



FY2014 POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2014
Atlanta Independent School System
Atlanta, Georgia



December 19, 2014

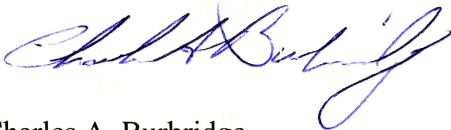
Dear Colleagues and Friends:

We are pleased to present the Atlanta Public Schools Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2014. This report is designed to make the financial operations of our school district more understandable in a printed format.

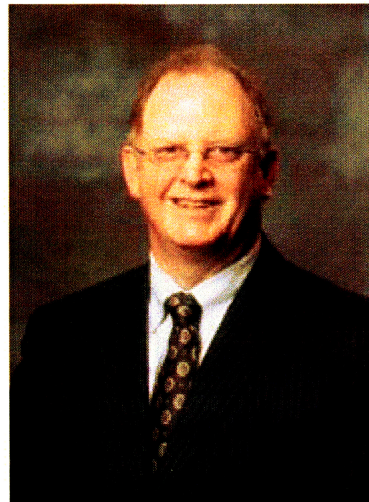
The PAFR summarizes the financial activities and operating results reported in the District's audited Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). The PAFR is unaudited and presented on a non-GAAP (Generally Accepted Accounting Principles) basis, which primarily deals with full disclosure and segregated funds. The statements presented on pages 4-5 are the District-wide financial statements. These statements incorporate all of the District's financial activities into two statements. For more detailed financial information, a copy of the CAFR is available at www.atlanta.k12.ga.us.

The PAFR should help community members understand how their tax dollars are being utilized to educate our students. Questions and comments regarding this report are encouraged and may be directed to the Finance Department at (404)-802-2400.

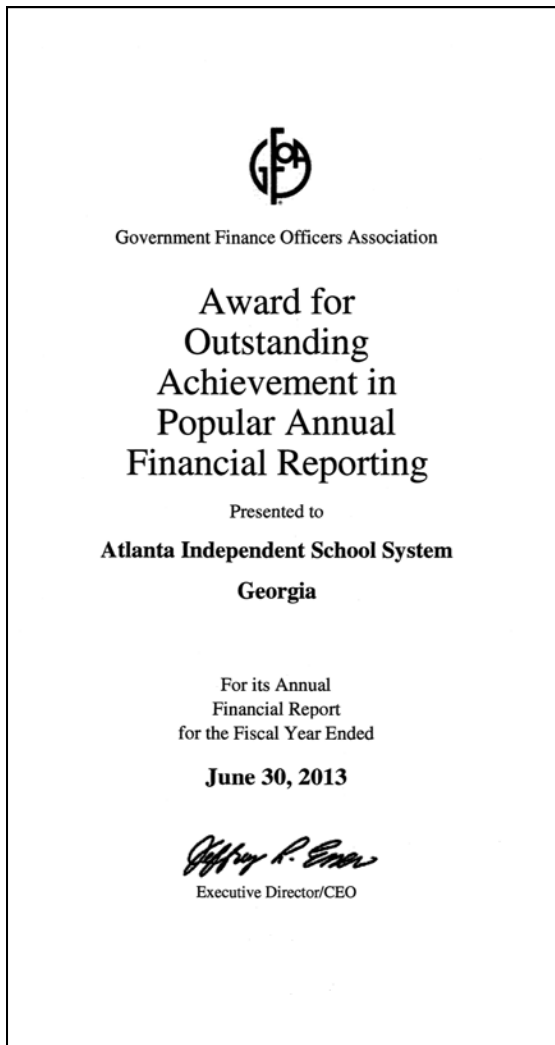
Respectfully,



Charles A. Burbridge
Chief Financial Officer



Award for Outstanding Achievement Popular Annual Financial Reporting



The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting to Atlanta Independent School System for its Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2013. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports.

In order to receive an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting, a government unit must publish a Popular Annual Financial Report, whose contents conform to program standards of creativity, presentation, understandability and reader appeal.

An Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our current report continues to conform to the Popular Annual Financial Reporting requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.

Atlanta Independent School System Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports for the years ended 2012-2014, from which the information on pages 3-8 has been drawn, were awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by the Government Finance Officers Association of

the United States and Canada (GFOA). The Certificate is the highest form of recognition for excellence in state and local government financial reporting.

In order to be awarded the Certificate of Achievement, a government unit must publish an easily readable and efficiently organized comprehensive annual financial report, whose contents conform to program standards. Such CAFR must satisfy both generally accepted accounting principles and applicable legal requirements.

A Certificate of Achievement is valid for a period of one year only. We believe our CAFR continues to conform to the Certificate of Achievement program requirements and we are submitting our CAFR for the current year to the GFOA.

Financial Data



Summarized Financial Reports

Readers of the Financial Position Statement (Benefits over Detriments) and Financial Activity Statement (Resources over Services) should keep in mind that the numbers in both reports are taken from the District's CAFR, but are presented in a non-GAAP format.

Governmental-type activities consist of programs and services that include instruction, pupil services, improvement of instruction, educational media, federal grant administration, general administration, school administration, business services, maintenance/operation of facilities, student transportation, central support and capital construction. The Nutritional program is considered a Business-type activity and is not included with governmental activities. Nutrition services are provided on a fee for goods or services basis for the District to recover all expenses.

The following financial highlights present District-wide financial information for Governmental and Business-type activities combined.

Financial Highlights

Please note that the fiscal year 2013 net position was restated due to a change in accounting principle.

Benefits over Detriments:

- ◆ Total net worth for the District increased from \$1,414.27 million in fiscal year 2013 to \$1,422.10 million in fiscal year 2014, an increase of approximately \$7.83 million, or 0.6%. An increase in net worth reflects the differences between changes in Benefits (assets) and changes in Detriments (liabilities). (See page 4.)



Resources over Services:

- ◆ Total resources in fiscal year 2014 exceeded the total cost of services by \$7.87 million. (See page 5.)
- ◆ Total resources increased from \$768.51 million in fiscal year 2013 to \$808.35 million in fiscal year 2014, an increase of approximately \$39.84 million, or 5.2%. This change was primarily due to increases in Property Tax Revenues and the Child Nutrition Program Service Grant.
- ◆ Total services increased by \$57.95 million, or 7.8%, from \$742.53 million in fiscal year 2013 to \$800.48 million in fiscal year 2014. This increase was primarily due to additional spending for supplies, purchased services, and equipment refresh purchases.

Outstanding Debt:

- ◆ Long-term debt decreased by \$8.93 million, or 6.3%. The decrease was primarily due to scheduled principal payments and the decline of the premium associated with the Certificates of Participation (COPS). (See page 8.)

Benefits over Detriments (District-Wide)

The Financial Position Statement, reports the Benefits (assets) available to provide services and the Detriments (liabilities) for which the District is obligated to pay in the future (shown in millions). The difference between Benefits and Detriments equals the net worth of the District.

A glossary of financial terminology is provided on page 12.



