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Atlanta Public Schools is in the Midst of a Remarkable Turnaround

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Atlanta Public Schools
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Atlanta, Georgia 30303
404-802-3500
As we begin the 2008-09 school year at Atlanta Public Schools (APS), remarkable growth is all around us. We are in the midst of a turnaround movement that is gaining momentum, changing lives and preparing our students for brighter futures. And as with any turnaround story, sometimes those closest to you, such as family and friends, don’t always notice the transformation. That’s why it’s essential we honor this new growth, celebrate the hard work of our students and excellent teachers, and highlight our many points of pride.

Across the Board Improvements
Our 2007-08 Annual Report documents the consistent nine-year trend of APS students posting significant academic gains on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests and the across-the-board improvement on the Georgia High School Graduation Tests and End of Course Tests.

Since APS began its efforts in 1999, the school system has realized steady incremental gains. In fact, in 1999, just 47 percent of APS students in grade 4 were meeting or exceeding state standards in reading. Today that number is 86 percent. In grade 6, the number has jumped from 52 percent in 1999 to 86 percent. In grade 8, the percentage of students meeting or exceeding state standards in reading has grown from 60 to 82 percent. This is even more significant because the continuous growth has occurred at the same time state standards and assessments have become increasingly more difficult.

The Nation’s Report Card
In April, results from the Nation’s Report Card – the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) – reported that APS posted higher gains in writing test scores than any other urban school district in America. APS writing test results soared 15 points, while scores across the nation increased only two points. More importantly, in the last five years, our district’s writing scores have improved at more than seven times the national rate.

Why are these writing results significant? Taken together with our NAEP reading and mathematics results (published in November 2007), it means we are the only urban school district in the United States to show significant improvement in all NAEP tested areas and grades (4 and 8).

Although NAEP results are the gold standard of assessment, they are only one significant sign of academic progress. Other assessment tools show conclusively that scholarship and excellence are becoming common threads running throughout our schools. For example, last year, we also enjoyed national recognition as the only urban school district in America with 100 percent of our elementary schools meeting federal academic targets, based on the No Child Left Behind standards.

High School Graduates
On the high school level, our graduation rate consistently improves every year. Approximately 2,000 APS students walked across the stage of the Atlanta Civic Center in May and carried with them more than $64 million in scholarship offers from colleges and universities throughout the country and abroad. Early indicators of academic progress from our High School Transformation Initiative are very promising as we continue our five-year journey to turn our large, comprehensive high schools into smaller learning units where students receive more individual attention, challenging studies and career guidance.

More to Come
With that, I know the Board of Education and the 6,400 teachers, administrators and staff of APS would want me to be very candid: We’re far from declaring victory. We know that education is a life-long journey, not a destination.

But we are proud of how far so many of our students have advanced due to the aggressive stance the district has taken in implementing research-based best practices that have dramatically increased student achievement. Attendance is up. Test scores are higher. Graduation rates are rising. College enrollment is growing. And support from the business and civic community is strong.

We’re moving forcefully along a path to progress and have set an ambitious goal to graduate 90 percent of ninth-graders prepared for college and workplace success after four years of study. We are committed to making this dream a reality through strong leadership, quality teaching, aggressive accountability measures and innovative instructional strategies.

Beverly L. Hall, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Atlanta Public Schools: Making A Difference

Our children represent our hopes and dreams for the future, and they deserve the best education we can give them. We believe every student has the potential to succeed, and we are dedicated to making a difference in children’s lives by encouraging them to open their minds to learning, discovery and achievement.

Our schools provide a vibrant, high-performing learning environment with excellent teachers, the latest technologies and practices, and innovative learning environments that know no geographic, racial or economic boundaries.

Our standards and expectations are high. We are committed to seeing all students graduate from Atlanta Public Schools ready for success in college and life, and prepared to be contributing and productive citizens for our city, state, nation and the world.

We know strong schools build a strong Atlanta.

