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SCHOOLS

**T.H.E.O.**  
**Together in Hope, Equity**  
**+ Opportunity**

April 22, 2022

# Social Emotional Wellness Check-In:

Which 3 words best describe how you are entering this space?

## Join by Web:

Go to [www.menti.com](https://www.menti.com) and  
Use code **6730 9830**

## Join by QR Code:



<https://www.menti.com/sm4an8wnsk>



# Welcome + Icebreaker



# Introductions

- Say “**Hello!**” and let us know you’re here by sharing your name and organization in the chat.
- Why is participating in T.H.E.O. with APS important to me and my organization?

virtual  
meet &  
greet



# Greetings & Opening Remarks from Dr. Tauheedah Baker-Jones, Chief Equity & Social Justice Officer

# Theory of Action for T.H.E.O.

- **If** Atlanta's faith-based and educational leaders hold meaningful and deliberate convenings, so that we can better understand the assets, as well as the challenges that face our most vulnerable youth, **and**
- **If** we commit to targeted goal setting, collective advocacy and sharing of resources, knowledge and social capital,
- **So that** we can enable sustainable partnerships and support intentional program planning and implementation at the at the school level,
- **Then** our equity goals and outcomes will be achieved, and our students and families will be empowered through greater hope and opportunities.

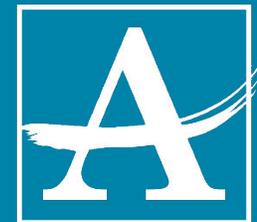
# Guiding Questions for T.H.E.O.

1. What role is there for faith communities to become **more engaged partners** in the work of improving student outcomes?
2. What can **strong alliances** between faith leaders, schools, communities, and advocates look like?
3. What **impact** might these partnerships have?
4. How do we **measure** our impact?

# Key Levers for Change

- **Direct Partnership:** Support opportunities for schools, and the school district to partner more strategically with faith-based organizations in order to advance outcomes for the children who are shared between these organizations.
- **Social Capital Exchange:** Commit to providing opportunities for each of the sectors to learn from each other.
- **Collective Advocacy:** Developing strategies to support the alignment of our messages in a way that strengthens our stance on local and state policy and issues.

# Agenda Overview



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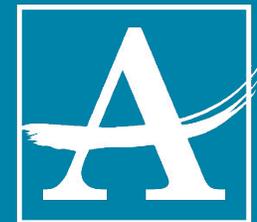
# Agenda (April 2022)

- Welcome + Social Emotional Wellness Check-In (5 mins)
- Introductions + CESJO Greetings (5 mins)
- **Agenda Overview** (3 mins)
- Direct Partnership (10 mins)
  - APS Partnerships & Development Team Updates (Joi)
  - Progress Update on T.H.E.O. Commitments | T.H.E.O. Partner Praise Reports (Joi)
  - Top Priority Support Needs + Action Plans (Joi & Jasmine)  
Summer Needs + End of Year Teacher Appreciation (May)
  - 2022 APS Back-to-School Bash Save-the-Date (Jasmine)
- Social Capital Exchange (10 mins)
  - **“Every Student. Every Day.”** APS Attendance Campaign (Rhonda)
- Collective Advocacy (20 mins)
  - → Georgia Legislation Follow-up (Quinton)
  - → **“Born on the Water”** Toomer ES Video (Dr. TBJ)
- Breakout Groups - Collaborative Discussion + Large Group Share Outs (25 mins)
- Next Steps (2 mins)

# January 2022 Meeting Highlights

- Superintendent & CESJO | Greetings & Opening Remarks
- T.H.E.O. Partnership Progress Update, Praise Reports, & Spotlights
- APS Partnership & Development Updates: Priorities & Needs
- Pause for the Cause: Social Media Moment
- T.H.E.O. Engagement Plan: SY 2022 Goal Setting + Breakout Discussions
- Links: [January 2022 T.H.E.O. Convening Presentation Slides](#) (1/28/2022)  
[APS Traditional Schools Contact List](#)  
[APS Charter School Contact List](#)  
[APS Partner Schools Contact List](#)  
[APS School & Cluster Map – SY 2021-2022](#)  
[October 2021 APS THEO Convening Presentation Slides](#) (10/22/2021)

