

ATLANTA INDEPENDENT SCHOOL SYSTEM

Popular Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal
Year Ended **June 30, 2017** Atlanta, Georgia



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February 28, 2018

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, 2017. 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 2-3 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 and PAFR is available at <http://www.atlanta.k12.ga.us/Page/72>

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.

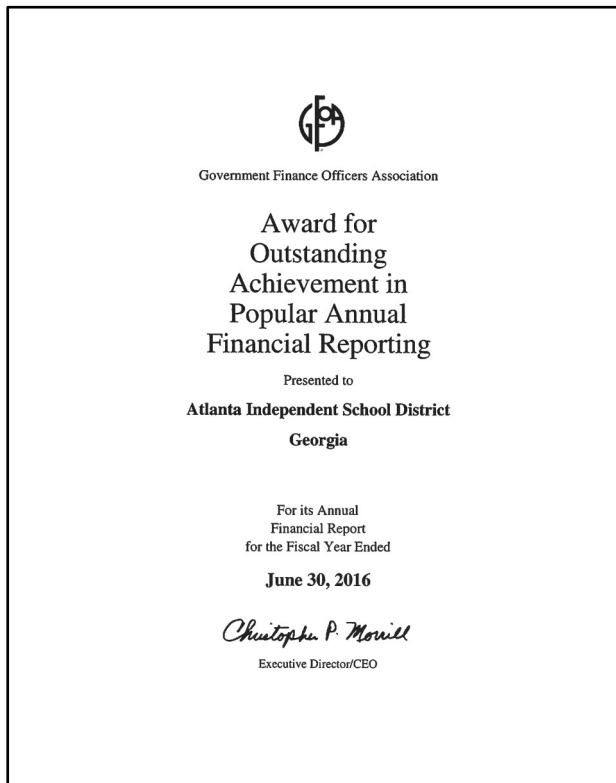
Respectfully,



Lisa Bracken
Chief Financial Officer



Award for Outstanding Achievement in 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, 2016. 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 PAFR, 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 PAFR requirements, and we are submitting it to GFOA.

Atlanta Independent School System Comprehensive Annual Financial Reports for the years ended 2012-2016, from which the information on pages 3-9 has been drawn, were awarded the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting by 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 (CAFR), whose contents conform to program standards. The 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.



Jasmine Cruz, Ashton Edmeades and Walden Jones
Grady High School

2017 Financial SECTION



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 following financial highlights present district-wide financial information for governmental activities.

Financial Highlights

Please note that the fiscal year 2015 net position was restated due to a change in reporting entity.
(See CAFR note R.)

Benefits over Detriments:

- ◆ Total net worth for the district increased from \$548.19 million in fiscal year 2016 to \$556.60 million in fiscal year 2017, an increase of approximately \$8.41 million, or 1.5% due to an increase in tax revenues. An increase in net worth reflects the differences between changes in assets (benefits) and changes in liabilities (detriments). (See page 4.)



Resources over Services:

- ◆ Total resources in fiscal year 2017 exceeded the total cost of services by \$8.41 million. (See page 4.)
- ◆ Total resources increased from \$905.51 million in fiscal year 2016 to \$919.48 million in fiscal year 2017, an increase of approximately \$13.97 million, or 1.5%. This change was due to an increase in the Beltline payment received as well as an additional Title Ad Valorem Tax (TAVT) received.
- ◆ Total services increased by \$55.78 million, or 6.5% from \$855.29 million in fiscal year 2016 to \$911.07 million in fiscal year 2017. This increase was primarily due to the addition of the Atlanta Public Schools Police Department.

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 the financial terminology is provided on page 9.



	2017	2016	Restated 2015
Financial Benefits			
Current and other assets	\$ 226.90	\$ 225.41	\$ 266.47
Net capital assets and net pension asset	1,407.00	1,423.45	1,366.41
Total benefits	\$ 1,633.90	\$ 1,648.86	\$ 1,632.88
Deferred outflows of resources	\$ 220.42	\$ 121.30	\$ 123.43
Financial Detriments			
Long-term debt outstanding	\$ 1,189.21	\$ 1,069.04	\$ 1,011.85
Other liabilities	82.76	94.65	100.92
Total detriments	\$ 1,271.97	\$ 1,163.69	\$ 1,112.77
Deferred inflows of resources	\$ 25.75	\$ 58.28	\$ 145.57
Net position			
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 1,322.36	\$ 1,331.10	\$ 1,265.54
Restricted for debt services	3.44	3.11	1.73
Restricted for capital projects	51.30	18.13	67.30
Restricted for school nutrition program	9.66	9.08	8.40
Restricted for state and local programs	1.06	1.61	1.65
Unrestricted	(831.22)	(814.84)	(846.65)
Total net position	\$ 556.60	\$ 548.19	\$ 497.97

* Amounts shown in millions

Resources over Services (District-Wide)

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

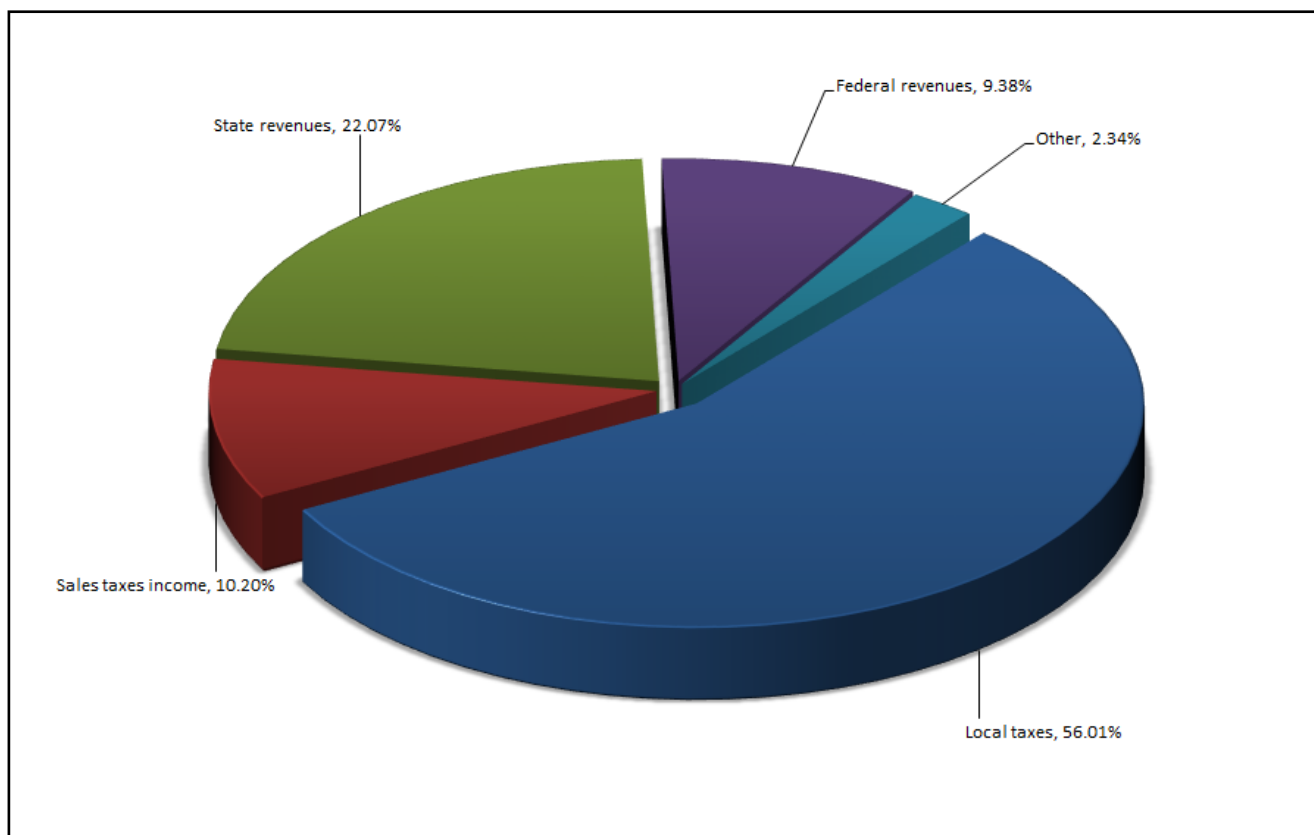
A glossary of financial terminology is provided on page 9.



