



ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

# 2024-2025 YEAR END REVIEW

WE ARE ATLANTA'S PUBLIC  
SCHOOL SYSTEM



[www.atlantapublicschools.us/EveryChild](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/EveryChild)

# APS BY THE NUMBERS

Revised: May 15, 2025

2024-  
2025

## Students (Projected)

Total Enrollment:

**49,878**

Based on student record:  
Students enrolled at any one  
time in SY2024

Neighborhood, Partner,  
Alternative:

**39,776**

Charter:

**10,102**

## Total Teachers

**4,033**

Neighborhood, Partner,  
Charter

## Number of Schools

**2**

Single-Gender  
Schools

**4**

Programs

**65**

Neighborhood  
Schools

**2**

Alternative  
Schools

**18**

Charter Schools

## Diversity

Based on student record

**0.3%**

American-Indian/Alaskan  
Native

**1.2%**

Asian/Pacific Islander

**70.0%**

Black

**8.5%**

Hispanic

**3.7%**

Multi-Racial

**16.3%**

White

## Graduates

**2,873**

Graduates (SY2024)

Graduation Rate: 88.59%

**\$228,947,153**

in scholarships offered

## Free & Reduced Lunch

**74.34%**

Based on student record

## Bus Travel

**291**

Bus Routes

**29,599**

Student Transported

**22,318**

Miles per Day

## District-wide Access & Opportunity

**57** High School Career Pathways

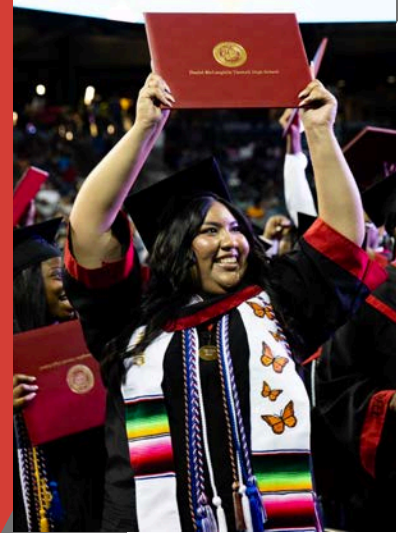
**24** Middle School Career Pathways

**24** AP Course Offerings



## KEY HIGHLIGHTS

- Authentically Engaged Stakeholders
- Strategically Closed the Budget Gap
- Intentionally Restructured Central Office
- Completed Literacy Adoption & Expansion
- Completed the 100-Day Plan
- Developed the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan
- Launched APS Forward 2040: Reshaping the Future of Education (Long-Range Facilities Planning)



## KEY WEBSITES

### **APS Strategic Plan**

[www.atlantapublicschools.us/EveryChild](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/EveryChild)

### **100-Day Plan Report**

[www.atlantapublicschools.us/100DayUpdate](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/100DayUpdate)

### **APS FY26 Budget**

[www.atlantapublicschools.us/FY26Budget](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/FY26Budget)

### **Engagement Efforts**

[www.atlantapublicschools.us/APSConnects](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/APSConnects)

### **Literacy Update**

[www.atlantapublicschools.us/Literacy](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Literacy)

### **APS Forward 2040: Reshaping the Future of Education**

[www.atlantapublicschools.us/APS2040](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/APS2040)

### **APS State of the District Videos**

[www.atlantapublicschools.us/SOTDVideos](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/SOTDVideos)

# We Are A **Community of Believers** Getting Back to Basics



**ONE DISTRICT. ONE GOAL. EVERY CHILD.**



# EDUCATING & EMPOWERING ATLANTA'S STUDENTS TO SHAPE THE FUTURE

1

**Literacy is a fundamental right that opens the door to lifelong learning.** By 2030, we will increase the percentage of 3rd grade students scoring proficient or above in ELA (GA Milestones) by **20 percentage points (Currently 36.2%)**.

2

**Our students will thrive as critical-thinkers and problem-solvers.** By 2030, we will increase the percentage of 8th grade students scoring proficient or above in Math (GA Milestones) by **20 percentage points (currently 28.6%)**.