	2014	2013(Restated)	2012
Financial Benefits			
Current and other assets	\$306.53	\$328.35	\$361.74
Net capital assets and net pension asset	1,323.41	1,307.21	1,248.73
Total benefits	\$1,629.94	\$1,635.56	\$1,610.47
Financial Detriments			
Long-term debt outstanding	\$131.97	\$140.90	\$152.75
Other liabilities	83.02	86.01	69.43
Total detriments	\$214.99	\$226.91	\$222.18
Net position			
Net investment in capital assets	\$1,215.51	\$1,187.17	\$1,171.49
Restricted for debt services	0.96	0.39	0.30
Restricted for capital projects	99.47	113.88	65.80
Restricted for state and local programs	2.79	5.18	6.26
Restricted for school construction	0.00	0.49	43.66
Unrestricted	96.22	101.54	100.78
Total net position	\$1,414.95	\$1,408.65	\$1,388.29

Resources over Services (District-Wide)

The Financial Activity Statement provides summary of the resources (revenues) and services (expenses) of the District (shown in millions).

A glossary of financial terminology is provided on page 12.

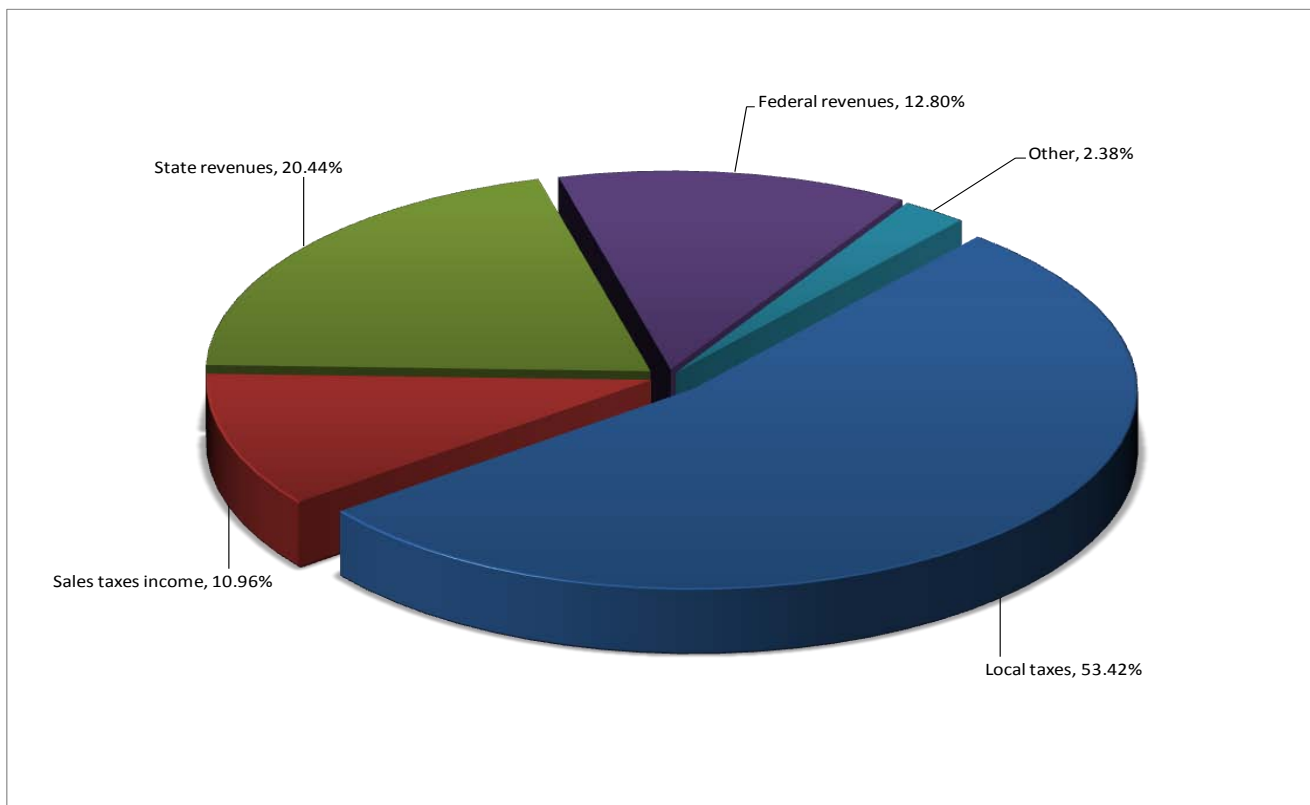


	2014	2013 (Restated)	2012
Resources Taken In			
Local taxes	\$431.83	\$418.27	\$415.43
Sales taxes income	88.60	85.38	93.70
State revenues	165.20	146.20	143.94
Federal revenues	103.43	90.14	98.97
Investment income	0.07	0.20	0.13
Facility rental fees	0.99	1.16	0.99
Tuition charges	0.03	-	-
Charges for services	4.24	4.66	2.36
Other	13.96	30.43	19.57
Special Item - impairment loss	-	(7.93)	-
Total Revenues & Resources	\$808.35	\$768.51	\$775.09