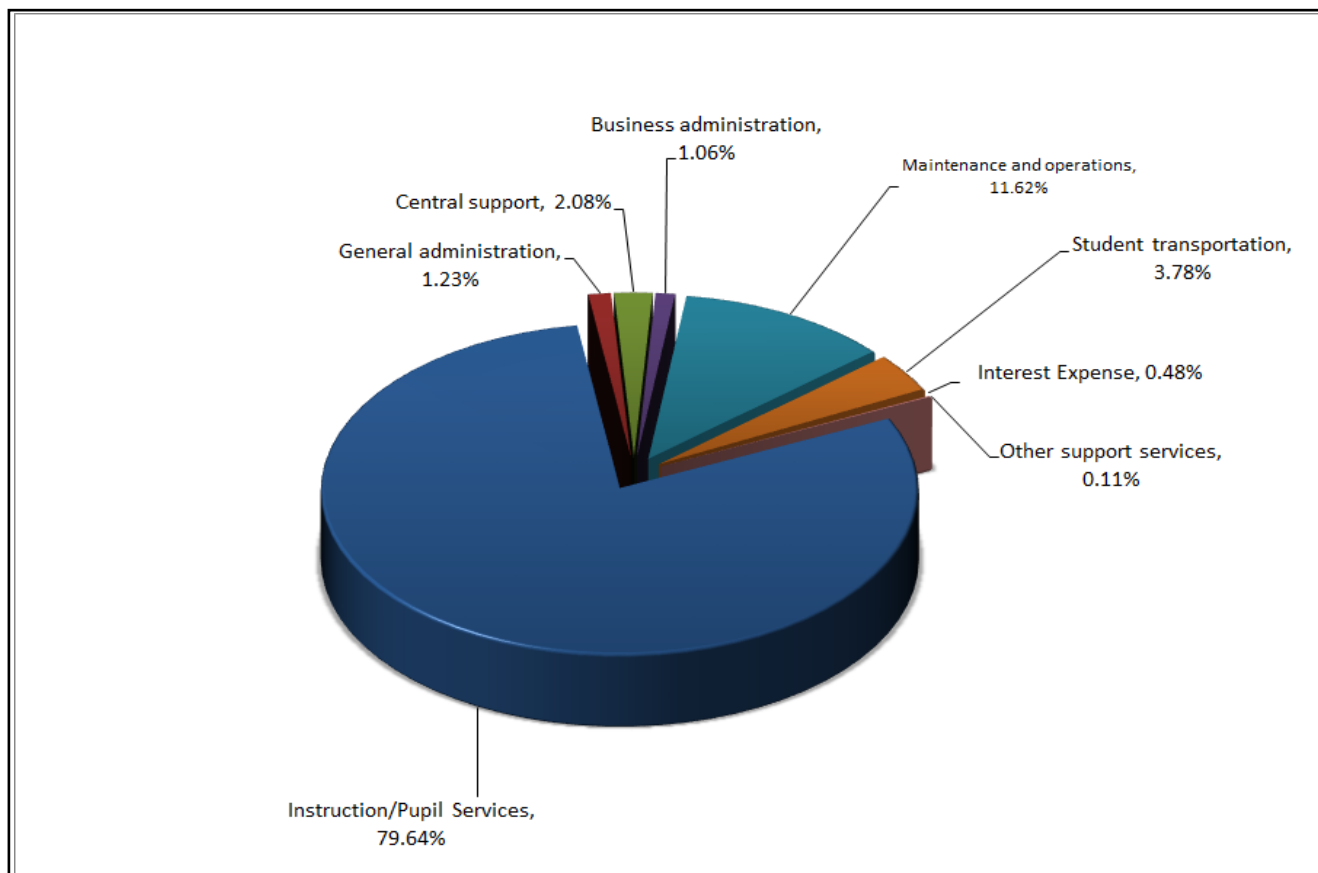
	2017		2016		Restated 2015
Resources Taken In					
Local taxes	\$	514.98	\$	510.05	\$ 452.64
Sales taxes income		93.79		93.79	92.66
State revenues		202.95		192.45	171.21
Federal revenues		86.27		88.56	113.34
Investment income		1.17		0.61	0.16
Facility rental fees		1.26		1.20	1.01
Tuition charges		0.01		0.02	0.01
Charges for services		4.98		4.95	4.60
Other		13.16		13.70	15.37
Gains on the sale of capital assets		0.91		0.18	2.87
Special Item -Principal Forgiveness of Debt		-		-	9.28
Total Revenues & Resources	\$	919.48	\$	905.51	\$ 863.15
Services Provided					
Instruction	\$	538.60	\$	509.81	\$ 481.54
Support services:					
Pupil services		52.33		35.21	30.76
Improvement of instructional services		49.46		39.68	48.05
Educational media		8.79		12.13	10.92
Federal grant administration		2.25		1.67	2.41
General administration		11.23		13.46	16.70
School administration		43.65		41.75	41.93
Business administration		9.68		9.45	12.35
Maintenance and operations		105.89		102.34	100.31
Student transportation		34.41		31.92	29.80
Central support		18.92		20.52	24.68
Food services		30.47		28.55	26.24
Other support services		0.98		3.80	3.56
Interest expense		4.41		5.00	5.48
Total Expenses & Service	\$	911.07	\$	855.29	\$ 834.73
Revenues & Resources Over(Under) Expenses & Services	\$	8.41	\$	50.22	\$ 28.42

* Amounts shown in millions

Our Resources: **Where Does the Money Come From?**



Our Services: **Where Does the Money Go?**

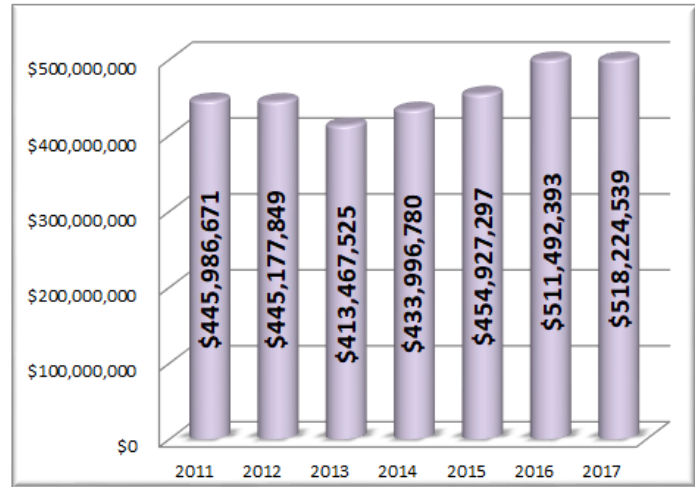


SOURCES OF FUNDING: Where Does the Money Come From?

