



THE ATLANTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

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March 1, 2023

Statement from the Atlanta Board of Education in the Opposition to the Creation of a City of Buckhead City

Atlanta Board of Education's Statement:

The Atlanta Board of Education is opposed to the formation of a City of Buckhead City from portions of the City of Atlanta. We urge the Georgia General Assembly to vote no on SB 113 and SB 114. This Board has opposed the Buckhead City scheme every year that this dangerous idea has been introduced in the Legislature. Keeping the City of Atlanta united is a key legislative priority for Atlanta Public Schools.

APS is honored to serve as the local education agency for school-aged children within the City of Atlanta. The students, families and employees of this school district deserve consistency and predictability with respect to education and schools. Children residing in a new City of Buckhead City would become students of Fulton County Schools. There is no legal mechanism for children residing outside of Atlanta to have guaranteed enrollment in APS or at particular APS schools.

Atlanta Public Schools and the Atlanta Board of Education have not met with the leadership of Buckhead City at any time during this process. There are no agreements between APS or Buckhead City about school enrollment considerations for children residing in the proposed new city.

Formation of a City of Buckhead City will have a disastrous impact on the entire school district, beyond Buckhead and the North Atlanta Cluster. The ABOE and school district Administration will continue to educate legislators on the significant operational, legal, instructional, governance and financial impacts of potentially severing the Buckhead community from our city and school district. Students residing in the proposed City of Buckhead City would lose access to the APS teachers, administrators, instructional programming and extracurricular resources they currently enjoy. With a significantly smaller student population and physical footprint, APS would have to complete a tremendous scaling back of staff across the district.

This Board urges APS parents and concerned community members to join us in making our opposition to the City of Buckhead City known to Lt. Governor Burt Jones and the entire State Senate. We stand in agreement with the clear majority of Atlanta residents and elected leaders who oppose this dangerous proposal. The Georgia State Senate should listen to the voice of Atlantans and vote no on SB 113 and SB 114.