# APS Partnerships & Development Team Updates



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# APS Partnerships & Development Team Updates

## Who we are...

- We are **Relationship Builders** - creating strategic alliances
- We are **Consultants** - offering best practices to all stakeholders
- We are **Collaborators** - providing thought partnership
- We are **Storytellers** - sharing the impactful narrative of APS
- We are **Matchmakers** - connecting resources equitably to schools
- We are **Fiscal Agents** - effectively managing the APS Foundation



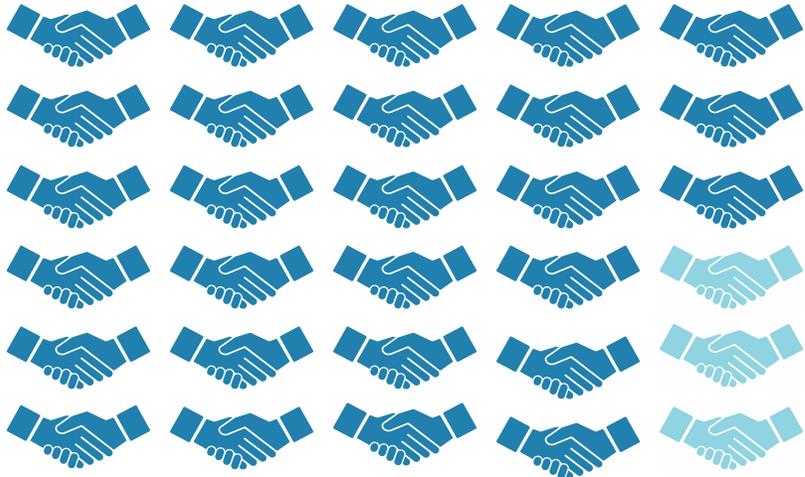
Joi H. Hunter, Executive Director



Jasmine Mosley, Interim Partnerships Manager



# 30+ COMMITMENTS MADE



3 COMPLETED

# 15+ T.H.E.O. PARTNERS COMMITTED

- |                        |                                       |                                 |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| After School All-Stars | Ebenezer Baptist Church               | Nix Party Affairs               |
| APS Community Members  | GHC3 Worship Action Coalition         | On the Rise Financial Center    |
| APS Families           | Hillside International Truth Center   | Passion City Church             |
| APS GO Teams           | Impact Church                         | St. Paul's Episcopal Church     |
| Buckhead Church        | Inspiritus                            | Young Life of Southwest Atlanta |
| Continental Societies  | Jewish Community Relationship Council |                                 |



## 75%

### T.H.E.O. PARTNERS CONTACTED



## 71%

### T.H.E.O. PARTNERS CONNECTED

## Progress Highlights:



### >80% of Commitments Met Priority Needs

- |                   |                             |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| 5 PPE             | 12 Volunteering/ Incentives |
| 2 Essential Needs | 2 School Supplies           |
| 2 Winter Gear     | 2 Human Trafficking         |

### T.H.E.O. Commitments by Completion Status ([Link](#))

- **Buckhead Church** donated **PPE** to the Douglass Cluster
- **Passion City Church** donated **School Supplies** to the Jackson Cluster
- **St. Paul's Episcopal** donated **Christmas Baskets** to the Mays Cluster
- **Contacted** = APS Partnerships has reached out to partners
- **Connected** = APS Partnerships has connected partners with schools

# T.H.E.O. Partner Praise Report Spotlight + APS Impact



*Impact Church purchased \$1,500 worth of coats for our scholars!*

# Current Priorities & Upcoming Needs

- Food Pantries
- Book Donations
- Teacher Appreciation Week  
(May 2<sup>nd</sup> - May 6<sup>th</sup>)
- DonorsChoose Projects
- Summer Support  
(Last Day of School May 26<sup>th</sup>)
- Mayor of Atlanta Faith Community Luncheon  
(May 3<sup>rd</sup>)



# Ready, Set, Read!!!

Help me give my students an engaging reading experience in our new student library.