(Governmental Funds Only)

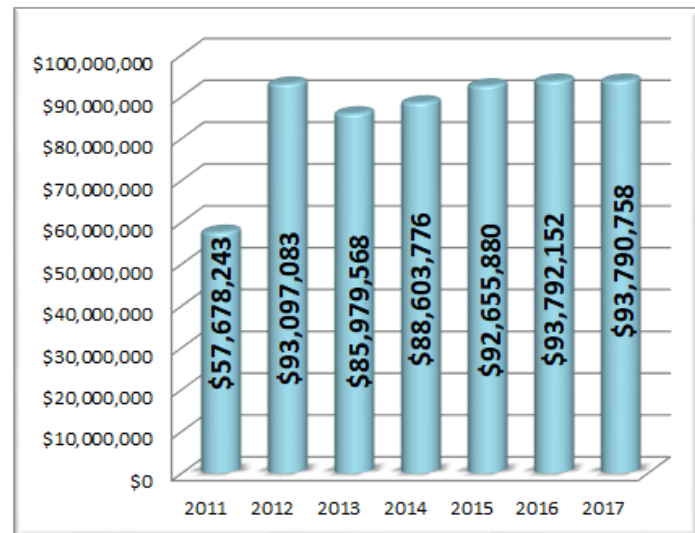
Local Taxes:

The Atlanta Public Schools (APS) district is financed through a combination of local, state and federal sources. During fiscal year 2017, Atlanta Public Schools resources totaled \$919.48 million. APS received 56.01% 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.



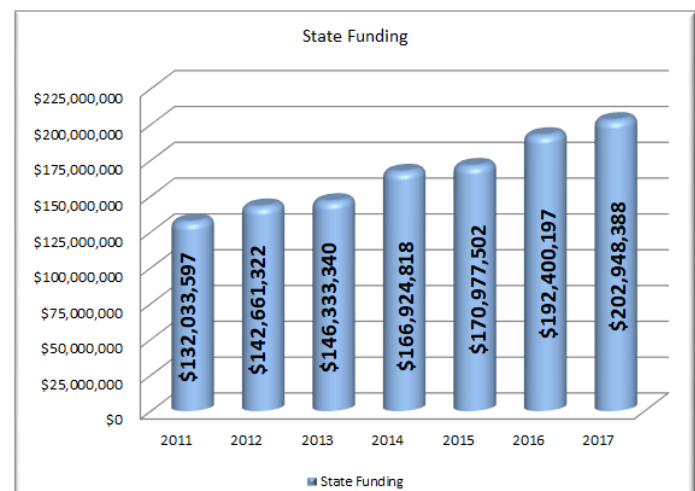
SPLOST (Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax):

On May 24, 2016, the SPLOST V referendum was approved. It is estimated that SPLOST V will generate approximately \$525 million for APS that will fund numerous Capital Improvement projects and liquidate debt for the Certificates of Participation issued in 2011.



State Funding:

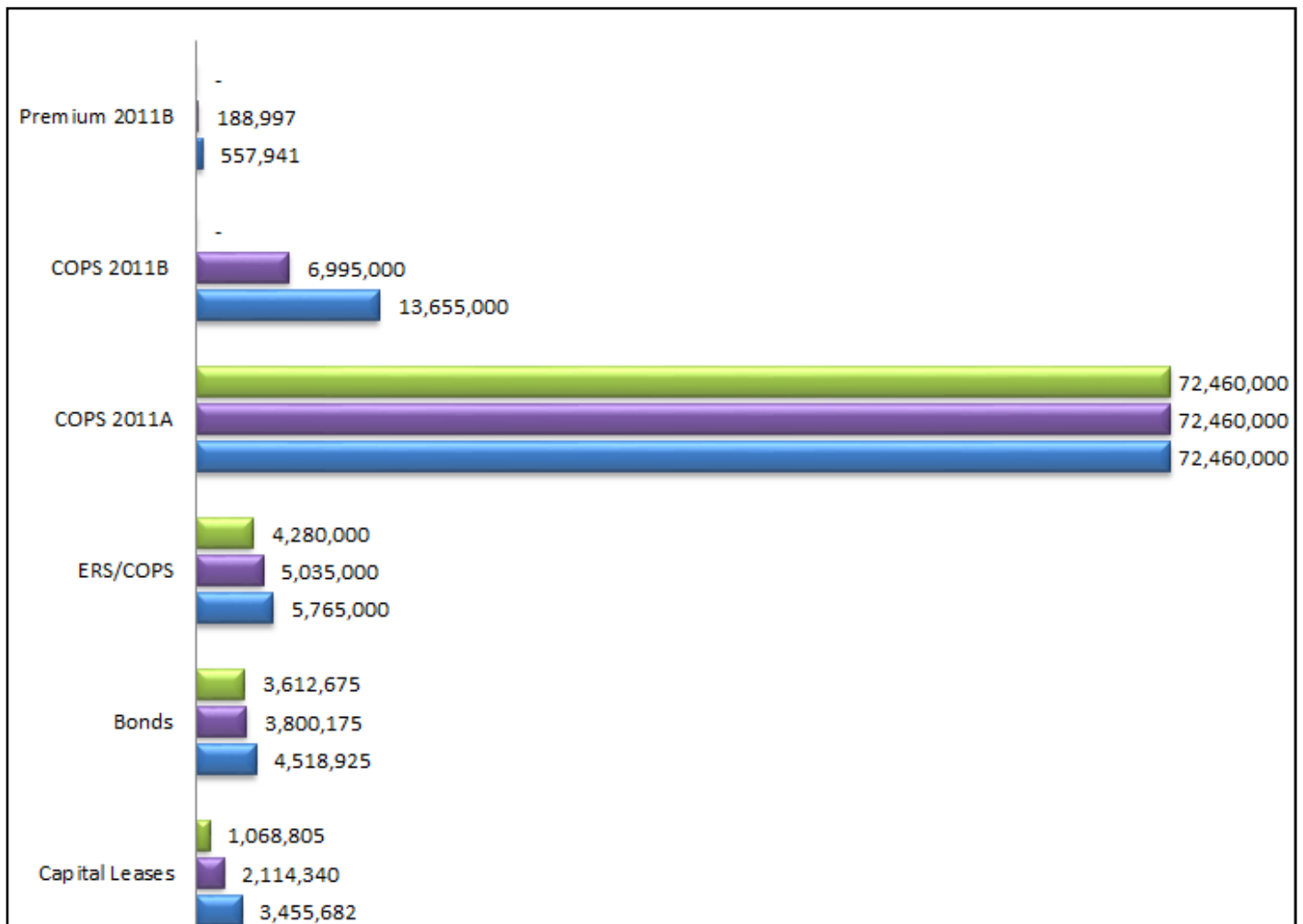
The chart to the right displays the District's Governmental Funds received from the State of Georgia. Funds received from the state are to ensure that all children in the state receive a quality basic educational experience.