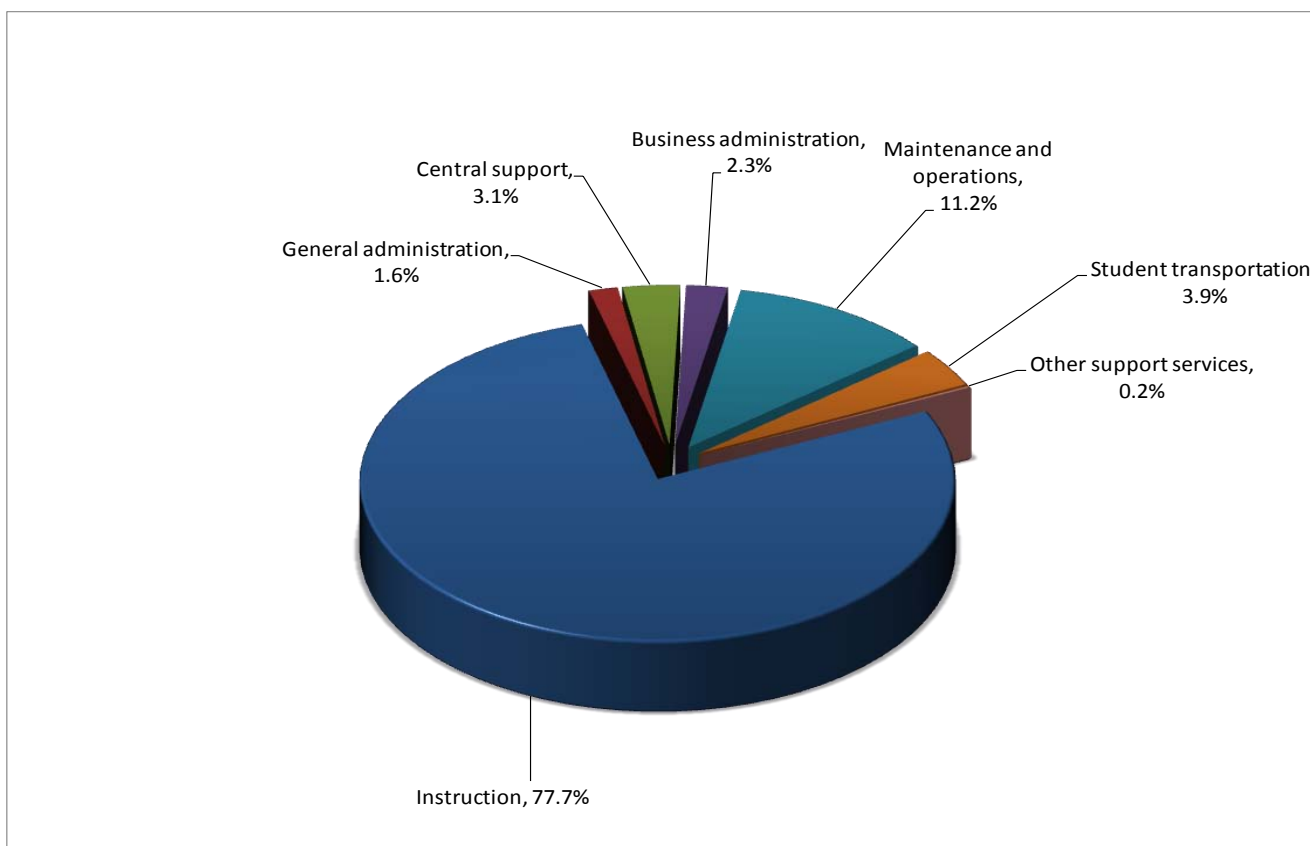
Services Provided			
Instruction	\$463.07	\$426.04	\$406.00
Support services:			
Pupil services	27.83	25.11	29.54
Improvement of instructional services	40.34	42.92	38.21
Educational media	9.06	8.87	8.96
Federal grant administration	2.22	1.97	1.12
General administration	13.45	14.33	17.88
School administration	42.09	40.65	30.83
Business administration	12.48	15.16	22.61
Maintenance and operations	89.28	80.78	97.08
Student transportation	30.99	24.89	29.77
Central support	25.04	28.36	28.38
Food services	37.83	24.59	23.06
Other support services	1.21	3.01	13.04
Interest expense	5.60	5.85	6.42
Total Expenses & Service	\$800.48	\$742.53	\$752.90

Revenues & Resources Over(Under)			
Expenses & Services	\$7.87	\$25.98	\$22.19

Our Resources: Where does the money originate?



Our Services: Where does the money go?

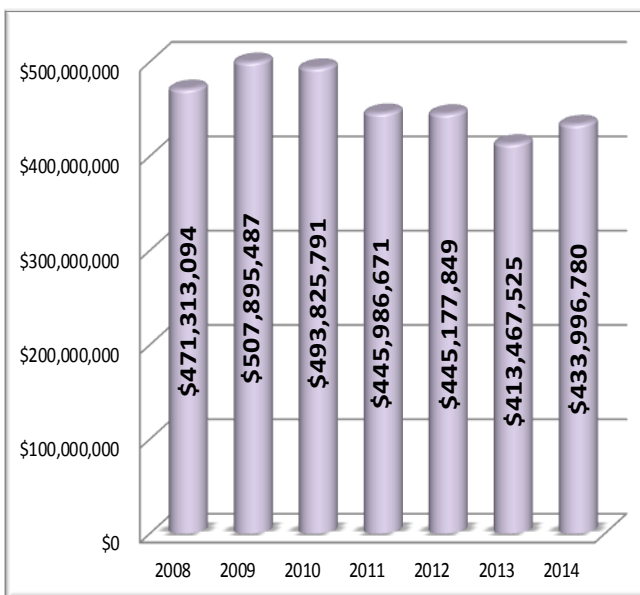


SOURCES OF FUNDING: Where does the money originate?

(Governmental Funds Only)

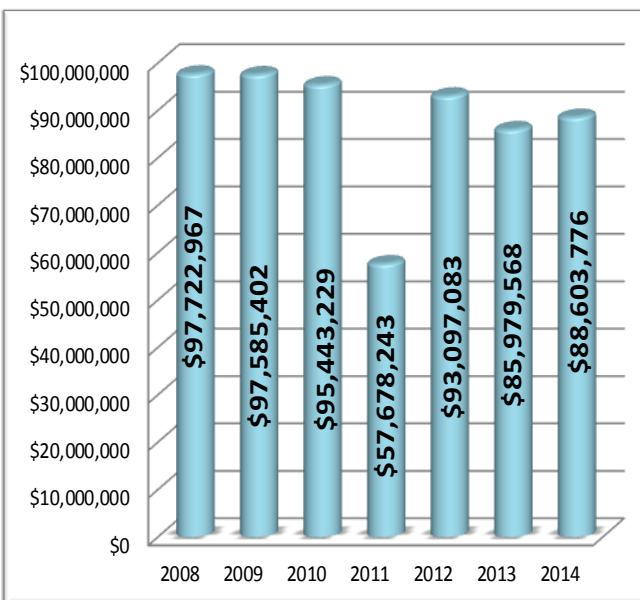
Local Taxes:

The Atlanta Public Schools are financed through a combination of local, state and federal sources. During fiscal year 2014, Atlanta Public Schools resources totaled 782.88 million. APS received 53.42% of its revenue from local taxes. Property taxes provide a majority of the local revenue to operate and maintain our schools. The graph to the right represents the amount of local taxes recognized by the District.



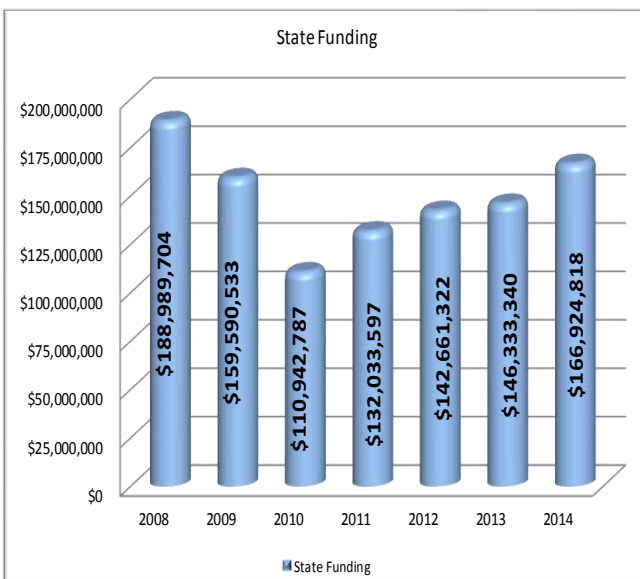
SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax):

On November 8, 2011, the SPLOST IV referendum was approved. It is estimated that SPLOST IV will generate approximately \$520 million for APS that will fund numerous Capital Improvement projects and liquidate debt for the Certificates of Participation issued in 2011.