POINT OF PRIDE
IN AUGUST 2008, APS LAUNCHED THE LARGEST MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND CURRICULUM PROGRAM IN THE NATION.

The GE Foundation is indeed bringing “good things to life” at APS. In November 2007, the foundation awarded $22.5 million to the district to support the district’s Math and Science Initiative over a five-year period. Funds are being used to recruit and develop high-quality math and science teachers. The goal is for APS educators to use project-based, hands-on techniques in order to help prepare students for technical careers that are in demand around the world.
Facts About APS

**NUMBER OF SCHOOLS/CENTERS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Traditional schools</td>
<td>95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elementary schools</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle schools</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single-gender academies</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High schools</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nontraditional programs</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter schools</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adult learning center</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total APS learning sites</td>
<td>105</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NUMBER OF TITLE I SCHOOLS**

89 (including charter schools)

**NUMBER OF YEAR-ROUND SCHOOLS**

3

**TRANSPORTATION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of buses</td>
<td>385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles traveled daily</td>
<td>22,272</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students transported daily</td>
<td>37,637</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**BUDGET**

FY08 operating budget $620.2 million

**STUDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of 2008 graduates</td>
<td>1,990</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarships offered to Class of 2008</td>
<td>$64 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student enrollment</td>
<td>49,142</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(projected for 2008-2009)

**TEACHER/STUDENT RATIO**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade</th>
<th>Ratio</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kindergarten</td>
<td>1:15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 1-3</td>
<td>1:17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 4-5</td>
<td>1:23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 6-8</td>
<td>1:20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grades 9-12</td>
<td>1:23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**ETHNIC DISTRIBUTION OF STUDENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>African American</td>
<td>85.98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caucasian</td>
<td>8.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>4.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-racial</td>
<td>.93%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>.59%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian/Alaskan</td>
<td>.03%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE AND REDUCED PRICED MEALS**

76.14%

**COMPUTER/STUDENT RATIO**

1:2

**POINT OF PRIDE**

APS is on a consistent nine-year trend of progress. For nine consecutive years, APS students have posted significant academic gains on the Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests. Students also demonstrated across-the-board improvement on the Georgia High School Graduation Tests and End of Course Tests.
Our Journey to Delivering…

We know from the research that overhauling an urban school district takes anywhere from 12 to 15 years. We have been climbing for nine, which means we’re almost two-thirds of the way to reaching the mountain top and making history here in Atlanta.”

–Dr. Hall

When students pass through our doors and embark upon a journey toward academic excellence, we give them the confidence, social skills and intellectual capacity required to compete successfully in college and in the global marketplace.

Elementary Schools
The value associated with the world-class urban education that we are committed to providing all of our students began in 1999, when we focused our efforts on reforming our elementary schools. Our efforts yielded significant results. In fact, APS is the only large, urban school district in the nation to have 100 percent of its elementary schools make Adequate Yearly Progress under the No Child Left Behind Act in the 2007-2008 school year.

High School Transformation
Leveraging successes and lessons learned from our elementary school reform strategies, and with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, we began to focus on improving our high schools. Research revealed that secondary students learn better in smaller, more personalized settings. The opening of The New Schools at Carver was our first bold step toward transforming high schools, both structurally and academically. Using Carver as a blueprint, we opened four small schools each on the campuses of South Atlanta and Therrell in August 2007. In August 2008, Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School (formerly Southside High School) transformed into a campus of small learning communities (SLCs). In 2009, Douglass will be transformed into a campus of SLCs and Washington will become a campus of small schools. By 2010, Grady, Mays and North Atlanta high schools will be transformed into smaller learning environments.
A World-Class Urban Education

By the 2010-11 school year, the large, comprehensive public high school will be a dinosaur in Atlanta. All of our high schools will offer small, personalized environments that provide rigorous and engaging learning opportunities to adequately prepare every student. Our goal is to provide an engaging environment that fosters student achievement and ensures that we graduate at least 90 percent of ninth graders in four years.

