

NEWS RELEASE
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FULTON COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Fulton County Collaborates with Hope Hill Elementary to Support Student Achievement

Memorandum of Understanding approved by the Board of Commissioners includes \$43,100 expenditure to support language and literacy

October 13, 2016 (ATLANTA) – The Fulton County Aging and Youth Services Department will initiate a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Atlanta Public Schools to support Hope Hill Elementary School to increase third grade reading scores. The MOU follows approval by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners during the Wednesday, October 5, 2016 meeting.

The agreement includes an expenditure of \$43,100. The funds will target students with third grade reading deficiencies and a high rate of mobility from community to community. Hope Hill's student mobility rate is 41.2% compared to the average rate of 17.5% for the State of Georgia. The elementary school is a Title I school located at 112 Boulevard, NE in Atlanta, Georgia with 403 students in kindergarten through fifth grades.

Aging and Youth Services Department Director Dr. John Thompson expressed his confidence in the collaborative effort. "I am extremely excited about our partnership with Hope Hill Elementary School and the MLK, Sr. Collaborative. This is a great opportunity to invest in the lives of students through technology and civic engagement, as our seniors support the kindergarten and 1st grade classes. Overall, this strategy will create a viable program that can improve our young students' academic and social outcomes."

"These resources provided via the partnership with the Fulton County Department of Aging and Youth Services and the MLK Collaborative will be invaluable to our students," said Hope Hill Elementary Principal Maureen T. Wheeler. "Providing all 3rd graders with a laptop and parents with training will allow us to expose students to a plethora of opportunities beyond the school day."

Aging and Youth Services in conjunction with Hope Hill Elementary and the MLK, Sr. Community Resources Collaborative has proposed a three-pronged approach to increase third grade reading scores:

1. Technology
2. Academic mentoring and tutoring
3. Parent support

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Partnership with Hope Hill Elementary

The Hope Hill initiative aligns with the county's strategic priority of "All People are Self-Sufficient" and focuses on the percentage of students proficient in 3rd grade reading. Additionally, 10 seniors from the Helene S. Mills Senior Multipurpose Facility have agreed to serve as tutors. Aging and Youth Services hopes to double the number of senior tutors before the end of October. The long-term goal of the MOU is to invest in literacy and learning over the next three to five years.

For more information, contact Aging and Youth Services at 404-613-7944.

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