State Funding:

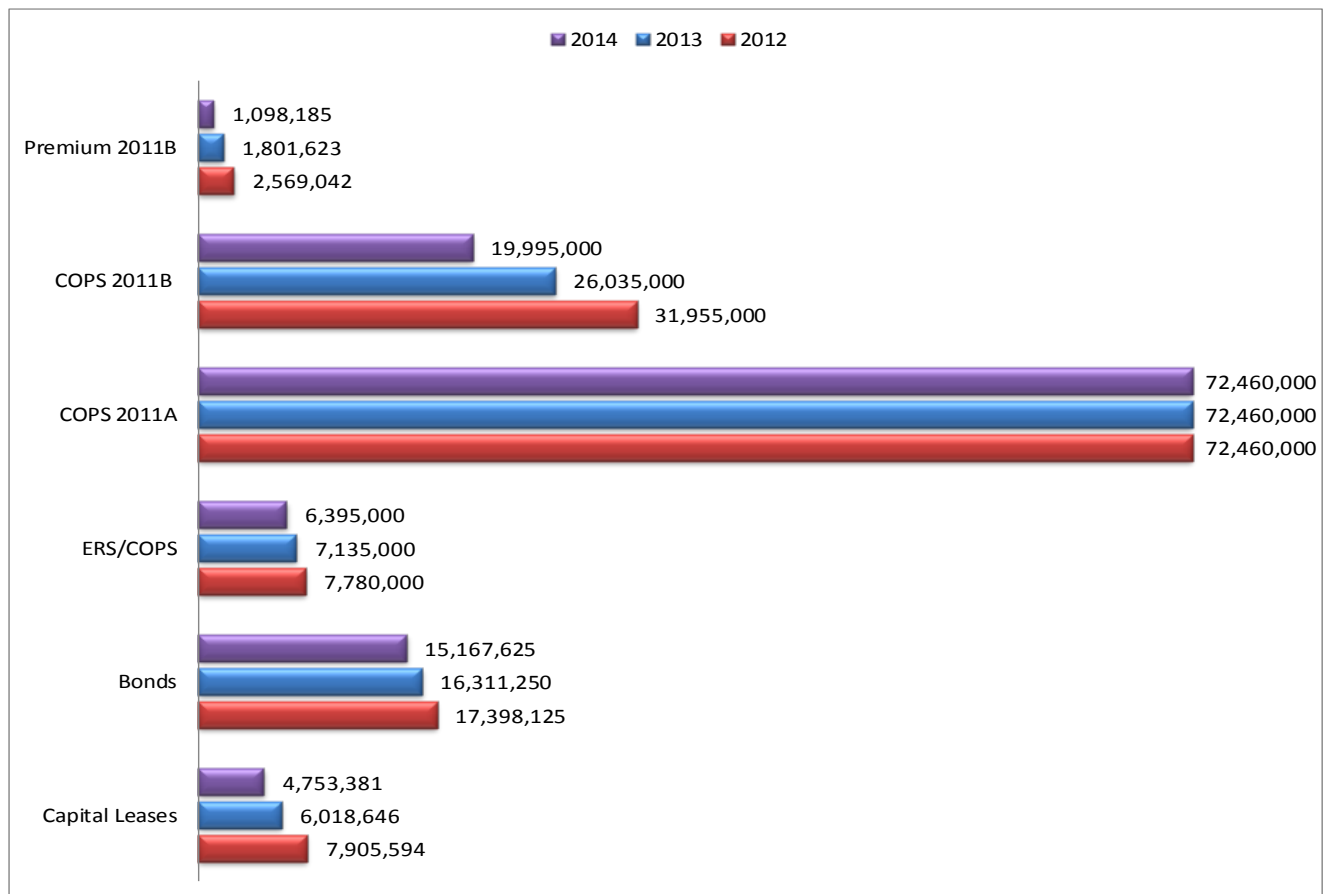
The chart to the right displays the District's Governmental Funds received from the State of Georgia. Funds received from the state are to ensure that all children in the state receive a quality basic educational experience.



Outstanding Debt at Year End: **What do we owe?**

The chart below captures the District's long-term debt obligations. Over the years, the City of Atlanta has issued various general obligation bonds and general obligation refunding bonds on behalf of the School System. In October 2006, Education Resource Services (ERS) issued COPS on behalf of the school system to finance renovations and improvements to the Instructional Service Center. COPS differ from a general obligation bond because in COPS, only the building associated with the project is pledged as collateral, not the full taxing authority of the government. In June 2011, ERS issued COPS to finance the construction and renovation of North Atlanta High School. (See page 12.)

Outstanding Debt	2014	2013	2012
Long-term debt			
Capital leases	\$ 4,753,381	\$ 6,018,646	\$ 7,905,594
Intergovernmental agreement- City of Atlanta	15,167,625	16,311,250	17,398,125
ERS, Inc (COPS, Series 2006/2007)	6,395,000	7,135,000	7,780,000
ERS, Inc (COPS, Series 2011A)	72,460,000	72,460,000	72,460,000
ERS, Inc (COPS, Series 2011B)	19,995,000	26,035,000	31,955,000
Unamortized premium 2011B	1,098,185	1,801,623	2,569,042
Total long-term debt	\$ 119,869,191	\$ 129,761,519	\$ 140,067,761



Investments: How safe is our money?

The District has adopted an investment policy that adheres to State investment guidelines. The policy identifies certain types of risks and risk mitigation strategies to prevent the loss of funds.

As of June 30, 2014, the district had \$149,897,659 in investments. Currently, all investments have a maturity of less than one year.

Types of Risk

Interest Rate Risk – the risk that the fair value of the District’s investments will decrease as a result of an increase in interest rates.

Custodial Credit Risk – the risk that, in the event of the failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its deposits, investments or collateral securities that are in the possession of an outside party.

Credit Quality Risk – the risk that the District will not recover its investments due to the inability of the counterparty to fulfill its obligation.

Ways the District Mitigates Risk

Interest Rate Risk – to limit its exposure to fair value losses arising from rising interest rates, the District’s Investment Policy limits the final maturity on any security owned to a maximum of three years.

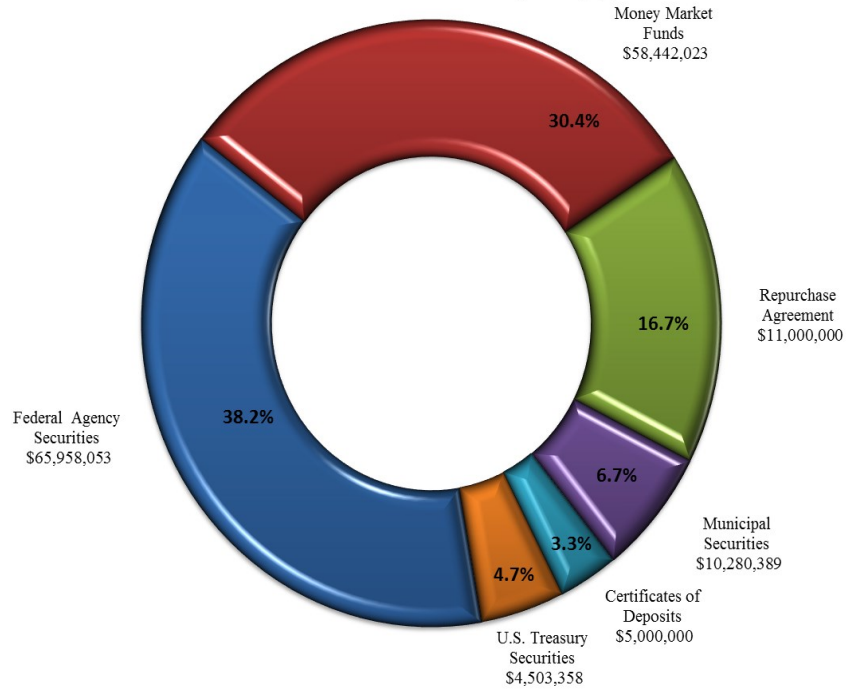
Custodial Credit Risk – the District’s Investment Policy requires that all funds on deposit with any financial institution require collateral of an amount equal to at least 110 percent of the deposit. All repurchase agreements shall be collateralized at not less than 102 percent of their value by acceptable securities.