**Middle School Transformation**
As we continue our efforts to enhance the academic experience at our elementary and high schools, we are also beginning our transformation work at the middle school level. The response to the opening of our two ground-breaking single-gender academies – the B.E.S.T. Academy at Ben Carson and the Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy – has been overwhelming. Both schools opened in August 2007 with sixth grade and will continue to add a grade every year until 12th grade. Although not every middle school will follow the single-gender model, all schools will offer engaging, quality instruction and support to prepare students for success beyond graduation.

**Math and Science Initiative**
Implementing school-level targeted reform models will allow us to sustain our gains and continue to serve our students effectively. However, we understand that in order to provide all of our students with a world-class education, we need to enhance our mathematics and science curriculum. With the support of a $22.5 million grant from the GE Foundation, we are implementing instructional foundational strategies to support a comprehensive implementation of the Mathematics and Science Initiative. We are attracting top-notch math and science educators and private-industry experts who value their craft. In addition, we are delivering captivating math and science lessons that will generate renewed, widespread interest in mathematics and science.

**Promising Results**
APS reform models at the elementary level are clearly impacting the lives of our students. Early indicators show that our high school transformation work is yielding positive returns. And we are confident that our middle school transformation work, coupled with our Mathematics and Science Initiative, will produce the necessary results that demonstrate our commitment to excellence in education for all students. We are making a difference.

**POINT OF PRIDE**
**APS Class of 2008 WAS OFFERED MORE THAN $64 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS TO COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND ABROAD!**
Approximately 2,000 APS students walked across the stage of the Atlanta Civic Center with offers of more than $64 million in scholarships to colleges and universities ranging from top-tier institutions, historically black colleges and universities, and small and big Ivy League schools alike. APS graduates have been accepted to Harvard, Howard, Hampshire, Princeton, Bowdoin, Davidson, Spelman, Morehouse, Middlebury, Brandeis, Colgate, Columbia, Yale, the U.S. Naval Academy and the University of Cairo-Egypt.
2008 Results Show Gains for Ninth Consecutive Year

Students posted significant academic gains for the ninth consecutive year on the Georgia Department of Education’s Criterion-Referenced Competency Tests (CRCT), Georgia High School Graduation Tests (GHSGT/GHSWT), End of Course Tests (EOCT) and the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP).

CRCT
On average, APS students met or exceeded their 2007 performance in all grades this year. Most importantly, test results show that a larger percentage than ever before are not just meeting – but are exceeding – state standards.

Highlights from the 2008 scores show the following across all grades:
• Reading is up 4 percentage points
• English/language arts is up 2 percentage points
• Math is up 7 percentage points
• Science is up 12 percentage points
• Social Studies is up 2 percentage points

GHSGT/GHSWT
On a constantly changing playing field, APS closes 2008 with steady improvements:
• Social Studies- Up 1 percentage point to 79
• Mathematics- Up 3 percentage points to 84
• New GPS Test in English/language arts (85), Writing(86), and Science (76)

Spring 2008 EOCT
End of Course Tests (EOCT) Performance improves in 5 of 6 areas that can be compared to last year.
• Physical Science up 6 percentage points

NAEP
In addition to participating in state tests, APS is one of 11 urban school districts in the country that voluntarily participates in the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) and has its system results individually reported. NAEP provides what many believe is the most rigorous assessment of student achievement in America.
• From 2002 to 2007, APS performance grew at a faster rate in grades 4 and 8 than the nation, all other participating large central cities, and the State of Georgia
• Atlanta continues to lead the nation in writing improvement with gains that are seven times the national rate
• APS was the only urban school district to show significant gains in all grades and areas tested

Academic Achievement

POINT OF PRIDE
APs CONTINUES TO ATTRACT, DEVELOP AND REWARD QUALITY TEACHING.
Research shows that the primary predictor of student achievement in an urban environment is quality teaching. As of January 2008, 66 APS teachers have earned National Board Certification, and 11 have earned APS Master Teacher Certification – in recognition for their excellence in classroom instruction, mastery of subject areas and student achievement. To retain and develop effective educators, APS is redesigning support systems – from mentoring and common planning time to continuing education programs and data-driven instructional tools. And while APS offers one of the highest-paying public school teaching salaries in metro Atlanta, the district continually explores ways to restructure teacher rewards and compensation. The goal is to make teaching the profession of choice again for the best and brightest college students and professionals.
Atlanta Public Schools understands that a sound strategic plan is essential to the effective delivery of a world-class education. APS employs the Balanced Scorecard (BSC) strategic management system to increase total customer value to students, parents, employees and community members.