Outstanding Debt at Year End: **What 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 APS. In October 2006, Education Resource Services (ERS) issued certificates of participation (COPS) on behalf of the school system to finance renovations and improvements to the Instructional Service Center. COPS is different 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.

Outstanding Debt	2017	2016	2015
Long-term debt			
Capital leases	\$ 1,068,805	\$ 2,114,340	\$ 3,455,682
Intergovernmental agreement- City of Atlanta	3,612,675	3,800,175	4,518,925
ERS, Inc. (COPS, Series 2006/2007)	4,280,000	5,035,000	5,765,000
ERS, Inc. (COPS, Series 2011A)	72,460,000	72,460,000	72,460,000
ERS, Inc. (COPS, Series 2011B)	-	6,995,000	13,655,000
Unamortized premium 2011B	-	188,997	557,941
Total long-term debt	\$81,421,480	\$ 90,593,512	\$100,412,548



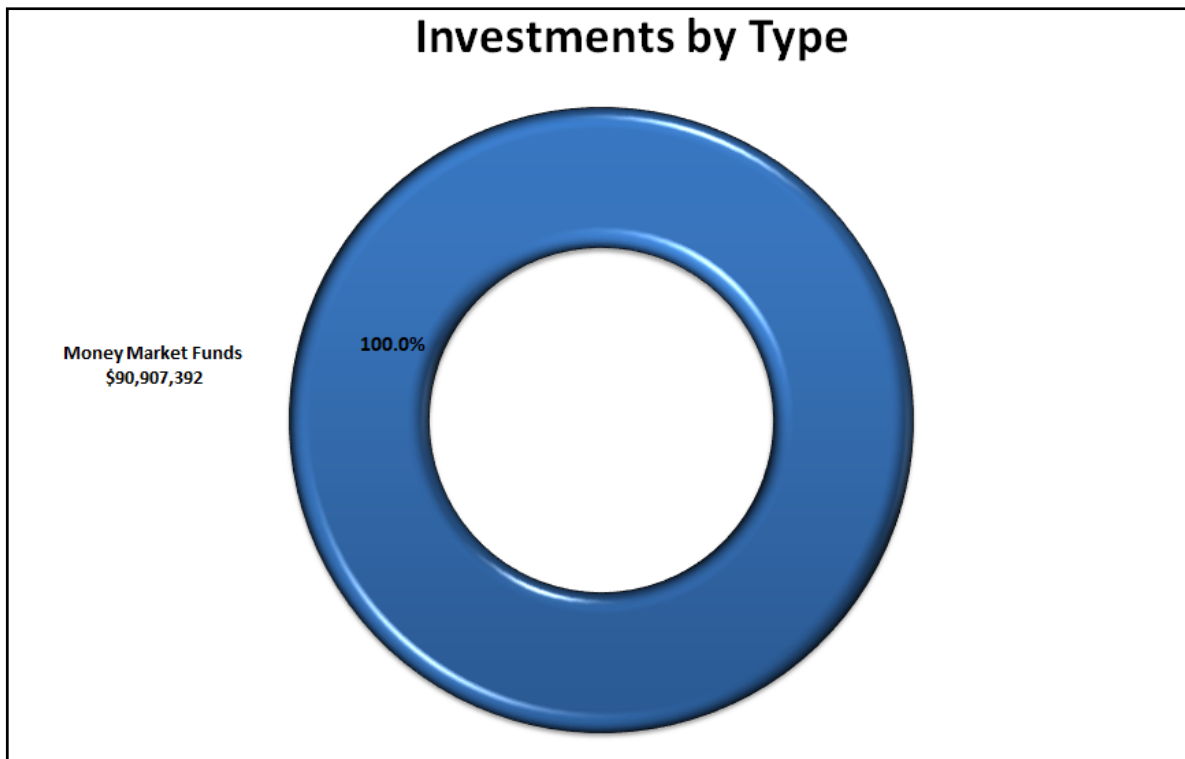
Investments: How Safe is our Money?

Investors who purchase municipal bonds use debt ratings as an indicator of the financial stability of an organization and consequently the safety and security of the debt sold by that organization. In general, higher credit ratings often result in lower borrowing costs via reduced interest rates paid on municipal bonds. Strong ratings also promote a wider market by attracting more buyers of municipal bonds.

There are three major rating agencies that assign ratings to municipal debt: Standard & Poor, Moody's Investors Services and Fitch Ratings .

As of June 30, 2017, APS' GA Fund 1 investments were rated AAAf and NR by Standard and Poor 's and Moody's Investor Service, respectively.

Credit Risk	Moody's	Fitch	S&P
Investment grade			
Highest grade credit	Aaa	AAA	AAA
Very high grade credit	AA1, Aa2, Aa3	AA+, AA, AA-	AA+, AA, AA-
High grade credit	A1, A2, A3	A+, A, A-	A+, A, A-
Good credit grade	Baa1, Baa2, Baa3, Baa4	BBB+, BBB, BBB-	BBB+, BBB, BBB-
Speculative grade credit	Ba1, Ba2, Ba3	BB+, BB, BB-	BB+, BB, BB-
Very speculative credit	B1, B2, B3	B+, B, B-	B+, B, B-
Substantial risks - In default	Caa1, Caa2, Caa3, Ca	CCC, CC, C, RD, D	CCC+, CCC, CCC-, CC, C, D,



As of June 30, 2017, the district had \$90,907,392 in investments. Investments subject to credit quality risk are reflected below.