**Ms. Hill**

NEVER BEFORE FUNDED

Grades PreK-2

Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy

Atlanta, GA

More than three-quarters of students from low-income households

### EQUITY FOCUS

At this school, more than 50% of students are Black, Latino, and/or Native American, and more than 50% come from low-income households. [Learn how your donation to this school supports a more equitable education.](#)

This project will reach **82** students.

4 donors have given to this project.

Follow project for updates

SHARE PROJECT



## My Project

I absolutely love my students confidence and willingness to learn. My students have some of the biggest and most unique personalities. There's literally never a dull moment in my classroom and I can always count on my students to make me laugh!

Our classroom library needs new engaging books that will promote literacy and encourage our young readers to get excited about reading.

The library will include over 100 diverse books from different genres. Each book and text set was chosen with my students interest and independent reading levels in mind. This project will enhance my students reading skills and increase both fluency and comprehension. So please help my students get Ready and Set to Read!

Atlanta, GA

Grades PreK-2

More than three-quarters of students from low-income households

Literacy

Head Start School

Books

# DONORS CHOOSE





Dr. Hogans from Atlanta GA is requesting Educational Kits & Games through DonorsChoose, the most trusted classroom funding site for teachers.

## Creating Geniuses With Osmo!

Help me give my students Osmo Genius Starter Kits to increase their critical thinking skills.

8 DONORS

\$308 STILL NEEDED

expires Aug  
01

\$

Give to this classroom



Dr. Hogans

NEVER BEFORE FUNDED

Grades 3-5

Tuskegee Airmen Global Academy

Atlanta, GA

More than three-quarters of students from low-income households

### EQUITY FOCUS

At this school, more than 50% of students are Black, Latino, and/or Native American, and more than 50% come from low-income households. [Learn how your donation to this school supports a more equitable education.](#)

This project will reach **600** students.

8 donors have given to this project.

Follow project for updates

SHARE PROJECT



### My Project

Osmo enables the iPad to help student learning become engaging and fun! Students receive visual and hands on learning along with instant responses in a gamification format! Concepts are curriculum based and builds on what my students are learning in school.

Osmo is great for all students including those who are non verbal because of its visual and colorful clues, fun sounds and tactile exploration!

It allows students to have a source of learning that will them stay focused and excited about learning!

Osmo will help develop core 21st Century skills including critical thinking and communication.

# DONORS CHOOSE



# SY22-23 APS Back-to-School Bash



**Save-the-Date: Saturday, July 30<sup>th</sup> 2022**

**Time: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**

**Location: Georgia World Congress Center Halls C1 & C2**



# Direct Partnership

## Share Your Gifts with APS



### TIME

### TALENT

### TREASURE

Volunteer at an APS event (Back to School Bash, State of the District, etc.).

Participate as a speaker during APS College and Career Week.

Donate to the Whole Child Fund or select the APS Foundation when shopping on Amazon Smile.

Volunteer at cluster schools during several events per year.

Provide training and host events that support the wellbeing of our staff and families.

Organize an in-kind drive during our high need seasons (Back to school, winter break, spring break, and summer break).

Designate a lead from your organization to coordinate volunteers for a structured academic or SEL support program.

Provide valuable workforce opportunities to our high school students.

Partner with other faith-based organizations to create an initiative that serves every student in a cluster.