The strategic management system allows APS to measure regularly core district performance functions while balancing integrated, SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-bound) objectives. In addition, the adopted system delivers a level of strategic clarity that ensures more accurate forecasting for future organizational needs.

**DELOITTE ASSESSMENT**
Atlanta Public Schools continues to implement the results of a January 2004 district-wide assessment by Deloitte and Touche. As of the third quarter of the 2007-2008 school year, 73 of the 93 (83 percent) accepted Deloitte Study recommendations have been addressed. APS continues to implement the Deloitte recommendations and is on track to address all adopted recommendations proposed in the study.

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**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT**

We are transforming the District, from the classroom to the boardroom, to ensure that every employee understands his or her connection to and accountability for student outcomes.”

—Dr. Hall

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**STUDENTS AND STAKEHOLDERS**
- Ensure Safe, Secure Facilities and an Innovative Learning Environment
- Maximize Utilization of Technology in the Classroom
- Improve Quality Standards-Based Instruction
- Increase Community Engagement

**RESOURCE STEWARDSHIP**
- Increase Alignment of all Resources with Strategic Priorities
- Ensure Fiscal Responsibility and Stability

**INTERNAL PROCESSES**
- Optimize Effectiveness and Efficiency of District Processes
- Increase Access to Data and Technology
- Improve Internal and External Customer Service

**LEARNING AND ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
- Improve Recruitment and Retention of Quality Staff
- Increase Employee Capacity and Leadership
- Increase Employee Engagement
- Build a Culture of Alignment and Accountability

**POINT OF PRIDE**
**THE NATION’S REPORT CARD SHOWS APS MATH, READING AND WRITING SCORES SINCE 2003 IMPROVED FASTER THAN ANY OTHER URBAN SCHOOL DISTRICT.**

U.S. Secretary of State Margaret Spellings has made several trips to APS over the past few years. But during her most recent visit, she congratulated the district for its outstanding performance on the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). Often referred to as the Nation’s Report Card, NAEP is the only national test that measures U.S. students using a common yardstick. The growth in APS scores outpaced the national average, the state average and urban school districts in other world-class cities, including Boston, Los Angeles and New York City.
72.16 percent of the expenditures in the operating budget were in the instructional category.

Resource stewardship is a central perspective of the APS Balanced Scorecard. The budget cannot be measured solely in terms of dollars and cents. It must also be evaluated based on how well budget driven resource allocation enables students, teachers and administrators to meet strategic goals and objectives. By this standard, the budget is not a separate process weighed in fiscal and operational terms. Instead, it is a part of the larger process to provide a world-class education to all students.

Atlanta Public Schools employs the zero-based budgeting method, which requires a justification of all expenditures for each new period. Before any spending priorities are considered, APS makes sure that instructional needs and strategic goals, objectives and initiatives are fully funded.

The general fund consists of 118 programs grouped into seven basic categories. The basic categories mirror those used for state reporting purposes. In fiscal year 2007-2008, 72.16 percent of the expenditures in the operating budget were in the instructional category.

