

# Together in Hope Equity and Opportunity

1.28.22

10:00 - 11:30 AM



Virtual. All faiths welcomed!



Center for Equity  
+ Social Justice



ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

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

January 28, 2022

# Welcome + Icebreaker



ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

# 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 **9325 4013**



## Join by QR Code:



<https://www.menti.com/o2pxgq9org>





Greetings from  
Superintendent  
Dr. Lisa Herring





# 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.

# Introductions



# 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

# Agenda Overview





# Agenda

- Welcome + Social Emotional Wellness Check-In (5 mins)
- Superintendent Greetings & CESJO Opening Remarks (10 mins)
- Introductions (5 mins)
- **Agenda Overview** (3 mins)
- T.H.E.O. Partner Praise Report (10 mins)
  - → Progress Update on T.H.E.O. Commitments (Ketisha & Dedrick)
- Direct Partnership & Social Capital Exchange (10 mins)
  - Top Priority Support Needs + Action Plans (Joi & Upenda)
- Collective Advocacy (10 mins)
  - → Georgia House Bill 888 (Dr. TBJ, Gina, & Quinton)
- Breakout Groups - Collaborative Discussion (25 mins)
- Next Steps (2 mins)

# APS Partnership Praise Report



ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

# October 2021 Meeting Highlights

- Superintendent & CESJO | Greetings & Opening Remarks
- 11/1/2021 Partner Commitment Charge & Challenge
- T.H.E.O. Partnership Praise Report: Cara Barfield, Buckhead Church
- APS Family Engagement Overview, Resources, & Key Contacts
- Top Priority Support Needs by APS Cluster Community
- Districtwide Opportunities: Human Trafficking + COVID-19 Awareness
- T.H.E.O. Engagement Plan: SY 2022 Goal Setting + Breakout Discussions
- Links: [October 2021 APS THEO Convening Presentation Slides](#) (10/22/2021)  
[October 2021 THEO Convening Partner Commitment Summary](#)  
[APS Together in Hope, Equity, & Opportunity Commitment Form](#)

## 31 COMMITMENTS MADE



## 17 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:

### 81% of Commitments Met Priority Needs

5 PPE  
2 Essential Needs  
2 Winter Gear

12 Volunteering/ Incentives  
2 School Supplies  
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





**Congratulations to PASSION CITY CHURCH recognized as the Atlanta Public Schools - Jackson Cluster Partner of the Year!**



# ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH youth volunteers pack holiday gift bags for 100 Peyton Forest Elementary School students.





# Thank You for all that you do!



Allen Temple A.M.E Church  
Hunter Hills Baptist Church  
New Beginnings Baptist Church of East Atlanta  
Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, PRUMC  
St. Paul's Episcopal Church



CREDITS: This presentation template was created by **Slidesgo**,  
including icons by **Flaticon**, infographics & images by **Freepik**

**Frank L. Stanton Elementary School**

# APS Partnerships & Development Team Updates



ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

# Current Priorities & Upcoming Needs

- Clothing Closets
- Food Pantries
- Teacher Appreciation Week  
(May 2<sup>nd</sup> - May 6<sup>th</sup>)
- Spring Break Support  
(April 4<sup>th</sup> - April 8<sup>th</sup>)
- Summer Support  
(Last Day of School May 26<sup>th</sup>)



# 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

# “Social Capital in Action” with partners of John Lewis Invictus Academy!



**JLewisInvictus**

@JLewisInvictus

What a day! Though [John Lewis](#) passed a year ago, there were no tears, as we remembered his legacy. Thanks to [Althea DeBarr-Johnson, P.C.](#), a board member of the Butler Street Community Development Corporation for inviting us to fellowship with her today. Do you recognize anyone? [WSB-TV Atlanta Public Schools The Atlanta Journal-Constitution ChaseCity of Atlanta Government #NOW](#)



Liked by [learningincolor](#) and 27 others

**groveparkfoundation** We are just delighted to continue to partner with John Lewis Invictus Academy, this time by way of a SECOND donation of 37 student devices!

These will help support the academy's literacy initiatives, as well as support students in reaching their reading and math goals. Overall, we're standing beside the outstanding educators and administrators at John Lewis Invictus, saying, "Gooooooo Royal Lions!"

Pictured here: Karen Rose, Director of Development at Grove Park Foundation, and Mr. Parker, In-School Suspension Coordinator at John Lewis Invictus Academy.

Be sure to drop your congrats in the comment section below!