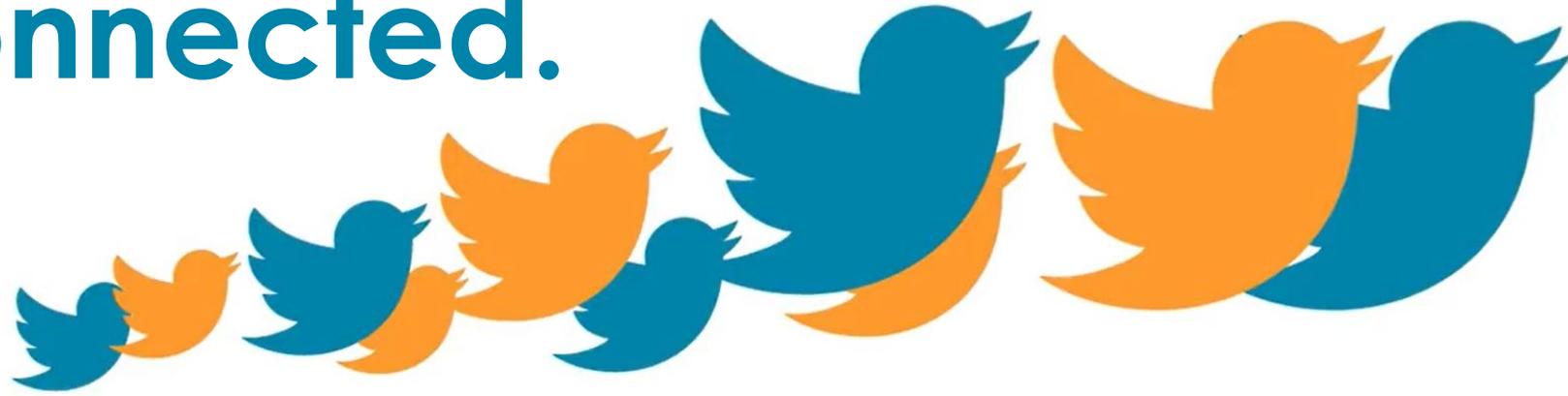
# Your biggest contribution to us: **Social Capital**

Be an **APS Champion for Change** and share positive stories about our schools on social media and show us love in your networks as an advocate of public schools.

For further information, contact:

**[partnerdev@atlanta.k12.ga.us](mailto:partnerdev@atlanta.k12.ga.us)** or 404.802.2845

# Stay Connected.



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Center for Equity  
+ Social Justice

**@aps\_equity**

**@apspartnerships** (New Instagram page!)

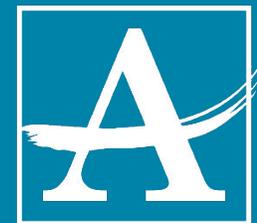
**@apsupdate**

**Post using event hashtag:**

**#THEO2022**



**“Every Student.  
Every Day.”  
APS Attendance  
Campaign**



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# APS Student Attendance Goals

**98%**

Every Atlanta Public School will have a take rate of **98%** or more.

**85%**

The Percentage of Students district-wide who are not chronically absent will increase to **85%** by the end of the 21-22 SY.

**94%**

The Atlanta Public Schools average daily attendance (ADA) rate will be **94%** for the 21-22 SY.

# Why School Attendance Matters...

Students who regularly attend school and graduate from high school build a foundation for more positive life outcomes:



Better academic performance



Increased graduation rate



More work options and earning potential



Greater opportunities for higher education



Higher civic engagement



More developed life skills that positively influence health and economic decisions

Source: <https://soeonline.american.edu/blog/importance-of-school-attendance>

# What Does It Take to Get a Child to School Every Day?

## 1. Family Practices

Families nurture a habit of attendance at home

## 2. Social Capital

Helpers who are relatives, friends, neighbors

## 3. Schools

Teachers, nurses, counselors, administrators, etc.