Credit Quality Risk – in order to prevent over concentration by investment type, the District’s Investment Policy provides for diversification of its portfolio. Also, investments other than U.S. Agency investments, must be purchased through banks having at least an AA rating.

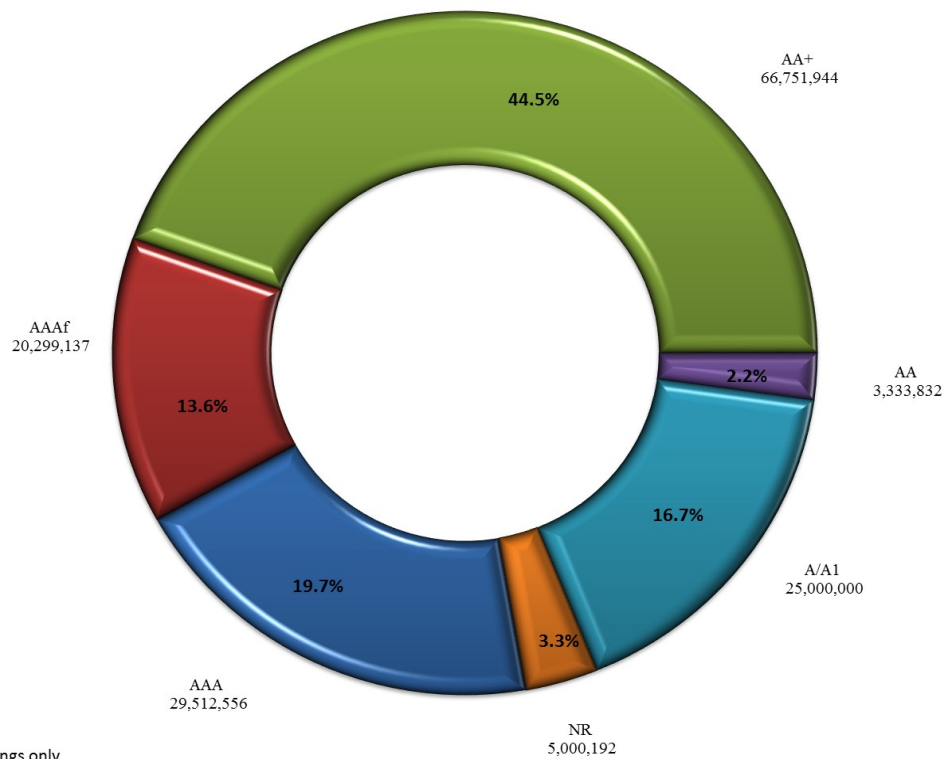
Investments subject to credit quality risk are reflected here:

Issuer	Investment Type	Amount	Percent	Quality Rating by Agency	
				S&P	Moody's
US MONEY MARKET- Georgia Fund 1	Money Market Funds	\$20,299,137	13.54%	AAAf	N/R
BOFA Government Reserves Capital	Money Market Funds	\$25,222,407	16.83%	AAA	Aaa
Federal National Mortgage Association	Federal Agency Securities	\$14,001,997	9.34%	AA+	Aaa
Federal Home Loan Bank	Federal Agency Securities	\$18,130,673	12.10%	AA+	Aaa
Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation	Federal Agency Securities	\$17,640,137	11.77%	AA+	Aaa
Tri Party Repo Agreement	Repurchase Agreement	\$25,000,000	16.68%	A/A1	N/R
Municipal Bonds	Municipal Securities	\$10,102,709	6.74%	AAA, AA+, AA, A/A1	Aaa, Aa1, Aa2, Aa3
Financial Institutions	Certificates of Deposits	\$5,000,000	3.34%	N/R	N/R
Federal Farm Credit Bank	Federal Agency Securities	\$7,496,654	5.00%	AA+	Aaa
U.S. Treasury Notes & Bonds	U.S. Treasury Securities	\$7,003,945	4.67%	AA+	Aaa