3

**Every APS student will graduate enrolled, enlisted, employed, or as an entrepreneur.** By 2030, we will increase the percentage of students meeting at least one CCRPI College and Career Readiness Indicator by **20 percentage points (currently 43.3%)**.

## By 2030...



**Offer universal, high-quality PK3 and PK4**



**Have a \$100,000 average teacher salary**



**Implement Individual Success Plans for every student**



**Establish community hubs in every cluster**

# A Community of Believers Getting Back to Basics

## **Our Strength is Our Team**

Atlanta's students will have effective and engaged teachers, leaders, and staff.

- Increase concentration of highly-effective teachers and leaders
- Prioritize engagement and retention for staff
- Grow and promote strong teachers, leaders, and staff

## **Our Responsibility Is Shared**

Atlanta's students will have supportive families, communities, and partners.

- Build meaningful partnerships
- Expand Atlanta Partners for Education (APFE) impact
- Increase access and engagement for families and communities

## **Our System Is Efficient & Effective**

Atlanta's students will have the schools and resources they need to succeed.

- Maximize facility usage for the student and community good
- Leverage data to drive strategic financial investments
- Implement sustainability initiatives

## **We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core**

Atlanta's students will have high-quality instruction, materials, and targeted support.

- Implement high-quality, relevant, and engaging instructional materials and professional learning in all core content areas
- Target resources towards subgroups (e.g. exceptional education, English learners, economically-disadvantaged)
- Accelerate early learning

## **We Are Caring For Every Child**

Atlanta's students will have trusted, supportive adults meeting their unique needs.

- Expand strategies that reduce chronic absenteeism and disproportionate discipline
- Implement systematic culture and climate strategies
- Increase student access to trusted and reliable adults (e.g. mentors, coaches, counselors)

## **We Are Sparking Student Curiosity**

Atlanta's students will have access to explore and expand their passions and interests.

- Promote robust arts, athletics, world language, and enrichment offerings
- Expand access to high-interest and workforce-ready offerings (e.g. career programs and pathways, advanced coursework)
- Explore specialized and innovative school models (e.g. School of the Arts)

# WE ARE STRENGTHENING OUR INSTRUCTIONAL CORE

## Streamlined and Identified High-Quality Resources and Aligned Assessments

- We streamlined and communicated high-quality, standards-aligned instructional resources and tools to support Tier I instruction across all content areas.
- We adopted and began implementation training of high-quality instructional materials in English Language Arts.
- We completed HB 538 required training for teachers in Science of Reading.
- We launched and implemented recommendations from assessment task force focused on improving assessment practices.
- We trained teachers, instructional coaches, and principals on the new state ELA standards.
- We strengthened implementation of state standards in Math and refined district resources.
- We strengthened coherence between the Division of Schools and Teaching and Learning.