### 2007-2008 Revenue – $620 million

- Local 74.91%
- State 22.86%
- Other local 0.92%
- Federal 0.39%
- Other resources 0.92%

### 2007-2008 Expenditures – $620 million

- Instruction 72.16%
- General Administration Services 1.56%
- School Administration Services 5.53%
- Student Transportation 2.72%
- Business Services 1.96%
- Maintenance and Operations 10.79%
- Other Support Services 5.27%

The award is the highest recognition in budgeting for school entities. APS was one of two school systems in Georgia to earn the prestigious MBA. Fewer than 100 school systems in the United States and Canada earned this recognition for 2007-2008. The award, sponsored by ING, represents a significant accomplishment by a school district and its management team. The ASBO grants awards to school systems only after a comprehensive review by a panel of independent budget professionals. In addition to the award, APS also received valuable feedback and commentary from the panel that will help the District improve the presentation and issuance of budgets in the future.
Innovative Use of Technology Solutions

The use of technology and information systems allows Atlanta Public Schools to deliver innovative and strategically targeted instruction to students. In addition, it provides rapid, frequent and accurate communication to all APS stakeholders. It also allows the district to make data driven decisions that foster efficient business operations.

Innovation often results from the creative use of existing technologies. APS teachers, administrators, support staff and business managers have consistently demonstrated their resourcefulness by utilizing new and existing technology to increase student achievement and meet additional organizational objectives.

APS implemented and managed a number of technology initiatives during the 2007-2008 school year.

**INsight**

APS teachers, students and administrators continue to realize benefits associated with the instructional management system. INsight allows teachers to instantly access student attendance, test scores and classroom performance data, which can be used to tailor instructional lessons.

During the 2007-2008 school year, the new Georgia Performance Standards based mathematics curriculum was added to INsight. In addition, the high school office began using the system to support the “On Track to Graduate” program, ensuring that all students are on target to graduate on time.

**Thin-Client**

Approximately 9,000 thin-client computer workstations were installed during the 2007-2008 school year, allowing APS to meet its target of providing a 2 to 1 student to computer ratio at schools.

The systems are powered by Linux open source technology, which provides reliability, security and total cost reduction related to software licensing.

**Renzulli**

38 schools began using the Renzulli Learning System, an on-line program that matches students’ interests and learning styles with a variety of lessons that provide engaging and rigorous activities. Each participating student received an individual Talent Development Profile (TDP). Teachers and media specialists used the profile to identify a collection of Internet and downloadable resources, customized to match each student’s interests, learning styles, and preferred modes of expression.

**Infinite Campus Student Information System**

Atlanta Public Schools began planning the implementation of Infinite Campus, the new APS student information system. The system allows teachers to manage attendance and grades, while allowing parents to view and track academic progress. Key user groups were trained to use the application in preparation for the launch, including principals, learning technology specialists, and student information team members.

**Check Time and Attendance System**

Atlanta Public Schools began piloting the new Check Time and Attendance System. The new system ensures efficient collection and reporting of attendance information. The pilot locations included Parkside Elementary School, Bunche Middle School, and Grady High School, along with the departments of transportation and facilities. APS plans to implement Check at all district sites for all employees during the 2008-2009 school year.

**Point of Pride**

**APS is changing the middle school experience through single-gender learning and other reform initiatives.**

In August 2007, the district opened two single-gender academies: the B.E.S.T. (Business, Engineering, Science and Technology) Academy for boys and the Coretta Scott King Young Women’s Leadership Academy for girls. These schools, the first single-gender academies in the district in the past 60 years, provide mentoring, guidance and resources to students. APS is also redesigning other middle schools across the system to increase student achievement by providing adolescents with individualized instruction and smaller classroom settings.
During the 2007-2008 school year, APS completed a number of building and facility upgrades. South Atlanta High School was renovated to provide a more academically friendly environment for the four small schools that make up the high school campus. In addition, the campus of Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School (formerly Southside) received a makeover in preparation for the school’s conversion to small learning communities. The school year also marked the unveiling of a new primary center for Morningside Elementary School.

**Transportation**

Eighty-five new school buses were added to the fleet of APS buses that safely transport more than 37,000 students to and from school every day. In addition, all APS buses were retrofitted with diesel fuel filters, providing a cleaner air environment for students.