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	\$ 90,907,392	100.00%	AAAf	N/R
		\$ 90,907,392	100.00%		

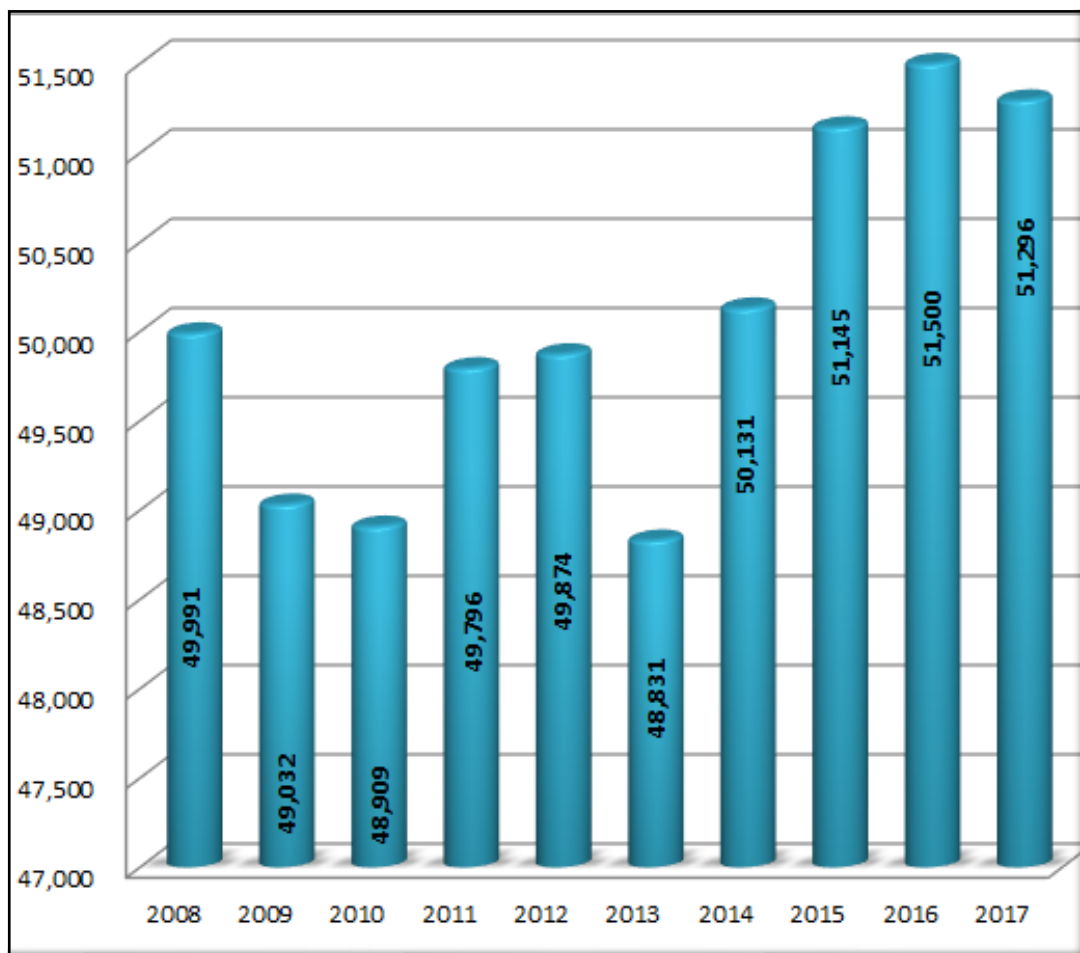
Student Enrollment

Student enrollment (including charter schools) in the district has increased 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 constitute a high mobility rate for students in our district. Nearly one-third of APS students relocated within and outside the district during the shifts.



About 2,403 seniors graduated from APS high schools in 2017, earning more than \$141 million in college scholarships. Large numbers of APS students continue to earn awards for academic achievement on the state and national levels.

The district's budget provides funding for academic and special services that support our diverse student enrollment. APS students represent several ethnic, economic and special needs groups.



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 Atlanta 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 APS 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 (COPS): Tax-exempt bonds that are issued by state entities usually secured with revenue from an equipment or facility lease.

About APS





Welcome to the 2017/2018 School Year!

Brandon Elementary

Dear Students and Families of Atlanta Public Schools,

As we move into the 2017-2018 school year, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) continues its journey of transformation into a culture with a child-centered mission and vision. More than ever, we need a deeper connection with our students, parents, caregivers ... the entire family!

Just as our teachers, principals and staff focus on preparing every single student for college and career, we need all of our APS families to continuously strive for that mission. It starts with getting students to go to school on the first day and every day of the school year.

As APS families, you play a critical part in the journey, and we have adopted a district-wide strategy to

empower you to become even more engaged in your children's education. This 2017-2018 Back-to-School Guide – which includes essential information, financial and educational data, a comprehensive listing of district school addresses and phone numbers and a 2017-2018 school calendar – is specifically designed to keep you connected with your schools and the district.

Every day is a day of instruction, an opportunity to learn. Research is clear that absences hurt achievement. One report traces students' struggles to master reading in the third grade to missed days in kindergarten. Another shows students' chances of graduating high school are severely limited by days missed in middle school. Simply put, every school day counts.

Behavior also matters on the journey. Many of our students don't

come to school with the skills to set goals, overcome obstacles, develop healthy relationships and self-monitor behavior – abilities necessary for success in school, work and life. By focusing on development of the whole child – with a focus on social emotional learning skills – our kids will not only have the smarts, but the hearts, to be better people than we can ever be.

Most importantly, the education of our children matters as they get the academics they need to remain on course and grade level to graduate with their class and on time.

For the journey, we have made school-based decision-making, flexibility and engagement a priority especially as we work within our new charter system operating model. And as we continue on this journey together, I pledge to continue to do my part to work diligently to foster a transparent, collaborative environment for our families and stakeholders.

I will continue to visit schools to hear from students, teachers, parents and the school communities directly about their experiences and what we all can do to make APS better. I look 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



The Atlanta Board of Education establishes and approves the policies that govern the Atlanta Public School system. The Board comprises six district representatives and three at-large representatives, all of whom are elected to four-year terms. The day-to-day administration of the school district is the responsibility of the Superintendent, who is appointed by the Board. Board meetings are typically held the first Monday of each month, and are broadcast in real time via LiveStream at livestream.com/k12aps, and also air following the meeting on APS TV.



LESLIE GRANT | DISTRICT 1

ELEMENTARY: Benteen, Dobbs, Hope-Hill, Mary Lin, Barack & Michelle Obama Academy, Parkside, Slater, Thomasville Heights, Wesley International Academy, Atlanta Neighborhood Charter, KIPP Vision Academy, KIPP Vision Primary, The Kindezi School (OFW) | **MIDDLE:** King, Price, Atlanta Neighborhood Charter, KIPP Vision Academy, Wesley International Academy, The Kindezi School (OFW) | **HIGH:** Carver, Carver Early College, Carver Technology, Grady, M.H. Jackson



BYRON D. AMOS | DISTRICT 2

ELEMENTARY: Dunbar, F.L. Stanton, Finch, M.R. Hollis Innovation Academy, M.A. Jones, Centennial Academy Charter, KIPP STRIVE Academy, KIPP STRIVE Primary, KIPP WAYS Academy, KIPP WAYS Primary | **MIDDLE:** Brown, KIPP STRIVE Academy, KIPP WAYS Academy | **HIGH:** Douglass, Washington, KIPP Atlanta Collegiate, North Metro



MATT WESTMORELAND | DISTRICT 3

ELEMENTARY: Burgess-Peterson Academy, Morningside, Springdale Park, F.A. Toomer, Drew Charter | **MIDDLE:** Inman, Drew Charter | **HIGH:** Crim, Drew Charter, Adult Education | **RESIDENTIAL PROGRAM (2-12):** Hillside Conant