### MAP Math Proficiency All Students -

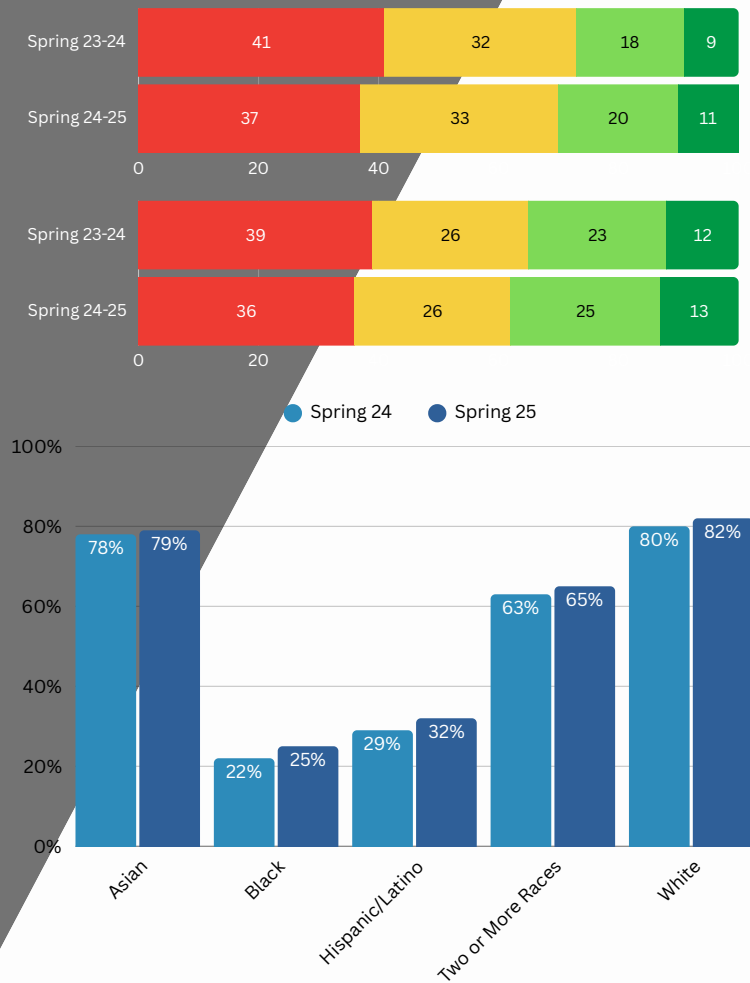
Increased from 27% to 31%

### MAP Reading Proficiency All Students -

Increased from 35% to 38%

### Reading Proficiency rates by Race/Ethnicity

Reading proficiency increased from 22% to 25% for Black or African American students and from 29% to 31% for Hispanic/Latino students. We recognize that significant disparities in outcomes remain between several student subgroups, and we will address it.



## Prioritized Exceptional Education

- We addressed the internal Exceptional Education audit findings (5 of the 8 findings have been completed; initial evaluation compliance rate has increased from 94% to 97%; reduced late IEPs by 40%).
- We reoriented School Based Leadership on correct policies and procedures for accessing, monitoring, and implementing special education resources and supports.
- We strengthened our Exceptional Education professional learning and instructional alignment with the Office of Teaching & Learning.

**Dive deeper into the work of Exception Education here:** [April Board Presentation](#)



**Internal Exceptional Education Audit:** This year we completed an internal audit to provide a comprehensive review of practices to identify areas of improvement and ensure equitable, effective support for students with disabilities.

- ✓ District and State policies and procedures were not followed in documenting the identification and referral of students into the Special Education program via reporting.
- ✗ Interventions are not being monitored as part of the SST plan in alignment with District policy.
- ✓ APS policy and State regulations require parental consent to perform an evaluation. Some evaluations were performed without retention of written parental consent.
- ✓ Completion of required milestones throughout the evaluation and IEP process are not completed in compliance with District policies and State regulations
- ✓ APS transitioned into a new record keeping system, GO-IEP in 2023.
- ✓ Training for MTSS and special education department faculty does not address several key components of the District policy, such as items related to the SST process, S.M.A.R.T. goal development, and comprehensive evaluations.
- ✗ Attending training sessions related to the identification, referral, evaluation, and placement of students in the Special Education program is not required per District policy.
- ✗ Certain District policies and procedures pertaining to special education identification, referral, evaluation, and IEP development employ language that lacks precision, which may lead to misinterpretation of policy.

✓ **Completed**

✗ **In Progress**

### Results

- 5 of the 8 findings have been completed - 3 are in progress
- 40% decrease in “out of compliance” IEPs
- 150 school-based audits completed since September 2024
- School-based audit data used to train EELTs
- Principals reoriented with district Exceptional Education Policies and Practices



# WE ARE CARING FOR EVERY CHILD

## Began Addressing Chronic Absenteeism

- We launched district-wide and school-based attendance awareness campaigns to promote the importance of regular attendance throughout the year.
- We implemented our Everyday Intervention program, which automatically sends personalized letters and text messages to students when their absences reach a specific threshold. Students facing attendance challenges also receive tailored interventions and support, as determined by our Whole Child/MTSS Team.
- We established an Attendance Task Force to develop new strategies for addressing the core reasons behind student absenteeism.
- We began realigning Student Services supports to strengthen partnerships with schools and provide more targeted, school-centered assistance.

↓ **10,141**

fewer suspension days  
over last year

↓ **3.5%**

reduction in chronic absenteeism  
over last year

## Opened the APS Hub

- We opened the APS Student and Family Support Hub for Student Registration, Student Records, and Discipline Hearings.
- We offered local organizations the opportunity to offer student/family programming.
- We opened a Goodr grocery store to help meet the needs of our students and families.