**School Nutrition**

The APS local school wellness program promoted good eating and exercise habits by honoring monthly Wellness Spotlight schools. Forty-eight APS schools earned recognition as Wellness Spotlight schools from February 2007 through April 2008. APS also collaborated with the Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation to promote physical fitness and combat adolescent obesity. Thanks to a $140,000 grant from the foundation, students were able to participate in HOPSports, a state-of-the-art fitness program that utilizes the latest technology to make physical activity fun and rigorous for students.
Atlanta Partners for Education

Atlanta Partners for Education (APFE) is a joint initiative between APS and the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. APFE facilitates collaborations between area businesses and schools, and tracks the progress that partnerships make to support student achievement. The partnerships are as diverse as the schools they serve, and there are targeted core objectives that ensure the success of the partnerships.

APFE produces the A+ Awards to honor the outstanding partnerships between Atlanta businesses and their partner schools. Congratulations to the 2008 A+ Award winners.

**Rookie Achievement**
- F.L. Stanton Elementary School and Equifax

**Collaborative Partnership**
- The New Schools at Carver and Pathways to Success Partnerships

**Tutoring**
- Cook Elementary School and Deloitte

**Mentoring**
- Fickett Elementary School and UPS

**Innovative**
- Whitefoord Elementary School and Whitefoord Community Center

**Summa Cum Laude**
- King Middle School and After School All-Stars

2008 A+ Award Winners

Principal for a Day

Principal for a Day (PFAD) provides business and community leaders with an opportunity to go beyond the headlines and get a true picture of public education in action.

Representatives from the business, civic, nonprofit, clergy, higher education and entertainment community join the leaders of APS for a day to understand the needs of local schools. In addition, the partners commit to sustaining a long-term partnership that will benefit students and foster an environment of sustainable achievement.

Over the years, the program has attracted some of Atlanta’s most influential leaders including Ambassador Andrew Young, Mayor Shirley Franklin, former Mayor Sam Massell, and Henry “Hank” Aaron. For additional information, call 404-586-8519.
Atlanta Public Schools is a system undergoing transformation and positive change. Students and faculty have done so well that professionals and philanthropists from across the United States are recognizing the district’s dramatic improvement and growing strength, and looking to APS as a model of reform. In the 2007-08 school year alone, APS schools were visited and praised by the U.S. Secretary of Education and studied by education officials, community leaders and policymakers throughout the country, including the Aspen Institute, Cincinnati Public Schools, Seattle Public Schools, the Port Arthur Independent School District in Houston and the Oakland California Unified School District.

In April, the International Baccalaureate Board of Governors, with the Ismaili Shia Muslim leader Aga Khan as keynote speaker, held its annual meeting at North Atlanta High School, congratulating APS for adding IB programs at several of its schools in the past few years.

In May, the AARP awarded its $100,000 Ethel Percy Andrus Legacy Award to Crim Open Campus High School for its “creativity and unending commitment to serve people.”

In addition:
• City council members from Okazaki, Japan, visited Atlanta in July 2007 to gather information on the highly successful APS security plan to learn how to better handle increasing crime and serious incidents in schools in south central Japan.
• The General Electric Foundation selected APS as the recipient of a $22.5 million grant to fund more intensive math and science instruction.
• The national Youth Entrepreneurs program expanded into three more APS high schools as a result of the success the program had in its first year at Mays and Maynard Holbrook Jackson High School (formerly Southside).
• The University of Washington College of Education’s Center for Educational Leadership invited Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall to share information on how APS is closing the achievement gap.

U.S. Education Secretary Margaret Spellings came to Atlanta’s Venetian Hills Elementary in November to recognize the school for its designation as a National Blue Ribbon School and to congratulate APS on its outstanding performance on the 2007 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP). She called APS “a model for the country ... [that] can show the country that urban schools can and do work.”

The following month the National Parent Teacher Association, citing a demonstrated ability to “create ‘out of the box’ tactics to make every child’s potential a reality,” launched an alliance with APS, Spelman and the Georgia PTA to close the achievement gap between minority and disadvantaged students, and their Caucasian counterparts.

