district-wide improvement and increases in student outcomes, resulting from a culture of high-performance
- Creation of a Strategic Improvement Plan for the school district to chart a path towards creating a culture of high performance
- Establishment of Superintendent Advisory Groups (10) and expansion of community meetings titled Critical Conversations, Real Talk Sessions and State of the Schools Annual Addresses to engage all stakeholders in open dialogue and transparency to strengthen relations between the school district and all facets of the community; along with increased stakeholder climate and satisfaction surveys
- Revitalization of the school district's budget to stabilize expenditures and establishing a compensation study to ensure there are no disparities in the employee pay scale. Increased CCPS fund balance to \$70 Million by reducing the districts operating costs by 50%
- Over the past three years the district has seen increasing numbers of professional staff being retained. In 2017-18 the Retention Rate was 75.59 percent. That number increased to 81.73 percent in 2018-19 and continued its upward climb to 84.14 percent in 2019-20, an overall increase in retention of 8.55 percent. The district has reduced vacancies from 633 in July 2017 to 306 in July 2019. At present, the district has 137 vacancies. To further improve recruitment and retention efforts, a Recruitment Task Force was established in the 2018-2019 School Year
- Increases in the district's graduation rate to 69.6%. For the first time since 2011, all CCPS comprehensive high schools have graduation rates above 72%
- In the 2018-2019 school year, 42 out of 60 eligible Clayton County Public Schools (an increase of 9 schools from previous year) Beat the Odds by surpassing their predicted College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score
- An increase in the percent of students who are participating in Advanced Learning/ Accelerated courses, leading to increases in the percent of students scoring a three or higher on the Advanced Placement exam; and over 700 more students participating in the Dual Enrollment program – resulting in more college and career ready; Seven of the District's high schools were named by the State Superintendent Richard Woods as Advanced Placement (AP) Honor Schools for 2018





- Reduction in student absenteeism and disciplinary infractions
- Expansion of course offerings and CTAE pathways to reflect Dr. Beasley's understanding that Clayton County is a part of a global hub, and our students must be postured to compete and secure these high-skilled and high-wage jobs
- Known as the Fine Arts Capital South of Atlanta, CCPS has a fully articulated K-12 Fine Arts program and state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center (PAC) to host renowned performances of the Fine Arts Magnet programs featuring a 6,000 square foot auditorium stage supported with professional quality sound and lighting
- Plans to build a Clayton County College and Career Academy to help students explore career and higher education opportunities by offering training in aviation mechanics/avionics, artificial intelligence (including drones and robotics), distribution and logistics and culinary arts pathways
- Expansion of School Choice program offerings. Some programs include: Dual Language Immersion [Spanish, French, Chinese, Arabic], Early College and Magnet Programs, Cambridge Assessment International Education, and International Baccalaureate Program
- More stakeholders (e.g. students, parents, staff, businesses, faith-based community, etc.) engaged through the year-long Superintendent-led Critical Conversations and community forums
- A more coherent Professional Development Program to increase capacity and mentoring for leaders, teachers and students
- Implementation and continued expansion of the Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom initiative, increasing the number of students who have been provided laptop computers for use in the classroom and at home to increase academic achievement – established additional online reading and math tools to eliminate students' deficits and to improve student achievement as part of the Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom experience
- Enhancements to the district's STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) approach to implement a STEMulating Culture of High Performance by infusing STEM mindset into all content areas in all grade levels to apply knowledge and real-world connections in one's daily life
- Transforming summer remediation to Summer STEM Camps in order to engage students in real world learning where they apply the concepts of STEM





- Implementation of CCPS Legislative Priorities by working collaboratively with the local/state legislative delegation and officials to enact and support initiatives in the best interest of the students and local community at-large
- Expansion of prominent business/corporate, community, collegiate, faith-based, and governmental partnerships for the school district
- Increased the number of CCPS Class of 2019 graduates to over 3,000, first time in the history of the school system (and collected more than \$125 million dollars in academic, athletic, Georgia Hope, POSSE and Zell Miller Scholarships)
- CCPS Class of 2019 - first 68 students to receive a Civic Engagement Diploma Seal-awarded to high school seniors who recognize the importance of serving their community and taking informed action in our democracy according to the Georgia Department of Education
- Implementation of the HBCU Promise-Initiative, a collaborative partnership with various Colleges/Universities Presidents to place students in a school of their choice with waived fees, funding resources when applicable along with special benefits as an enrolled CCPS student
- More than 80 students in CCPS Class of 2019 graduated with Associate's Degrees from various institutions.
- Class of 2019 members were awarded \$21 million in funding through their involvement in the Infinite Scholars Program.
- Awarded the Classes of 2018 & 2019 Salutatorians/Valedictorians computer laptops for their academic achievements



# CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## “COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE”

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by AdvancED – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. Serving more than 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.