[Click link to watch video](#)



# WE ARE SPARKING STUDENT CURIOSITY

## Expanded Access to Advanced Coursework & Career Pathways

- We are increasing the number of FY26 AP course offerings across our high schools by a net total of 19 additional offerings (17% increase from 2025).
- We expanded new CTAE pathways for FY26 in Phlebotomy, Electrical, Heavy Equipment Operations, and Entertainment, Sports & Event Management.



## FY26 AP Course Offerings

Course	BEST	Carver EC	CSK	Douglass	Jackson	Mays	Midtown	North	South	Therrell	Washington	Total by Course
African American Studies	O	X	O	O	X	O	O	X	O	O	X	11
Biology			X		X		X			X		4
Calculus AB	X		X		X	O	X	X			X	7
Calculus BC							X	X				2
Chemistry			X	X								2
Chinese/Language and Culture			O									1
Computer Science A					X		X					2
Computer Science Principles			X		X	O	X	X		O	X	7
English Lang and Comp	X		X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	9
English Lit and Comp			X	X	X	X	X		X	X		7
Environmental Science				O	X	O	X				X	5
French/Language and Culture			O					X				2
Government/Politics: Comparative								X				1
Government/Politics: United States	O				X		X		X		X	5
Human Geography		X	X		X	X	X	X		X		7
Latin A							X					1
Latin B							X					1
Macroeconomics			O				X		X			3
Music Theory								X				1
Physics 1			X		X		X	X				4
Pre-Calculus	X		X	O	O	X			X		X	7
Psychology					X		X					2
Research, ELA							X					1
Seminar, ELA		X	O	O		O	X			X	X	7
Spanish Language and Culture						X	X	X				3
Statistics		X			X	X	X	X			X	6
Studio Art: 2D			X		X			X	X		X	5
Studio Art: 3D			X		X			X				3
Studio Art: Drawing								X			X	2
United States History		X	X	X	X	X	X				X	7
World History: Modern			X			X	X	X			X	5
<b>Total Per School</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	

X—course offered | O—new course for FY26



Atlanta College & Career Academy was a finalist 🏆 for the U.S. Department of Education's Career Z Challenge, a competition to enhance high school students' access to work-based learning

Learn more about ACCA:  
<https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/ACCAsite>

58

CTAE students advanced to National and International competitions this Summer.

## Began Exploration of Innovative & Specialized Schools

- We have started conversations about expanding access to high-interest and workforce-ready career schools and programs, and have already taken steps to increase student access to existing opportunities.



## Expanded Enrichment Activities to Build Excitement & Engagement

- We hosted over 200 concerts, plays, performances, and art shows in schools, spaces across the metro Atlanta area, and venues nationwide.
- We launched the new APS Global Explorers study abroad initiative with 12 APS high school students traveling to France and 18 students to Spain. ([AJC Article](#))

## Multilingual Programs & Services Highlights

1

APS 5th Grade DLI Student Naomi took 1st place in the 1st Annual State of Georgia Spanish Spelling Bee.

71

DLI Spanish 8th grade students have been awarded the Global Seal of Biliteracy.

853

Translation/interpretation requests per month. This is our highest number ever.

15

Virtual meetings for our Spanish-speaking families. Attendance has reflected an average of 70 - 140 families at each meeting and has represented every APS cluster.

14

Community Events in partnership with Welcoming Atlanta and the YMCA.



Midtown senior Breily was recognized as the 2025 GADOE Atlanta Public Schools' Exemplary English Learner and Mr. Kirk Chapman, ESOL teacher from Therrell HS, was recognized as the 2025 GADOE Atlanta Public Schools Exemplary ESOL Teacher.

Learn more about Dual Language Immersion  
[www.atlantapublicschools.us/APSDLI](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/APSDLI)

## Fine Arts Highlights

200+

Concerts, plays, performances, and art shows in schools, spaces across the metro Atlanta area, and venues nationwide.

502

Cultural Experience field trips for all traditional, charter, and partner schools to 24 venues across Atlanta, exploring spaces such as the High Museum, the King Center, and the Georgia Aquarium.