## 4. Community Services

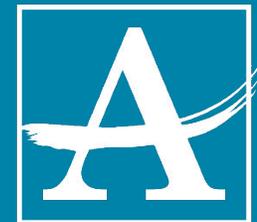
Availability of services like transportation, health services, affordable stable housing, etc.



[www.attendanceworks.org](http://www.attendanceworks.org)



# Georgia Legislative Overview



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# 2022 Legislative Vote Summary

- [House Bill 888](#), popularly known as the “Critical Race Theory” Bill (✘ Did not pass.)
- [Senate Bill 377](#), which held similar concepts as House Bill 888 (✘ Did not pass.)
- [Senate Bill 613](#), compared to Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay” Bill (✘ Did not pass.)
- [House Bill 1084](#) “Protect Students First Act” (✔ Did pass.)
- [Senate Bill 435](#) “Save Girls Sports Act” (✔ Did pass.)
- [House Bill 1178](#) “Parents’ Bill of Rights” (✔ Did pass.)

# 2022 Legislative Review for Bills that Did Not Pass

- **House Bill 888**, which became popularly known as the “**Critical Race Theory**” bill, died in committee and will not move forward to the Senate. (✘ Did not pass.)
- **Senate Bill 377**, which held similar concepts as **HB 888** and intended to limit the rights of school boards and districts to teach concepts regarding race also died in committee. (✘ Did not pass.)
- **Senate Bill 613**, which was formerly compared to Florida’s “Don’t Say Gay” bill, would have barred schools from discussion gender identity or sexual orientation in primary school. **This bill has also failed to advance.** (✘ Did not pass.)
- **The APS Board of Education** took an early stance against these bills, issuing an official memorandum highlighting the importance of teaching diverse perspectives in Atlanta Public Schools.



# What do the Implications of the Proposed Legislation Mean for APS Students?

## Senate Bill 1178- “Parents Bill of Rights”

- Increases parental access to student records and heightens the responsibility of school districts to provide parents with access to curriculum and instructional information
- Potential threat to school district autonomy by heightening opportunities for undue scrutiny by parents to question curriculum and instructional decisions
- Creates avenues for challenges to school districts by parents which can potentially limit educational expertise and authority of education leaders

# What do the Implications of the Proposed Legislation Mean for APS Students?

## Senate Bill 1084

- This bill is an extension of House Bill 888.
- Threatens teaching of concepts related to topics considered “divisive”
- Limits school district and teacher autonomy in development and delivery of curriculum
- Potential penalties for districts found in “violation” of the legislation. Schools may lose access to special waivers provided by the State Board of Education.

## Senate Bill 435- “Save Girls Sports Act”

- Perpetuates inequities against transgender students by prohibiting their participation in athletics
- Violation of Title IX and federal protections for students against discrimination based on gender
- Conflicts with APS Board Policy JAA which of Board Policy JAA, Equal Educational Opportunities which states, “students are entitled to equal educational opportunities regardless of their race, color...gender identity or expression.”



# What's at stake for our children? Why is this important?

- Become critical thinkers who can empathize with people who are different from themselves.
- Constructively engage with difference, think objectively, and challenge personal biases as they navigate their place in the world.
- Compete in the global society as individuals who are knowledgeable about the experiences and cultures of others.
- Acknowledge & discuss the complexities of our inherited history and its systems, which at times does not reflect the ideals of our democracy.
- Actively respond to and engage with racism and other issues that challenge our democracy.

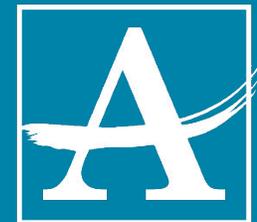




“As a classroom community, our capacity to generate excitement is deeply affected by our interest in one another, in hearing one another’s voices, in recognizing one another’s presence.”

~bell hooks

# Breakout Group Discussions



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# Breakout Groups + Share Outs

## Room #1: Direct Partnerships

- Current Priorities & Upcoming Needs  
(Joi & Jasmine)



## Room #2: Social Capital

- “Every Student. Every Day.” - APS Attendance Campaign  
(Rhonda)

## Room #3: Collective Advocacy

- Georgia Legislation Follow-up  
(Quinton)

# Breakout Group Note Catcher

1

## Discussion Prompt:

In what ways can T.H.E.O. partners stay engaged and support...



# Breakout Group Note Catcher

2

## Discussion Prompt/Notes:

In what ways can T.H.E.O. partners stay engaged and support...

- APS should explore regular cluster or neighborhood meetings to discuss chronically absent students.
- Need to understand the capacity of parents to help students get to school.
- Create greater supports for students experiencing homelessness to get to school.
- Schools need to be a safe space for parents as well. Parents could be intimidated by the expectation to support a student's education if they may not have had the opportunity to receive a solid educational background themselves.
- Meeting parents where they are at could get them involved and support them helping get their students to school.

# Breakout Group Note Catcher

3

## Discussion Prompt:

In what ways can T.H.E.O. partners stay engaged and support...





# Next Steps



# Looking Ahead...

- ✓ **October 22, 2021**  
SY 2021-2022 Goal-setting
- ✓ **January 28, 2022**  
Check-ins & Progress Monitoring
- ✓ **April 22, 2022**  
Target Year-end Reviews & Celebrations
- **Planning for SY22-23**
  - October 2022 (In-Person)
  - January 2023
  - April 2023



**School Year 2021-2022  
T.H.E.O. Convening**

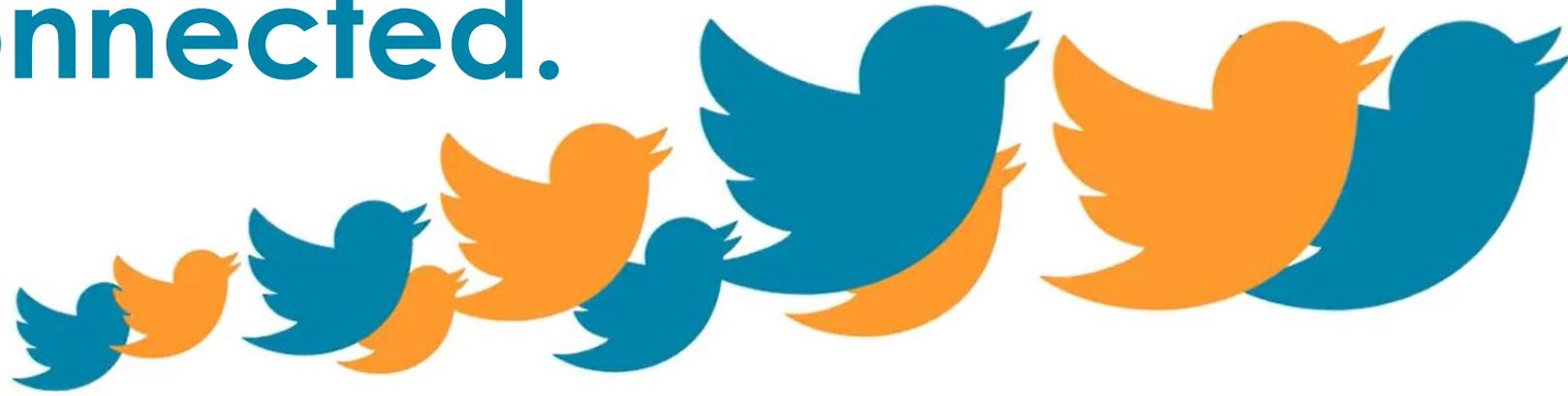


# Hot off the press...

## Equity At The Forefront APS Equity Magazine

Link: <https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/domain/16990>

# Stay Connected.



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Center for Equity  
+ Social Justice

**@aps\_equity**

**@apspartnerships** (New Instagram page!)

**@apsupdate**

**Post using event hashtag:**

**#THEO2022**