**Tweet**

**JLewisInvictus** @JLewisInvictus

We are grateful for the outpouring of ❤️ from our [@apsupdate](#) community, as well as our school partners. [@Butlerstreetcdc](#) made TWO trips yesterday to replace some of the stolen gifts that were earmarked for our Ss. What a testament of committed partners. [@JLIAPRIDE](#) [@DrLisaHerring](#)

**Lori M. Miller** @ElleMMillerB - Dec 15, 2021

I'm smiling again! Our partners at the Butler Street Community Development Center went shopping to replace some of the stolen items they collected for us. We have toys, coats, & \$100 gift cards for our families! We feel #ReNEWed #NOW [@jliapride](#) [@chiefaplin](#) [@rethawoolfolk](#) ❤️💙





# Pause for the Cause.

# STAY CONNECTED



**@aps\_equity**

**@apspartnerships**

**@apsupdate**

**Post Using Event Hashtag:  
#ChampionsForChange**





# Agenda

- Welcome + Social Emotional Wellness Check-In (5 mins)
- Superintendent Greetings & CESJO Opening Remarks (10 mins)
- Introductions (5 mins)
- Agenda Overview (3 mins)
- T.H.E.O. Partner Praise Report (10 mins)
  - → Progress Update on T.H.E.O. Commitments (Ketisha & Dedrick)
- Direct Partnership & Social Capital Exchange (10 mins)
  - Top Priority Support Needs + Action Plans (Joi & Upenda)
- **Collective Advocacy** (10 mins)
  - → Georgia House Bill 888 (Dr. TBJ, Gina, & Quinton)
- Breakout Groups - Collaborative Discussion (25 mins)
- Next Steps (2 mins)

# Overview of Georgia House Bill 888



ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS



# HB 888

Education; treatment of race and other individual traits and beliefs; add new statutes and amend various existing statutes

Current Version

## Sponsors

No.	Name	District
1.	<a href="#">Thomas, Brad</a>	21st
2.	<a href="#">Jasperse, Rick</a>	11th
3.	<a href="#">Wade, Will</a>	9th
4.	<a href="#">Carson, John</a>	46th
5.	<a href="#">Powell, Alan</a>	32nd
6.	<a href="#">Momtahan, Martin</a>	17th

## Committees

House Committee: Education  
Senate Committee: N/A

# Goals of the HB 888: Education; treatment of race and other individual traits and beliefs; add new statutes and amend various existing statute

- To add new statutes and amend various existing statutes to include provisions regarding the treatment of race and other individual traits and beliefs in public education in this state
- To prohibit state agencies, local boards of education, or public elementary or secondary school administrators, teachers, or other personnel from compelling any individual to affirm, adopt, adhere to, profess, or promote concepts in violation of certain federal and state anti-discrimination laws
- To prohibit the inclusion of certain concepts in courses offered in public elementary and secondary schools of this state

Source: <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/61099>

# Goals of the HB 888: Education; treatment of race and other individual traits and beliefs; add new statutes and amend various existing statute

- To provide for the promotion and protection of the intellectual freedom of students, faculty, and other personnel at public postsecondary educational institutions in this state
- To provide for a complaint resolution policy and process; to provide for legislative findings and intent; to provide for definitions; to provide for penalties; to provide for remedies; to provide for statutory construction; to provide for conforming changes; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes

**Source:** <https://www.legis.ga.gov/legislation/61099>



# HB 888 in the News...

The Atlanta  
Journal-Constitution

**Metro Atlanta school board members  
oppose critical race theory bill**



**Critics say Georgia race bill threatens  
financial blow to schools**



**Kemp and Georgia lawmakers wade into  
school culture war issues**



**Georgia lawmakers try to identify critical  
race theory in schools**



# Rationale for House Bill 888

- No provision in the United States Constitution or the Georgia Constitution enables either the United States government or the government of this state to compel persons to affirm, adopt, adhere to, profess, or promote specific beliefs.
- Slavery and the ideology that slavery has longstanding impact are false. There is history that wars were fought and policies created to “level the playing fields for African Americans”, so as to eliminate the need of connecting hardships of modern day minorities to historical oppression.
- The State Board of Education, GaDOE and State Charter Schools Commission have policies that align with Title IV and Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the 48 federal Education Amendments of 1972, Code Section 20-2-131, and Code 49 Section 20-2-315;
  - These effectively hold the state responsible for upholding racial equality for students. (Therefore, we don't need to talk about inequities, there are already measures in place to ensure it doesn't happen.)

# What's at stake...

## Impact of Proposed Prohibitions:

- Contracts for speakers, consultants, and trainers
- Professional development opportunities for teachers
- Content, curriculum, and instructional programs
- Ability for opportunities for instructors to engage in discussions of public policy