Investments by Type



Investments by Quality Ratings



Represents S&P ratings only

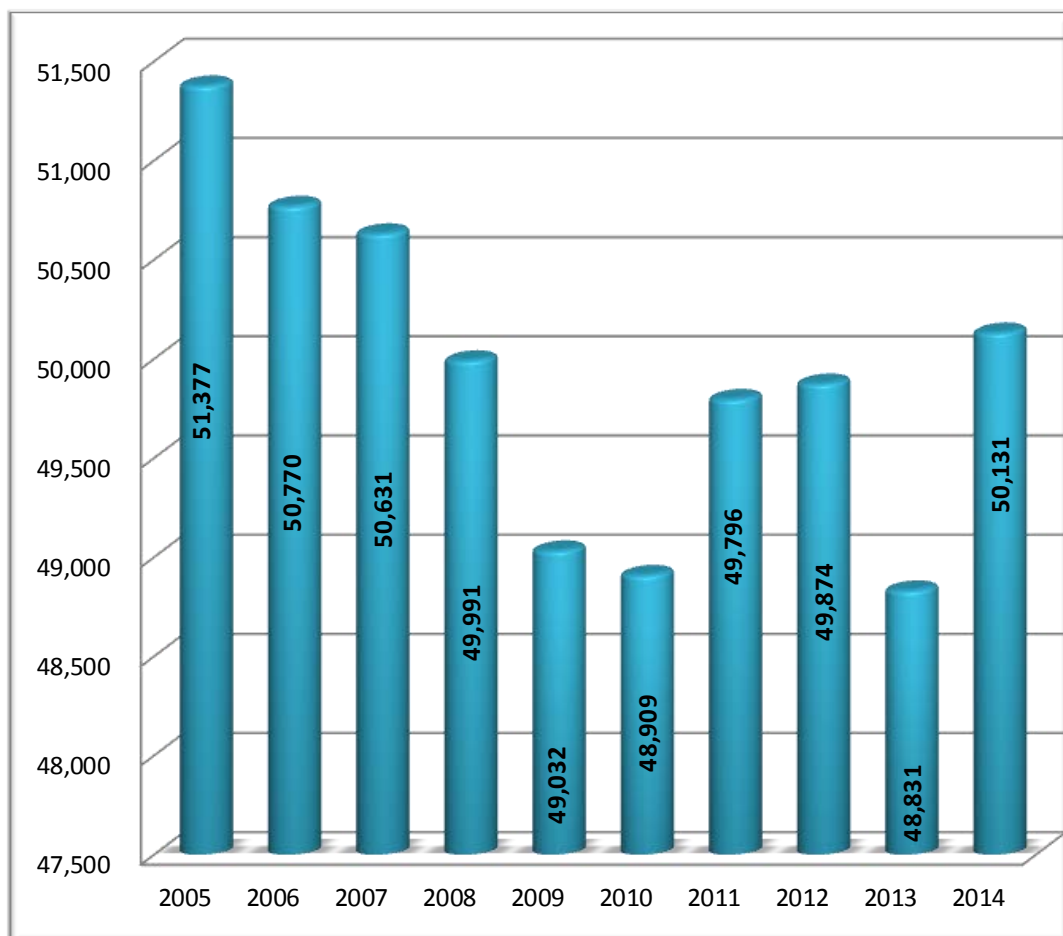
Student Enrollment

Student enrollment (including Charter Schools) in the District has declined over the last 10 years due in part to demographic changes. Those changes led to school closings in some cases and new schools or expansions in other areas. These changes contribute to a high mobility rate for students in our district. Nearly one-third of APS students relocated within and outside the district during the shifts.



During fiscal year 2014 the District provided a full range of educational programs and services to improve student achievement and will continue its journey to excellence.

Nearly 2,000 seniors graduated from APS high schools in 2014, earning \$100 million in college scholarships. Large numbers of APS students continue to earn awards for academic achievement on the state and national levels.



Glossary of Financial Terminology

INSTRUCTION is the largest expenditure category and relates directly to the classroom instruction of children, including teacher salaries.

PUPIL SERVICES comprise all guidance, counseling, testing, attendance, social work, and health services.

IMPROVEMENT OF INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES consists of activities designed primarily for assisting instructional staff in planning, developing and evaluating the process of providing challenging learning experiences for students.

EDUCATIONAL MEDIA SERVICES costs are concerned with directing, managing, and operating educational media centers; included are school libraries and educational television.

FEDERAL GRANT ADMINISTRATION consists of activities concerned with the demands of the Federal Programs Grant Management.

GENERAL & SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION costs represent the Board of Education's operation of the District. Also included in this area are administrative support personnel, deputy, associate, or assistant superintendent, principals, assistant principals, and clerical staff.

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION expenditures include business services such as budgeting and reporting, accounting, payroll, accounts payable, auditing, warehousing, purchasing, and office support.

MAINTENANCE AND PLANT OPERATION expenditures relate to the safe and efficient environment of the school, including building maintenance, energy, grounds and custodial services.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION expenditures relate to providing transportation to students who live in the Atlanta Public Schools district.

CENTRAL SUPPORT costs include personnel services, information technology maintenance staff and computer network maintenance contracts and risk management.

OTHER SUPPORT & NUTRITION includes the preparation and serving of regular and incidental meals or snacks in connection with school activities.

CAPITAL ASSETS are assets used in operations with an initial useful life extending beyond one reporting period.

CAPITAL OUTLAYS includes acquisitions of land and buildings, renovating buildings, and construction of buildings.

DEBT SERVICE includes payments of principal and interest on capital leases and long-term debt.

NET INVESTMENT IN CAPITAL ASSETS: Total capital assets less accumulated depreciation less debt directly related to capital assets (i.e. bond issues or donations for capital assets).

RESTRICTED: Resources where use is restricted externally for specific purposes.

UNRESTRICTED: Assets with no external restriction as to use or purpose. They can be employed for any purpose designated by the governing board.

CERTIFICATES OF PARTICIPATION: Tax-exempt bonds that are issued by state entities usually secured with revenue from an equipment or facility lease.

About APS



Meet the Superintendent



MERIA JOEL **CARSTARPHEN**

SUPERINTENDENT
ATLANTA PUBLIC SCHOOLS
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

Meria Joel Carstarphen, Ed.D, is superintendent of Atlanta Public Schools. She brings to Atlanta an impressive record in transformative educational leadership that has led to significant student performance gains. Dr. Carstarphen has nearly 20 years of education and experience in diverse, major metropolitan public school districts, including Austin, Texas; Saint Paul, Minn.; and the District of Columbia. She leads and provides oversight to the district's 50,000 students; 5,500 employees; and 106 learning sites with an \$794 million annual budget.

Before coming to Atlanta, Dr. Carstarphen was superintendent of the Austin Independent School District from 2009 to 2014. With a great team, she made extraordinary achievements in academic excellence that included improved graduation rates that reached an all-time high of 84 percent and reduced dropout rates by 25 percent. She credits the success in Austin, in part, to efforts to move away from a culture driven by a dependency on high-stakes testing to one that emphasizes the whole child, every child; social and emotional learning; equal arts-rich environments; alternative pathways to graduation; and alternative education disciplinary program reform.

Prior to Austin, Dr. Carstarphen was superintendent of the Saint Paul Public Schools in Minnesota and held accountability positions with other public schools systems.

Dr. Carstarphen began her education career as a middle school teacher in her hometown of Selma, Ala. She also has worked with elementary-level children in Seville, Spain and Caracas, Venezuela.

Dr. Carstarphen earned a doctorate in administration, planning and social policy, with a concentration in urban superintendency from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She earned a bachelor of arts in political science and Spanish from Tulane University and master of education degrees from Auburn University and Harvard University. She has also studied at the University of Seville, Spain, and University of Innsbruck, Austria.

The Atlanta Board of Education voted unanimously to hire Dr. Carstarphen in April 2014. She became superintendent July 2014. Dr. Carstarphen is passionate about leading Atlanta Public Schools and living its mission every day. Through a caring culture of trust and collaboration, every student will be ready for college and career.

September 11, 2014

Dear APS Families:

Welcome to a new school year! I am honored to be your new Superintendent. I am 10 weeks into my new job, and I am delighted to share that we are off to a better start. Our students answered the “Day One: Be There.” call by coming to school on the first day, and in fact, over 25,000 APS students had perfect attendance during the first month of the school year!

As we continue our attendance campaign this year, I am asking for your help to ensure your child is in class and ready for instruction everyday this school year. In APS, we have students—especially at the high school level—who miss one day every two weeks. That adds up to one month of missed instruction every year. Over five years, it adds up to about half a school year of missed instruction. If students miss school, they can’t learn and they will not be ready for the new Georgia Milestones test, a far more rigorous test that is replacing the CRCT and EOCT this year.

This week also marks another Big 10 -the 10th anniversary of our Atlanta Public Schools State of the Schools celebration. It was my first one and if you were unable to attend on Tuesday, I hope you will go online to hear the update on the state of our district at <http://new.livestream.com/k12aps/events/3374824>.

Over the last few weeks, I have had the opportunity to visit many of our schools in APS. I have been energized by some of the best teaching I have ever seen, and I remain optimistic about what the future holds for us. At the same time, I am very clear that we have much more work ahead of us if we are going to deliver the excellent education that your children deserve.

