



# Charter System Operating Model and APS Cluster Planning

s of July 1, 2016, APS officially became a Charter System. This new contract, or "charter," with the state allows more decisions to be made at the school level by principals, educators, parents and community members, all of whom are closer to students and their school needs. This freedom and flexibility from many state education laws and regulations comes with increased accountability for student achievement.

Aligned with its Charter System operating model, APS engaged the community in a planning process that led to the creation of Cluster Plans that highlight instructional programming across schools within a cluster, pre-K through high school, and define the future direction for each cluster. This allows our schools and clusters the flexibility and autonomy to use what they know works best for their students while adhering to district and state guidelines.

One focus of the Cluster Plans is the identification and implementation of a signature program. This signature program focuses on the vertical and horizontal alignment of academic programs for schools and neighborhoods. These programs will provide rigor, structure, focus and accountability across the cluster. The programs chosen include:

## International

#### **Baccalaureate (IB)**

- IB programs aim to develop inquisitive, knowledgeable and compassionate young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect.
- *Participating clusters:* Jackson, Mays, North Atlanta and Therrell.

#### STEM

- This integrated curriculum coordinates the teaching of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics through problem solving, discovery and exploratory project/problem-based learning.
- Participating clusters: Douglass, South Atlanta, Washington, B.E.S.T. Academy and Coretta Scott King YWLA.

#### **College & Career Prep**

- This College and Career Preparatory curriculum is based on the essential skills, knowledge and dispositions that children need to succeed as citizens and workers in today's world.
- *Participating clusters:* Carver and Grady.

The district's new operating model led to the creation of GO Teams – school-based governance bodies comprised of parents, educators and community members – to assist with decision-making at the school and cluster levels.

### **APS Neighborhood Schools Cluster Feeder Patterns**

High Carver, Carver Early College	Middle Price Sylvan Hills	Elementary Gideons Finch Perkerson Slater Thomasville Heights
Douglass	Harper-Archer John Lewis Invictus Academy	Boyd Fain Scott F.L. Stanton Towns Usher-Collier Heights Woodson Park
Grady	Inman	Hope-Hill Mary Lin Morningside Springdale Park
Jackson	King	Benteen Burgess-Peterson Academy Dunbar Barack & Michelle Obama Academy Parkside F.A. Toomer
Mays	Young	Beecher Hills Cascade Miles Peyton Forest West Manor
N. Atlanta	Sutton	Bolton Academy Brandon/Brandon Primary Garden Hills Jackson/Jackson Primary E. Rivers Smith/Smith Primary
S. Atlanta	Long	Cleveland Avenue Dobbs Heritage Academy Humphries Hutchinson
Therrell	Bunche	Continental Colony Deerwood Academy Fickett Kimberly
Washington	Brown	Hollis Innovation Academy M. Agnes Jones Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy