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Superintendent

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May 3, 2016

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Today, the Georgia Department of Education released the 2015 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) based on data from the 2014-2015 school year. CCRPI is the state's education accountability system that measures schools and districts on a 100-point scale. CCRPI is intended to help parents and the public better understand how schools are performing compared to others in the district and state.

A thorough explanation and all CCRPI scores can be found at www.gadoe.org/ccrpi.

Overall, Atlanta Public Schools (APS) scored an average of 66.8 points, which is a 4.2 point increase compared to 2014. While APS continues to score below the state average of 75.5, the Georgia average only increased by 3.6 points compared to 2014.

In a year of more rigorous assessments, 46 APS schools achieved gains on this state rating index. In addition, of the original 27 schools identified by the state in 2014 as low-performing and eligible for possible state takeover by a proposed Opportunity School District (OSD), seven achieved large enough gains to be removed from OSD eligibility. The schools are: Benteen, Dobbs, Toomer and Usher-Collier Heights elementary schools; Sylvan Hills Middle School; Therrell Law and Mays high schools.

It should be noted that while the district and state overall scores increased, these scores are not directly comparable to 2014 scores. This is, in part, because of changes in how the state weighted index components as well as changes to the new, more demanding Georgia Milestones tests.

Over the next weeks and months, we will continue to evaluate the results and use the data to continue to improve our schools. In addition, the scores will inform the APS School Turnaround Strategy so that we can redirect resources and provide additional supports and remediation as necessary. The results will also inform decisions by schools, clusters and GoTeams as they plan for the future.

Please feel free to reach out to your teachers and school administrators with your questions and concerns. As always, on behalf of the district, I want you to know that we are fully committed to delivering a quality education so that all of our children are ready for college and career.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Meria J. Carstarphen', is written over the word 'Sincerely,'.

Meria J. Carstarphen

MJC:pt