While our students and staff have been hard at work, our Atlanta Board of Education members and I also have been working. As we chart a new course for Atlanta Public Schools, we have drafted a new charge (mission and vision) for the district. This is what we do every day and what we aspire to be:

- Our Mission: Through a caring culture of trust and collaboration, every APS student will be ready for college and career.
- Our Vision: A high-performing school district where students love to learn, educators work to inspire, parents are engaged, and the community has trust in the district. We welcome your feedback on our work at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/draftvisionmission>.

As we embark on this journey together, I am working diligently to foster a transparent and collaborative environment for our families. To that end, I want to encourage you to get involved this year. Whether by volunteering at your child’s school, participating in the important decision-making process around selecting a school system operating model and flexibility option, or participating in one of our new citizen advisory or oversight committees, I hope you will get engaged! You can learn more about these opportunities and see more of what we have been up to these past few weeks by visiting www.atlantapublicschools.us or following my blog at www.atlsuper.com.

I looking forward to being your partner in helping to fulfill the hopes and dreams of our children. Welcome back and have a great school year!

Sincerely,



Meria J. Carstarphen

Our Mission:

The **mission** of Atlanta Public Schools is to **educate all students** through **academic excellence**, preparing them for **success in life**, service and leadership.

Our Vision:

The **vision** of Atlanta Public Schools is to be a **student-centered, high-performing** urban school district where all students become **successful** life-long learners and **leaders**.

Our Leadership:

Meria J. Carstarphen, Ed.D

David Jemigan
Deputy Superintendent

Pamela Hall
Chief Human Resources Officer

Glenn Brock
General Counsel

Larry Hoskins
Chief Operations Officer

Chuck Burbridge
Chief Financial Officer

Angela King Smith
Special Assistant to the Superintendent

Bill Carrity
Chief Accountability & Information Officer

Karen Waldon
Chief Academic Officer



2014-2015 APS Fast Facts

District Facts

106

Learning Sites & Programs

Elementary Schools (Non-Charter)

Primary Campuses 5
K-5 & Intermediate Campuses 47

Middle Schools (Non-Charter)

12*

High Schools (Non-Charter)

18*

Open Campus 1

Alternative/ Nontraditional Programs

4

Evening School/ Adult Education Programs

2

Charter Schools

17

* Includes two single-gender campuses

91 Title I Schools

Transportation

Number of Buses 402
Miles Traveled Daily 25,000
Students Transported Daily 22,000

Student Facts

2014 Graduates

1,905



Academic and Athletic Scholarships Offered to Class of 2014

\$100 Million

Teachers
3,813

Charter: 628
Non-Charter: 3,185



50,253

Projected K-12 Student Enrollment

Charter: 7,421 students
Non-Charter: 42,832 students

Students' Ethnic Distribution

African-American 76.2%
Caucasian 14.3%
Hispanic 6.7%
Multiracial 1.6%
Asian/American Indian/
Alaskan/Other 1.2%

Computer/Student Ratio
1:2



FY15 Operating Budget **\$657.5** Million

Students Eligible for Free and Reduced-Priced Meals **77.32%**



2014 - 2018

ATLANTA BOARD OF EDUCATION

bold leadership | student focused, community driven

District Representative	Elementary Schools	Middle Schools	High Schools
 Leslie Grant District 1	Benteen, D. H. Stanton Dobbs, Hope-Hill, Mary Lin, Parkside, Slater, Thomasville Heights, Intown Academy, Wesley International Academy, Atlanta Neighborhood, KIPP Vision (K-1 & 2-5)	King, Price, Atlanta Neighborhood Charter, Wesley International Academy, Intown Academy	The New Schools at Carver, Maynard Holbrook Jackson, Grady
 Byron D. Amos District 2	Bethune, Centennial, Dunbar, F.L. Stanton, Finch, M.A. Jones, KIPP Strive Primary, The Kindezi School	Brown, Kennedy, KIPP Strive Academy, KIPP WAYS Academy	Booker T. Washington, Frederick Douglass, KIPP Atlanta Collegiate, North Metro
 Matt Westmoreland District 3	<i>Burgess-Peterson Academy, Morningside, Springdale Park, Toomer, Whiteford, Drew Charter</i>	Coan, Inman, Drew Charter	Alonzo Crim, Grady, Drew Charter, Adult Literacy, South Metro
 Nancy M. Meister Vice Chair District 4	Brandon and Brandon Primary, Garden Hills Jackson and Jackson Primary, Rivers Smith and Smith Primary	Sutton	North Atlanta
 Steven D. Lee District 5	Adamsville Primary, Beecher Hills, Bolton Academy, Boyd, Connally, Fain, Grove Park Intermediate, Miles Intermediate, Peyton Forest, Scott, Towns, Usher-Collier Heights, West Manor, Woodson Primary, Westside Atlanta	B.E.S.T. Academy, Coretta Scott King Academy, Harper- Archer, Young	B.E.S.T. Academy, Benjamin E. Mays, Coretta Scott King Academy, West End
 Eshe' P. Collins District 6	Cascade, Cleveland Avenue, Continental Colony, Deerwood Academy, Fickett, Gideons, Heritage Academy, Humphries, Hutchinson, Kimberly, Perkerson, Venetian Hills	Bunche, Long, Sylvan Hills, <i>Latin Academy</i>	D.M. Therrell, South Atlanta, Forrest Hills
AT-LARGE MEMBERS:			
 Courtney D. English, Chair At-Large, Seat 7 Districts 1 & 2	 Cynthia Briscoe-Brown At-Large, Seat 8 Districts 3 & 4	 Jason F. Esteves At-Large, Seat 9 Districts 5 & 6	

Note: Italics indicate a non-traditional school

(rev 6/11/14)

130 Trinity Avenue, SW | Atlanta, GA 30303 | 404-802-2200 | www.atlantapublicschools.us

What's new at APS for the 2014-15 school year?

- ◆ APS has a new superintendent! Students will begin the 2014-15 school year under the leadership of Superintendent Dr. Meria Joel Carstarphen.
- ◆ APS has created an ombudsman's office to address student, parent and community issues. The district ombudsman serves as an independent and confidential resource, providing assistance in resolving problems, complaints, conflicts and other school-related issues.
- ◆ Local School Council contacts (LSCs) will be posted on every school website.



Pacing Calendars

APS will implement pacing calendars for literacy, math, social studies and science. At the start of the 2014-15 school year. Teachers will use these calendars to pace their instruction throughout the school year. Parents can use the calendars to stay informed about what their children should be learning in each core content area throughout the year. To access the calendars, visit the district website at www.atlantapublicschools.us/pacing

Curriculum and Instruction

- ◆ The Georgia Milestones test will replace the CRCT, CRCT-M and the writing assessment for 3rd, 5th and 8th graders, as well as the End of Course Test (EOCT) for 9th through 12th graders.
- ◆ Curriculum handbooks will be available online for parents and students.
- ◆ Atlanta Virtual Academy (AVA), the district's free online learning program, will offer 44 courses to APS students this year. For the first time, APS students can take Advance Placement (AP) classes, gifted honors and world language courses through AVA.
- ◆ APS will launch the Gifted High School Redesign. Newly designed gifted delivery models for the high school gifted program are mentorship, internship, resource seminars and directed studies.