NANCY M. MEISTER, VICE CHAIR | DISTRICT 4

ELEMENTARY: Brandon, Brandon Primary, Garden Hills, Jackson, Jackson Primary, E. Rivers, Smith, Smith Primary, Atlanta Classical Academy | **MIDDLE:** Sutton, Sutton (6th Grade), Atlanta Classical Academy | **HIGH:** North Atlanta



STEVEN D. LEE | DISTRICT 5

ELEMENTARY: Beecher Hills, Bolton Academy, Boyd, Fain, Miles, Peyton Forest, Scott, Towns, Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy, Usher-Collier Heights, West Manor, Woodson Park Academy, The Kindezi School (Westlake), Westside Atlanta Charter

MIDDLE: Harper-Archer, John Lewis Invictus Academy, Young | **HIGH:** Mays, West End Academy | **SINGLE-GENDER (6-12):** B.E.S.T. Academy, Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy



ESHÉ P. COLLINS | DISTRICT 6

ELEMENTARY: Cascade, Cleveland Avenue, Continental Colony, Deerwood Academy, Fickett, Gideons, Heritage Academy, Humphries, Hutchinson, Kimberly, Perkerson | **MIDDLE:** Bunche, Long, Forrest Hill Academy, Sylvan Hills | **HIGH:** South Atlanta, Therrell, Forrest Hill Academy



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



Our Mission

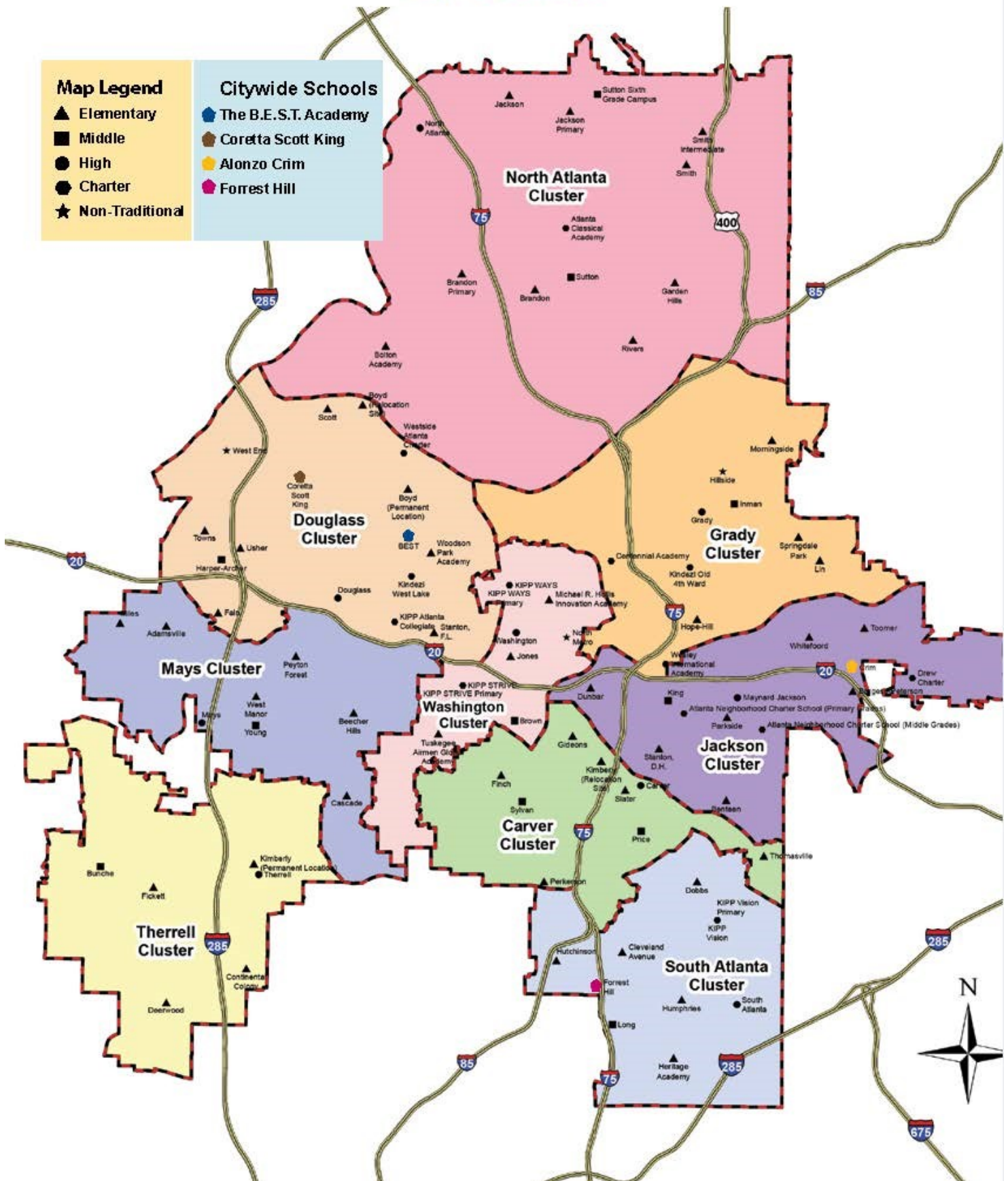
With a caring culture of trust and collaboration, every student will graduate ready for college and career.

Our Vision

A high-performing school district where students love to learn, educators inspire, families engage and the community trusts the system.



Map of Schools





**Atlanta Independent School System
Demographic Statistics
Last Ten Fiscal Years**

Fiscal Year Ended	City Population	Personal Income (thousands of dollars)	Per Capita Personal Income	Median Age	School Enrollment	Unemployment Rate
June 30, 2007	461,956	\$ 203,924	\$ 40,251	34.7	49,707	4.4%
June 30, 2008	477,300	206,232	39,889	32.0	51,377	6.2%
June 30, 2009	480,700	198,067	37,793	34.0	48,093	9.9%
June 30, 2010	422,753	198,872	37,493	33.3	48,696	10.3%
June 30, 2011	432,092	214,002	39,826	33.0	49,874	9.9%
June 30, 2012	444,002	222,204	40,738	32.2	49,474	8.8%
June 30, 2013	448,312	228,134	41,307	33.2	48,831	7.8%
June 30, 2014	456,143	228,134	41,307	33.4	49,842	6.8%
June 30, 2015	463,878	244,065	43,472	33.3	50,708	5.1%
June 30, 2016	472,522	257,510	45,092	33.0	51,296	4.6%

Sources: Statistical section of the City of Atlanta, Georgia 2017 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report
For the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2017.
Statistical Data from the City of Atlanta is one year in arrears.