In March, the People’s Republic of China chose APS to partner with Nanjing University and Emory University to host the first Confucius Institute in the southeastern United States. The new Confucius Institute is housed at Coan Middle School. In addition, the superintendent of Cincinnati Public Schools visited APS to learn how Atlanta has managed to turn its elementary schools into high-performing schools. And the Aspen Institute’s Program on Education and Society brought to APS eight senior congressional aides representing U.S. Senate and House committees that are responsible for legislation impacting education. They learned about human capital strategies – that is, how employees are recruited, developed, evaluated and rewarded.

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Keeping You Informed

APS WEB SITE WWW.ATLANTAPUBLICSCHOOLS.US – You are just a click away from securing the most up-to-date information on your high-performing school district. The Web site features:

- School events and photos
- Latest headlines & news releases
- Video channel
- Athletic schedules
- Electronic copies of APS publications
- Meal pay options
- Bus route locators
- Employment information
- Board of Education news

TALK UP APS – is the district’s electronic newsletter that highlights news about Atlanta Public Schools. To view the current edition, visit the Atlanta Public Schools Web site at www.atlantapublicschools.us. To receive the newsletter in your inbox each week, forward your e-mail address to talkupapsnews@atlantapublicschools.us.

FAMILY MATTERS – is the Atlanta Public Schools newsletter designed to keep parents, guardians and members of the community posted on district news, issues impacting the lives of students and best practices in parental involvement. Produced five times a year, this publication is mailed to APS parents, and copies also can be found in the parent center at local schools.

FIRESIDE CHATS – Atlanta Public Schools believes that the entire community plays a role in enriching the lives of young people. For this reason, Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall hosts Community Fireside Chats throughout the district at least five times a year. During these events, members of the community are updated on the district’s progress and given the opportunity to provide the leadership team with feedback. Contact your school principal for additional information.

Cable Channel 22 is Atlanta’s official education station. Available to cable subscribers in the city of Atlanta, APS Channel 22 broadcasts educational and informational programs daily, around the clock.

WPBA is one of the premiere sources for informational, educational and cultural programming in the metro Atlanta area. The station airs more than 70 hours of award-winning, high-quality educational television programming each week.

WABE 90.1 FM, a charter member of National Public Radio (NPR), is a 24-hour classical music, news and community affairs broadcasting service. WABE 90.1 FM broadcasts news, public affairs and arts programming to the Atlanta community. On the air since 1948, more than 300,000 listeners tune in each week to listen to NPR’s Morning Edition and All Things Considered. WABE also features Between the Lines, Jazz Classics, Market Place, Youth Radio, Boombox Classroom and Focus on Education, developed to provide educational resources and information to parents of school age children.

Learn about all the success happening in Atlanta Public Schools! Each month on APS Today, meet students, educators, business partners and parents who are dedicated to increasing student achievement and preparation for higher education, future careers and civic participation. Watch APS Today the second Monday of every month at 9:30 pm on PBA TV Channel 30.
Atlanta Board of Education

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Yolanda Johnson          District 6
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Mark Riley               At-Large Seat 8, District 3 & 4
Emmett Johnson           At-Large, Seat 9, District 5 & 6

The Atlanta Public Schools’ policy-making body is the nine-member Atlanta Board of Education, comprised of six district representatives and three at-large representatives, all of whom are elected. The day-to-day administration of the school district is the responsibility of the superintendent, who is appointed by the Board of Education.

The Atlanta Board of Education holds public comment sessions prior to each legislative session. Please check the meeting schedule at www.atlantapublicschools.us. Meetings are held in the auditorium of the Center for Learning and Leadership (CLL), 130 Trinity Avenue, S.W. Atlanta, Georgia 30303. For more information, call 404-802-2200.

The Atlanta Public School System does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, national origin, age, veteran status, disability, marital status or sexual orientation in any of its employment practices, educational programs, services or activities. For additional information about nondiscrimination provisions, contact the Office of Internal Resolution, 130 Trinity Avenue, S.W., Atlanta, Georgia, 30303.

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