The system has 39 primary/elementary schools (including one public charter), 17 middle schools (including one public charter), 12 high schools, one alternative education center, one psychological education center, and one multi-purpose education center. Included in this number are five school-wide magnet themed schools, 12 magnet programs, one state-certified STEM program, one Cognia (AdvancED) certified STEM program, and two International Baccalaureate Candidate schools. The school district is highly diversified with 90 different ethnicities and countries represented. Seventy-two (72) different languages are spoken, with Spanish and Vietnamese as the two major languages spoken. The district is proud that two of its high schools are among the top 50 Best High Schools in the United States as published by the US News and World Report.

Clayton County Public Schools pivotal points of interest include but are not limited to (1) increase students' readiness for early learning, (2) continue to attract the best and the brightest to lead and teach in our school system, and (3) ensure high quality teaching and learning that continue to produce CCPS graduates who can think critically, communicate, collaborate, and create in meaningful ways. It is a priority of this administration to foster programs and projects that will continue to set this district apart from others while preparing our scholars to compete globally and internationally.





**BOARD OF EDUCATION**

Jessie Goree, *Chair*  
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 Judy Johnson  
 Benjamin Straker  
 Victoria Williams  
 Dr. Morcease J. Beasley  
*Superintendent/CEO of Schools*

**VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of Clayton County Public Schools is to be a district of high performance preparing ALL students to live and compete successfully in a global society.

**MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of Clayton County Public Schools is to empower students to achieve academic and personal goals.

**CCPS SCHOOLS**

**ELEMENTARY**

Anderson, Arnold, Brown, Callaway, Church Street, East Clayton, Edmonds, Fountain, Harper, Hawthorne, Haynie, Huie, Jackson, Kemp, Kemp Primary, Kilpatrick, King, Pace, Lake City, Lake Ridge, Lee Street, Marshall, McGarrah, Morrow, Mt. Zion, Mt. Zion Primary, Northcutt, Oliver, Pointe South, Riverdale, River's Edge, Smith, Suder, Swint, Tara, Unidos, Utopian Academy of the Arts (2020-21), West Clayton, White Academy

**MIDDLE**

7 Pillars Career Academy, Adamson, Babb, Elite Scholars, Forest Park, Jonesboro, Kendrick, Lovejoy, Morrow, Mundy's Mill, North Clayton, Pointe South, Rex Mill, Riverdale, Roberts, Sequoyah, White Academy

**HIGH**

Drew, Elite Scholars, Forest Park, Jonesboro, Lovejoy, Perry Career Academy, Morrow, Mount Zion, Mundy's Mill, North Clayton, Riverdale, Stilwell

**Magnet & Select Programs**

Cambridge Assessment International  
 Dual Language Immersion  
 Film & Media

Fine Arts  
 International Baccalaureate  
 Mathematics & Computer Science  
 Medical Sciences

Political Leadership  
 STEM  
 Science, Technology & Mathematics

**CCPS BY THE NUMBERS**

**2019-2020 STUDENT DEMOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION**

<b>African American</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Multiracial</b>	<b>Caucasian</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>69.50%</b>	<b>22.49%</b>	<b>3.37%</b>	<b>2.50%</b>	<b>1.85%</b>	<b>&lt;1.0</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Male: 50.4% | Female: 49.6%**

**22% of CCPS Student are Multilingual | 72+ Languages Spoken in District**

**OPERATIONS**

**FY19 Budget**  
 \$728.3 Million

**Maint. & Const.**  
 3,571 Instr. Units  
 8,315,329 Sq. Ft.

**Nutrition**  
 Approx. 12,572,675  
 meals served per year  
 100% Free Meals

**Transportation**  
 660 Vehicles  
 440 Buses  
 367+ daily Routes  
 28,000 Students  
 Transported Daily  
 93% On-time Arrival

**Athletics**  
 13 High School  
 Sports Offered  
 6 Middle School  
 Sports Offered  
 5,646 Student Athletes

# S.P.L.O.S.T. PROJECT UPDATES

*Thank you to all Clayton County constituents and our partners in education for voting yes to the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) VI referendum on March 19, 2019. The highest SPLOST rate passed with a 77% approval. The SPLOST will be for the term of year 2020 - 2024 for a total of \$280 million. SPLOST VI will be utilized for the new construction of facilities, major renovations and modifications to existing school facilities as well as transportation and technology needs for the district.*