9

Students from the class of 2025 who were valedictorians, salutatorians, and star students who were leaders in theater, band, art, dance, and orchestra.





# OUR STRENGTH IS OUR TEAM

## Identified and Began New Leadership Framework

- We identified new Cluster Superintendents to provide direct and differentiated coaching and support to principals.
- We convened monthly principals meetings to provide leaders professional development and communicate effective instructional leadership practices.
- We are strengthening and expanding support to school leaders by providing a yearlong professional learning series grounded in principles of shared leadership.

## Strengthened Employee Hiring and Retention Practices

- We intentionally focused on hiring the right leaders at schools throughout the district.

## Continued to Improve Employee Engagement

- We saw record high increases in employee engagement and overall satisfaction.
- We recognized exemplary staff through APyeS Awards and appreciation activities (e.g. Teacher Appreciation Week, Administrative Professional Day).



**Teacher retention within the district increased by four percentage points, to 85.3%**



**Record high employee engagement score (4.05) and percentile ranking (75th), as measured by Gallup**

## 2024 APyeS! Awards



**Teacher of the Year:** Lidra Nicole West, Burgess-Peterson Academy

**Principal of the Year:** Dr. Tara Cotton Spencer, William M. Finch Elementary School

**Assistant Principal of the Year:** Lami Ojezua, William J. Scott Elementary School

**Student First Award:** Asman Abdullahi, Student Support Disproportionality Specialist

**Schools First Award:** Maria Grovner, Student Counseling Coordinator

**Service First Award:** Monique Ivey, Cafeteria Manager, William J. Scott Elementary School

**Excellence in GO Team Leadership:** Melanie Sithole, Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy

**Outstanding GO Team:** Benjamin E. Mays High School

**District Partner of the Year:** Chick-fil-A

**Excellence in Family Engagement Parent Liason:** Christopher Estes, Benteen Elementary School

**Excellence in Family Engagement Community Award:** City of Atlanta Department of Parks and Recreation

**Excellence in Family Engagement School Based:** Benteen Elementary School





# OUR RESPONSIBILITY IS SHARED

## Authentically Engaged Stakeholders



## Expanded and Aligned Communications Efforts



**25** community listening sessions

## 7 staff and student office hours

**500** classrooms visited across every school

**6,000** surveys (approximate)

**300** meetings with stakeholders, groups, and organizations

**7,000,000** visits to APS website

**163** positive news stories

**4,817,902** impressions across 1,162 Instagram posts

**500+** GO Team meetings across 66 schools



# OUR SYSTEM IS EFFICIENT & EFFECTIVE

## Strengthened Our Financial Position to Set APS for Future Success

- We ensured a transparent baseline of funding for every school, driving \$45 million more to school budgets.
- We created a more efficient and effective district office, with an overall net decrease to central office of \$25 million.
- We reduced our current spending to enable an expedited textbook adoption.
- We are establishing and refining processes to increase scrutiny of operations contracts and discharging of government resources.

**78%**

Reduced dependence on Fund Balance

**\$8.8M**

Step increase for all employees

**\$25M**

Net decrease in Central Office

**\$45M**

More funding for school budgets

## Implemented the Impact Support Initiative and Restructured Central Office

- We initiated a comprehensive review of district-level challenges through interviews and focus groups.
- We streamlined and reorganized our central office with a focus on school and student support.

## Launched APS Forward 2040: Reshaping the Future of Education (Facilities Planning)

- We began internal and external engagement to ensure our facilities meet the needs of our students and communities.
- We drafted the State of the School Facilities Report (framework, demographics, utilization, and condition) to ground our decision-making.

Learn more about the FY26 Budget  
[www.atlantapublicschools.us/FY26Budget](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/FY26Budget)



This year we launched the district's Comprehensive Long-Range Facilities Plan (CLRFP)—a strategic, 10–15-year roadmap designed to ensure APS facilities align with the future needs of students, families, and educators.

Learn more about our  
Comprehensive Facilities Planning  
[www.atlantapublicschools.us/APS2040](http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/APS2040)



# class of 2025



## Record Scholarships Offered