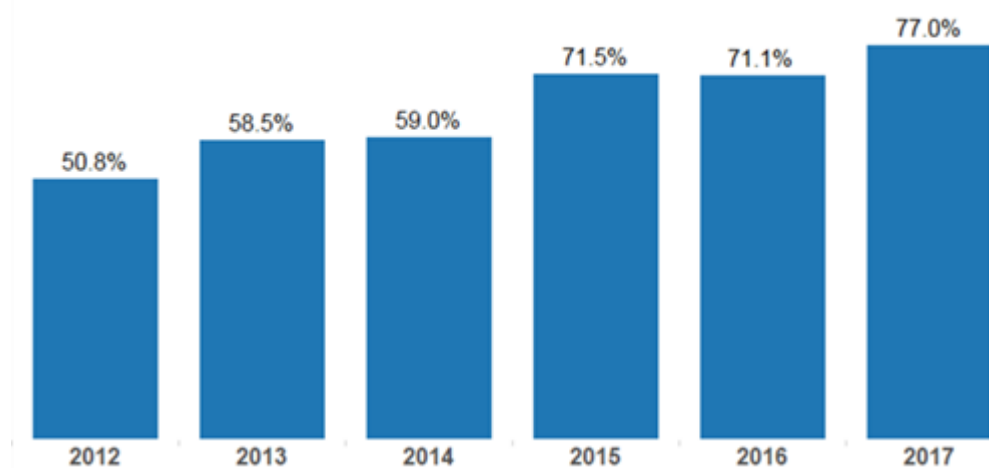
(September 27, 2017) APS REACHES NEW GRADUATION RATE HIGH OF 77.0 Percent

District graduates 2,356 students – 89 more than last year – for a 5.9 percentage point gain, closing the gap by 4.7 percentage points with the state graduation rate

ATLANTA – With a 77.0 percent graduation rate, Atlanta Public Schools' Cohort of 2017 has achieved a new district high, according to official graduation data released today by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). Additionally, the cohort reported the largest number of APS graduates in recent years with 2,356 students – an increase of 89 students from the year before – earning their high school diplomas last year.

The APS graduation rate represents an 18 percentage point gain in three years and the highest rate the district has received since the state aligned Georgia-wide graduation rates with the national standard in 2012. The district, which achieved a 5.9 percentage point gain in its graduation rate, also narrowed the gap with the state graduation rate by 4.7 percentage points. The state rate rose by 1.2 percentage points to 80.6 percent in 2017.

Atlanta Public Schools Cohort Graduation Rates



“We developed a mission with the Board and the community to graduate more and more students prepared for college and career, and we are really starting to deliver,” said APS Superintendent Meria J. Carstarphen. “With three years of graduating more children, we are making progress that is significant, real and sustainable.”

“The past year saw us fully implement our new charter district operating model with signature programming that directs more resources to our schools. We also provided targeted intervention to our lowest-performing schools,” Carstarphen added. “As we continue to provide those supports as well as address deficiencies in core subjects such as literacy and math, I believe we will continue seeing this wonderful upward trend.”

Of 17 schools' graduating cohorts, 13 saw gains and Charles R. Drew Charter School, which graduated its inaugural class in 2017, reported a 100 percent graduation rate. Other APS schools with high graduation rates include:

- Carver Early College, 98.8 percent
- North Atlanta High, 94.9 percent
- Coretta Scott King Young Women's Leadership Academy, 94.3 percent
- KIPP Atlanta Collegiate, 91.4 percent
- Grady High, 88.4 percent

Schools achieving significant increases in their graduation rates include: Carver School of Technology, which achieved a 16.7 percentage point gain to reach a 79.7 percent graduation rate; followed by Therrell High School with a 12.8 percentage point gain and a 79.6 percent rate; Carver High School with a 7.4 percentage point gain and a 73.9 percent rate; and North Atlanta with a 6.6 percentage point gain and a 94.9 percent rate.

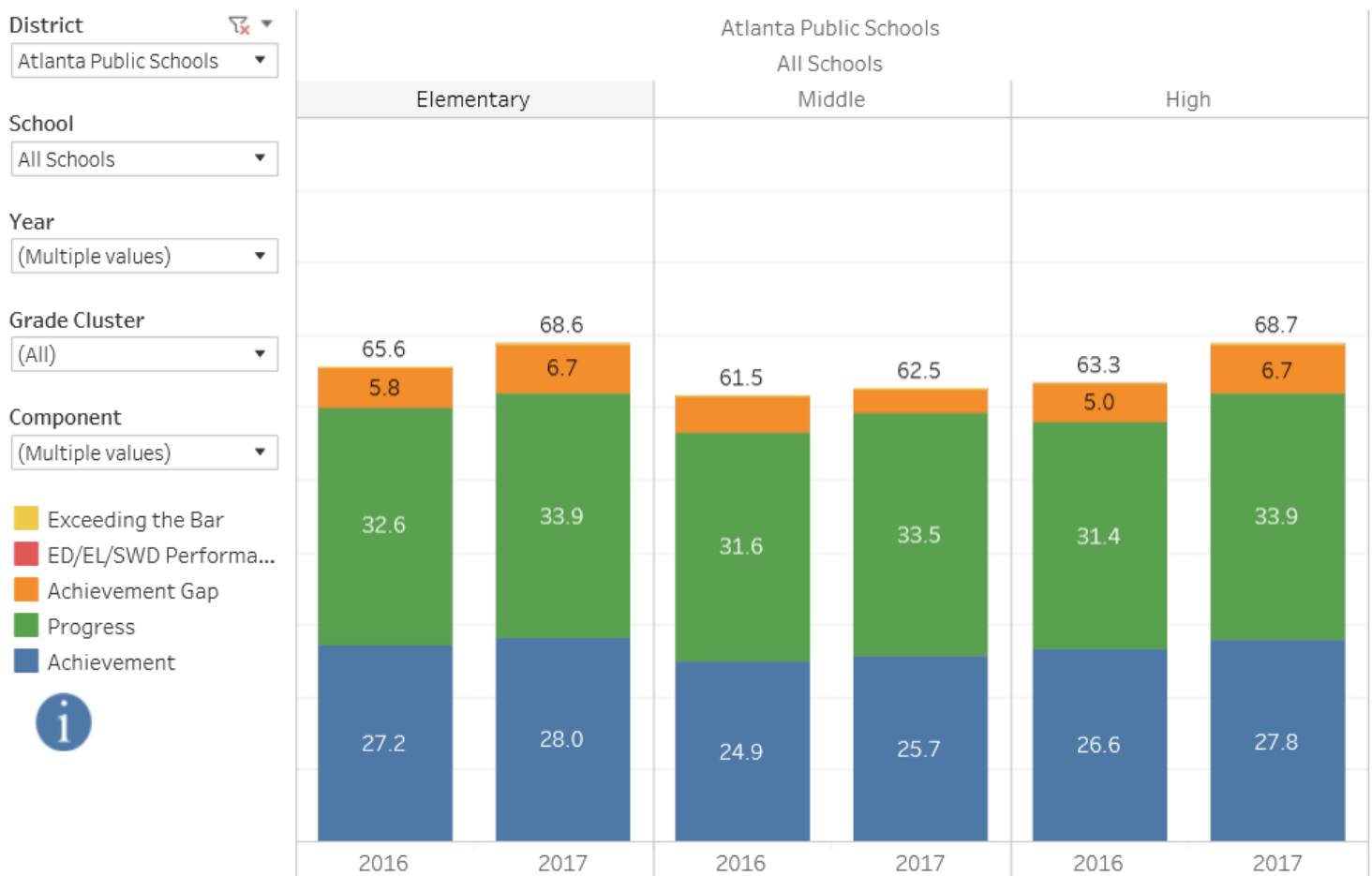
2017 CCRPI Results

Posted on [November 2, 2017](#) by [APS Insights](#)

The Georgia Department of Education released 2017 CCRPI results today (11/2). The district's overall score increased 3.1 points from 65.2 to 68.3. The overall score for the state of Georgia increased from 73.6 to 75.

