



On March 23<sup>rd</sup>, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) held its annual Student Wellness Ambassador (SWA) Leadership Academy Expo at Finch Elementary School from 10am to 2pm. Approximately 200 students, parents, teachers, and community members attended. All registered SWAs were provided free transportation and lunch. This year's event was titled "Strong 4 Life" and included swag bags for APS Student Wellness Ambassadors (SWAs) in celebration of their willingness to serve as role models for health and wellness within their schools. The event featured a variety of interactive stations and workshops, including two "selfie" booths starring Freddie Falcon and Health MPowers, obstacle course zone, taste testing, yoga, a junior chef competition, and an engaging Fruit and Veggie Jeopardy game provided by Ms. Toiyen Dowell from Dunbar ES. The Finch Elementary Dance Team led SWA's in choreographed dance routines. The Wylde Center showed students how to plant a seed. Students even got their own personal fire engine tour from the Atlanta Fire and Rescue Department!

The awards ceremony was emceed by Mr. Ronnel Blackmon from Children's Health Care of Atlanta. Peyton Forest's Ka'Liah Prude and Scott Elementary's M'kayiah Morris wrote essays on the importance of eating fruits and vegetables and both earned the title "APS Garden Princess" in the Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) pageant. West Manor Elementary's SWAs created an outstanding video to win 1<sup>st</sup> place in the SWA Video Contest. Finch Elementary and Coretta Scott King's Young Women's Leadership Academy won 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the SWA video contest, respectively.

SWAs from across the district participated in the Hunger Bowl Canned Food Drive from January 7<sup>th</sup> - March 1<sup>st</sup>, and were honored during the awards ceremony for their efforts. First place award in the Hunger Bowl competition went to Sutton Middle School, with a total of 954 pounds of donated food items. Their award was presented by Jay Arnold, Food Drive and Events Specialist with the Atlanta Community Food Bank. In total, APS students donated **3,395 pounds** of food items. These donations will assist us in providing **2,910 meals to the Atlanta-metro area**.

The event closed with an interactive performance by Children's Healthcare of Atlanta's Strong 4 Life Program. Sponsored by the APS Nutrition Department, the APS Department of Health and Physical Education, and the District Wellness Council, the purpose of this annual event is to encourage healthy school environments by promoting student leadership, providing wellness resources to schools, and building school based partnerships with professional health organizations.

The APS Nutrition Department is appreciative to all that supported and contributed to this collaborative effort including all **event partners, vendors, and sponsors** listed below.

**APS Department of Health & Physical Education**  
**APS District Wellness Council**  
**APS Office of Partnerships**  
**Aramark**  
**Atlanta Falcons**  
**Atlanta United Community Food bank**  
**Children's Healthcare of Atlanta**

**City of Atlanta Fire and Rescue**  
**The Common Market Dairy Alliance Industry Association**  
**Dunbar Elementary**  
**Finch Elementary**  
**Finch Eagles Dance Team**  
**Fresh Point**  
**Georgia State University**

**Robert Half HealthMPowers**  
**The Humane Society of the United States**  
**Kennesaw State University**  
**Perennial Popsicle Co.**  
**Wholesome Wave Georgia**  
**The Wylde Center**

West Manor Elementary School – 1<sup>st</sup> Place Winner in SWA Video Contest  
[YOUR HEALTH Music Video](#)