## Proposed Shifts To School Operational Procedures:

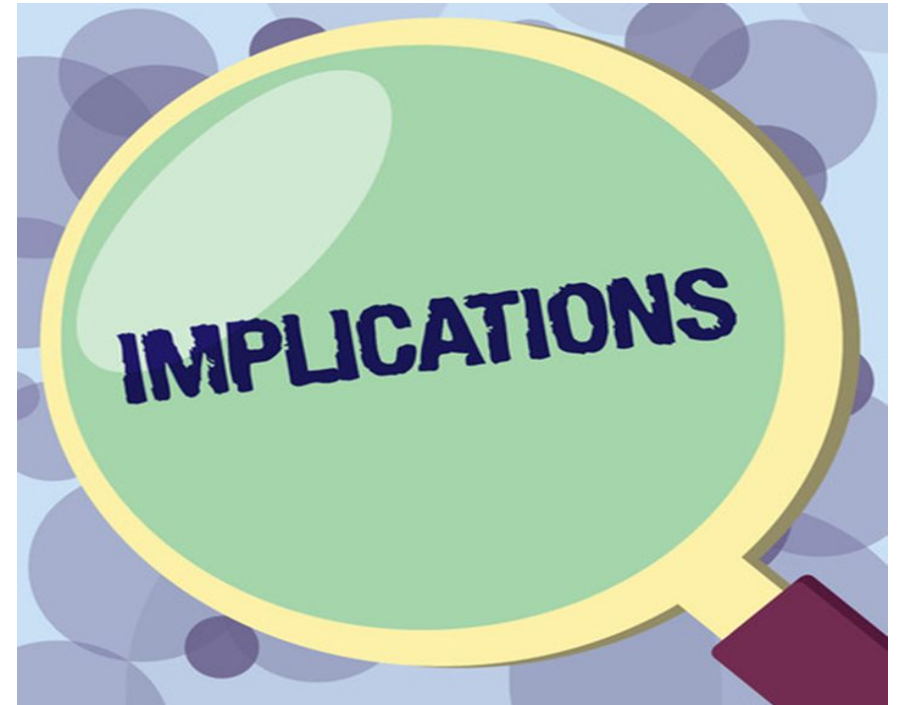
- Beginning 2022 school year, schools must maintain a detailed list of primary instruction materials on their websites
- Materials must be reviewed twice annually to ensure compliance with provisions in the bill
- Schools must make all materials proposed for use available for review by parent or emancipated minors enrolled in courses



# Implications of HB 888

## Proposed Penalties:

- Reductions in state education funding (20%) for violating districts
- Public condemnation for violations
- Limitations on district level autonomy in education decision making, which is a contradiction to Georgia's tradition of local control
- Impact on teacher's ability to teach diverse perspectives in history, social studies, civics, etc.





# Federal law requires, and we have civic responsibility as educators to:

1. Create **engaged citizens** who uphold our democratic and pluralistic ideals.
2. Acknowledge and discuss the **historical (and current) beauty and blind spots** of our democracy.
3. Help our students **constructively engage with difference, think objectively, and challenge personal biases** as they navigate their place in the world.
4. Provide opportunities for students to **engage in, and practice, civil discourse** by interacting with peers who hold opposing views.

# The world our children will inherit is diverse and globally connected. By fulfilling the four responsibilities above, we enable our students to:

1. Become **critical thinkers** who can empathize with people who are different from themselves.
2. Compete in the **global society** as individuals who are knowledgeable about the experiences and cultures of others.
3. Actively respond to and engage with racism and other issues that **challenge our democracy**.
4. Practice, **civil discourse** by interacting with peers and others who hold opposing views.

# Breakout Group Discussions



ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS

# 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?



# Breakout Group Note Catcher [Link](#)



Center for Equity  
+ Social Justice

## JANUARY 2022 T.H.E.O. CONVENING BREAKOUT GROUP NOTE CATCHER

Guiding Question #1 What role is there for faith communities to become <b>more engaged partners</b> in the work of improving student outcomes?	Guiding Question #2 What can <b>strong alliances</b> between faith leaders, schools, communities, and advocates look like?	Guiding Question #3: What <b>impact</b> might these partnerships have?	Guiding Question #4: How do we <b>measure</b> our impact?	Level of Lift Required? (Light or Heavy)	Resources Required?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>EXAMPLE:</b> Community Convener to Engage More Stakeholders</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect with Faith Partners to Identify Space for Hosting APS Meetings, Events, &amp; Activities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wider/Diverse Community Participation, More APS Engagement, &amp; Greater Awareness of APS Initiatives</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More Input &amp; Feedback from Participants</li> <li>• # of New Participants</li> <li>• Diversity of Participants</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Light</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RSVP &amp; Prep Process with Partners</li> <li>• Dates/Times of APS Initiatives</li> <li>• COVID-19 Protocols</li> <li>• Security</li> </ul>
•	•	•	•	•	•

# Breakout Groups by Topic

## Room #1: Direct Partnerships & Social Capital

→ Top Priority Support Needs + Action Plans (*Upenda & Richard*)

## Room #2: Direct Partnerships & Social Capital

→ Top Priority Support Needs + Action Plans (*Joi & Nicole*)

## Room #3: Collective Advocacy

→ Georgia HB 888 (*Quinton & Deirdre*)

## Room #4: Collective Advocacy

→ Georgia HB 888 (*Gina & Rhonda*)





# Next Steps



ATLANTA  
PUBLIC  
SCHOOLS



# Next Steps

- ✓ **October 22, 2021**  
SY 2021-2022 Goal-setting
- ✓ **January 28, 2022**  
Check-ins & Progress Monitoring
- **April 2022**  
Target Year-end Reviews & Celebrations



**School Year 2021-2022  
T.H.E.O. Convening #3  
April 2022**



STAY  
CONNECTED



@aps\_equity

@apspartnerships

@apsupdate

**Post Using Event Hashtag:**  
**#ChampionsForChange**