Curriculum Parent Guides

The Department of Teaching and Learning now offers curriculum parent guides in the areas of literacy, mathematics, science and social studies. These guides provide direction to parents about what their children will be learning and how parents can support that learning in grades k-12. The guides will be available electronically on the APS content areas web page. Parents can also pick up printed copies from APS schools.

Technology

- ◆ Students will have a new virtual desktop platform which will allow them to login remotely to an environment with the same look and feel of their classroom desktop and applications.
- ◆ APS classrooms will have an additional 4-6 computers available for students.

Nutrition

- ◆ School cafeteria health scores will be posted on every school website.
- ◆ A new iPhone application is available for online meal-pay.

Schools

- ◆ APS will no longer have year-round schools. Schools formerly operating under the year round schedule will operate under the normal APS calendar.
- ◆ Centennial Elementary School is now an APS charter school. Centennial is the first APS school to become a conversion charter (a charter school that previously existed as a traditional public school).

DID YOU KNOW?

- The APS Test Security Plan has been lauded by Georgia's Office of Student Achievement as an exemplary plan of testing.
- 23 APS seniors were named 2014 Posse Scholars – the largest number since the program's inception in Atlanta in 2007 – earning full, four-year scholarships worth approximately \$100,000 each.
- The four-year, on-time graduation rate for APS increased by more than 15 percent from 2012 to 2013.
- The annual high school dropout rate for APS decreased from 11 percent in 2012 to 8.5 percent in 2013.
- APS continues to be one of the leading producers of Gates Millennium Scholars in the state and nation.
- In 2014, the district graduated the first group of seniors from the single-gender schools, B.E.S.T. Academy and Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy.
- By spring 2014, every senior at the district's single gender girl's school, Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy, was accepted into college.
- In the 2013-2014 school year seven APS schools earned the title "Reward School" from the Georgia Department of Education—reward schools rank among the top in the state for having the highest performance or highest gains by students over the last three years.

APS SECURITY TEST PLAN

The Exam Security Policies and Procedures Plan (“Security Plan”) sets forth the test security policies, procedures, and responsibilities that the Atlanta Public Schools (APS) has established for district’s testing program. It is intended for use by all APS personnel, including contractors and suppliers, as appropriate.



In 2010 Caveon Test Security conducted an audit of the APS test security policies and procedures. Caveon noted in the results of its audit that “overall APS policies and procedures create a tight testing environment.” The report also noted that there were “well-defined procedures that govern the handling of tests” and that “there is excellent implementation of the state’s testing rules for the CRCT.” To ensure the APS testing environments were above reproach, APS strengthened the policies and procedures.

The APS Test Security Plan was enhanced with definitions, policies, and procedures for regulation of all aspects of test security, including information security, exam publication and exam administration. The plan is used in conjunction with the Georgia Department of Education Student Assessment Handbook, test specific manuals and the National Center for Educational Statistics (NCES) and NAEP Service Center (NCSS) guidelines.

Enhanced Instructional Programs

APS replaces CRCT, EOCT and writing assessment with Georgia Milestones

Beginning in the 2014-15 school year, Atlanta Public Schools will no longer use the Criterion Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) to test students' knowledge in reading, English/language arts, math, science, and social studies. The Georgia Milestones test will replace the CRCT, CRCT-M and the writing assessment for 3rd, 5th and 8th graders, as well as the End of Course Test (EOCT) for 9th through 12th graders.

The Georgia Milestones is a single, comprehensive testing system developed by the Georgia Department of Education for school districts in Georgia. It offers increased rigor in all content areas and raises the level of expectations for students and teachers.

The new testing system will also give teachers and administrators the information they need to compare APS students with students from other states.



Highlights of the Georgia Milestones Assessment System

Benefits

- Increases expectations for student learning and achievement;
- Embeds norm-referenced items to provide a national comparison;
- Aligns expectations with other external measures to send a consistent signal of how Georgia students are doing compared to their peers, and
- The GaDOE has partnered with the University System of Georgia and the Technical College System of Georgia to ensure the tests are good indicators of students' college and career readiness.

What's Different

- This is not a reinvention of the CRCT or the EOCT. Georgia Milestones is a new program;
- Georgia Milestones is not a series; it is a single program;
- English/language arts, reading and writing will be combined into one test;
- This new testing system requires students to show a deeper understanding of the material and use details directly from the story to support their expectations;
- It provides consistent expectations and rigor to position students to compete nationally and internationally;
- It provides a consistent message about students' readiness to move to the next grade level.

Who will it impact?

- Georgia Milestones will be offered to students in grades 3-12;
- Elementary and middle school students will continue to be tested in ELA, math, science and social studies;
- High school students will be tested in ninth-grade literature and composition, American literature and composition, coordinate algebra, analytic geometry, physical science, biology, U.S. history and economics. The Georgia High School Writing Test will remain as a separate administration in September 2014.

RECEIVE A FULL COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP TO GEORGIA TECH



Atlanta Public Schools and the Georgia Institute of Technology have partnered to present a groundbreaking scholarship opportunity for exceptional APS students in the class of 2015 and beyond.

The APS Scholars @ Georgia Tech Program

APS students on track to qualify as valedictorian or salutatorian at their high school may apply to Georgia Tech and ultimately enroll in any undergraduate degree program as a freshman student. The APS Scholars @ Georgia Tech program covers full-time, in-state tuition cost for four (4) academic years or eight (8) semesters. Students may enter Georgia Tech in either the summer or fall semester following their graduation from high school.

Program Requirements:

- Valedictorian or Salutatorian of an APS high school;
- Meet all stated Board of Regents academic requirements;
- Successfully complete a math course at the pre-calculus level or above during high school;
- Be in overall good standing with the Atlanta Public Schools at point of graduation
- Achieve a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher; and
- Submit all necessary credentials and application materials by the published application deadlines as established by Undergraduate Admissions at Georgia Tech.



Visit:
<http://www.atlantapublicschools.us/Domain/8691>

Keeping You Informed

Bookmark your way to APS to get the latest news straight from the source.

APS District Web site: Visit www.atlantapublicschools.us.

School Web sites: Learn about school events and easily access your faculty and staff.

Talk Up APS: This continually updated blog serves as a digital newsletter with the latest news, links to media coverage, photo galleries, videos and more. Visit www.TalkUpAPS.com.

Television and Radio

WPBA TV30, WABE FM90..1 Radio and Cable Channel 22 are broadcast services of Atlanta Public Schools.

WPBA 30: View award-winning, educational programming.

APS 22: Comcast subscribers in Atlanta can access this station for around-the-clock educational programming.

WABE: Atlanta's National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate offers 24-hours of news, music and community affairs.

Social Media

Facebook: Follow Atlanta Public Schools. Visit: www.facebook.com/atlantapublicschools.us



Pinterest: Join APS on the fastest growing social media site online, Pinterest. Over 250 “pins” including websites for students, teacher resources and education news stories. www.pinterest.com/Apsupdate



Twitter: Visit [@APSupdate](http://www.twitter.com) and click “follow.”



Tumblr: Check out our blog on Tumblr, @APSupdate. Comment on our posts, or share your own APS text snippets, photos and videos.