*Clayton County Public School District is changing the outcomes of Clayton County community with a student-focused path of improvement. Clayton County constituents one cent tax dollars will be spent on the following school-based capital projects.*





### **SPLOST Funded Projects:**

- 3 STEM Schools (Lovejoy STEM Elementary, Forest Park STEM Middle and Morrow STEM High)
- College and Career Academy - Morrow
- Early Learning Center - Riverdale
- Jonesboro High School Construction/Renovation
- Technology Improvements - Districtwide
- Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom - continued implementation
- New School Buses to replace aging fleet - continued implementation
- Heating, ventilation and air conditioning upgrades - Districtwide



# 2019-2020

## STATE OF THE SCHOOLS PROGRAM

**Presentation of Colors**.....Mundy’s Mill High School  
AFJROTC Color Guard  
American Flag - Cadet Lt. Col. Keyshawn Lawrence, 11th grade  
State Flag - Cadet Staff Sgt. Jaylen Cox, 10th grade  
Unit Flag - Cadet Airman First Class Jeremiah Gaines, 11th Grade  
Right Rifle - Cadet Technical Sgt. Nahla Wilson, 10th Grade  
Left Rifle - Cadet Technical Sgt. Amari Trice, 10th Grade

**Pledge of Allegiance**.....Aidan Egorugwu, 5th Grade  
Lake City Elementary School

**National Anthem**.....Jonesboro High School Concert Band  
Directed by Mr. Lynel Goodwin

### **Cultural Diversity Welcome by Clayton County Public School Students**

Spanish - Angel Sanchez - Smith Elementary, 4th Grade  
Vietnamese - Jordan Nguyen - Smith Elementary, 2nd Grade  
French - Hassa Toure - North Clayton Middle, 7th Grade  
Soninke (West African)- Hassa Toure, North Clayton Middle, 7th Grade  
Cambodian/Khmer - Panhachak Rotanak Chhith - North Clayton Middle, 6th Grade  
Cambodian/Khmer - Savannah Chhou - North Clayton Middle, 7th Grade  
English - Kennedy Oliver - M.D. Roberts Middle School of the Arts, 6th Grade  
Arabic - Reda El Hadj Bey - Jonesboro High, 9th Grade

### **Recognition of Distinguished Guests**

**Musical Selection** ..... “You Say” by Recording Artist Lauren Daigle  
Ketsia Alberto, 12th Grade  
Kennedy Carrington, 10th Grade  
Daniel Gyimah, 11th grade  
Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts  
Directed by Dr. Jimmy Cheek

### **Special Tribute and Introduction of Superintendent/CEO of Schools**

**State of the Schools Address**.....Dr. Morcease J. Beasley  
Superintendent/CEO of Schools

**Musical Tribute** ..... “Here Again” by Elevation Worship performed by  
Brendan White, 11th grade  
Myles Butler, 11th grade  
Jeremiah Anderson, 10th grade  
Cailon Spriggs, 10th grade  
Daniel Gyimah, 11th grade  
Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts  
Directed by Dr. Jimmy Cheek

**Reception to immediately follow in Martha Stilwell Schools of the Arts Building**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, CCPS Superintendent/CEO, extends his heartfelt appreciation to the following administrative divisions/departments, schools and community partners who, through their dynamic energy and encouragement, have made tonight's presentation possible.*

Chick-fil-A Dwarf House of Jonesboro, GA

Clayton County Public Schools Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

Clayton County Public Schools Division of School Leadership & Improvement

Clayton County Public Schools Fine Arts Department

Clayton County Public Schools Nutrition Services Department

Clayton County Public Schools Office of Second Language Learning

Clayton County Public Schools Safety and Security Division

Communications, Public Relations, Printing & Marketing Division

Jonesboro High School Concert Band

Lake City Elementary School

Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts

M.D. Roberts Middle School of the Arts 8th Grade Orchestra

Morrow Florist and Gift Shops

Mundy's Mill High School AFJROTC

Mundy's Mill High School Jazz Ensemble

North Clayton Middle School

Roberta T. Smith Elementary School











## CLAYTON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Mr. Mark Christmas, District 2

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Ms. Mary Baker, District 6

Ms. Judy Johnson, District 7

Mr. Benjamin Straker, District 9

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Superintendent/CEO of Schools



*Growing Our Future*

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