The view below is created using the [state's results file](#) and includes all Georgia public schools and districts. It is currently filtered to compare APS' 2016 and 2017 results by grade band and CCRPI component, highlighting that in each grade band APS saw an increase in both Achievement and Progress points.

CCRPI Trends and Comparisons



*Sum of all components does not equal CCRPI total. Achievement Gap points for this school and grade band are not applicable and have been removed from the overall denominator.

**Sum of all components does not equal CCRPI total. School maxed out on Challenge (sum of Exceeding the Bar and ED/EL/SWD Performance), which is capped at ten.

(May 17, 2017) Ten APS Seniors Named 2017 Posse Foundation Scholars

ATLANTA – As The Posse Foundation celebrates a decade in Atlanta, 10 seniors from Atlanta Public Schools (APS) have been awarded four-year, full-tuition leadership and merit scholarships worth approximately \$210,000 each from four of the foundation's partner colleges and universities, including Bard College, Brandeis University, The George Washington University and Texas A&M University. The foundation named the scholarship recipients during a formal ceremony held earlier this year at The Fox Theatre in Atlanta.



Atlanta Public Schools 2017 Posse Scholars (Seated L-R) Chaide Wynn, Carver Early College; Jaila Allen, Drew Charter H.S.; Suprim Allah, Drew Charter H.S.; Mo Mobley, Grady H.S.; and Corniyah Bradley, Carver Early College. (Standing L-R) Chase Kleber, Grady H.S.; Raquel McDaniel, North Atlanta H.S.; Kahleel Hester, B.E.S.T. Academy H.S.; Jakobi Horn, Maynard Jackson H.S.; and Kwesi Jones, KIPP Atlanta Collegiate.

Photo Credit: The Posse Foundation, Inc.

The Posse Foundation, Inc. is a college access and youth leadership development program that identifies, recruits and selects leaders from public high schools. These student leaders are placed in supportive multicultural teams called "Posses" to attend partnering colleges and universities.

(March 6, 2017) ABOE Approves School Changes

Atlanta Board of Education Approves Recommendations for School Changes in Alignment With District's Transformation Strategy

ATLANTA – The Atlanta Board of Education voted 7-2 to approve recommendations for school changes in alignment with the district's Transformation Strategy during the March 6 board meeting.

Over the last three months, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) Superintendent Meria J. Carstarphen, Ed.D has engaged the community in conversations about these possible changes. Throughout the process, Carstarphen, members of the Atlanta Board of Education and other APS leaders listened closely to the community's input and ideas, and adjusted recommendations to the Board based on that feedback.

The following school changes were approved:

- **Jackson Cluster** – At the start of School Year 2017-2018, close Whitefoord Elementary School, redistricting students to Toomer Elementary and Burgess-Peterson Academy. Redistrict a portion of Parkside Elementary School students to Benteen Elementary School.
- **Mays Cluster** – At the start of School Year 2017-2018, close Adamsville Primary, restructuring Miles Intermediate as a PreK-5 school and redistricting some Adamsville and Miles students to West Manor Elementary.
- **Douglass Cluster** – At the start of School Year 2017-2018, relocate the Business, Engineering, Science and Technology Academy at the Benjamin S. Carson Educational Complex (BEST) to the Coretta Scott King
 - Beginning with School Year 2017-2018, phase out the closure of Harper-Archer Middle School by serving only 7th and 8th grade at Harper-Archer next school year.
 - Phase in and create a new middle school at the current BEST facility, serving 6th grade only in School Year 2017-2018. The school will add a grade each year thereafter until it becomes the new 6-8 middle school for the Douglass Cluster in School Year 2019-2020.
 - At the start of School Year 2019-2020, close Fain Elementary School and Towns Elementary School and open a new elementary school at the renovated Harper-Archer MS facility.
 - At the beginning of School Year 2019-2020, launch a new PreK-8 partnership school at Woodson Park Academy (WPA) with KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools. This school will be operated by KIPP, but will not be a charter school, ensuring that all students zoned to WPA will be able to attend.
- **Citywide** – At the beginning of School Year 2017-2018, relocate West End Academy to Crim Open Campus High School. West End and Crim will streamline their staff in order to realize savings through a shared campus model.

These are complicated issues and difficult decisions, but that is what leadership is all about,” said Atlanta Board of Education Chair Courtney D. English. “The Board deeply appreciates the input by parents, teachers and neighborhood leaders throughout the city. Not everyone will be happy, but I believe our kids will benefit, receive a better education, and be better prepared for college and career.”

“We need to deliver strong, effective academic programs to our students and provide the most complete and essential services we can with limited resources,” said APS Superintendent Meria J. Carstarphen. “In order for us to be successful, we must look for ways to streamline resources to reinvest in quality programming for kids. The district is confident that these changes will allow us to do just that.”

The APS school changes were developed to further the district's Transformation effort, address the under-utilization of schools and launch strategic partnerships over key district priorities.

(August 1, 2017) APS Opens John Lewis Invictus Academy

CONGRESSMAN JOHN LEWIS GREETES STUDENTS ON FIRST DAY OF NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL NAMED IN HIS HONOR

ATLANTA—Congressman John Lewis, an advocate and Civil Rights icon, had encouraging words on the first day of school for the inaugural class of his namesake educational institution, the John Lewis Invictus Academy (JLIA), located at 1890 Donald Lee Hollowell Pkwy.



Atlanta Board of Education members along with Superintendent Meria Carstarphen and Principal Gregory Parks joined Congressman John Lewis for a photo during opening of John Lewis Invictus Academy on Aug. 1. Front Row LR - Jason Esteves, Courtney English, John Lewis, Meria Carstarphen, Steven Lee . Top Row LR – Cynthia Briscoe Brown, Eshe' Collins, Gregory Parks, Byron Amos, Matt Westmoreland

Tuesday marked the first day of classes for students at the new JLIA. Students were elated that Congressman Lewis was there to greet them. As a middle school for the Douglass Cluster, JLIA promotes persistence, invincibility, self-mastery and an unconquerable spirit as tools for success. Congressman Lewis personified these traits, as he reminisced about his time growing up during the Civil Rights Movement.

“Don’t let anybody tell you no,” Lewis stated. Every student and community member watched Lewis in admiration.

Lewis believes every child should have an opportunity to learn and grow. He made it clear that he wanted every child to walk away from the assembly believing that they could accomplish anything, as long as they believed in themselves.

“You can be what you want to be!” Lewis said. “You’re smart; you’re gifted; you’re beautiful!”

It was a wonderful way to bring in the new school year—having an icon represent the moment!

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

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