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# NEWS RELEASE

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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April 11, 2018

## Superintendent of Schools Announces \$27 Million Proposal to Expand District’s “*Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom*” Program

**JONESBORO** – Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is seeking to strengthen the district’s “*Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom*” (ELBC) program in the 2018-2019 school year, by providing nearly 1,000 laptops to students, as a pilot. Adopted earlier this year, due to inclement weather, ELBC gives students the opportunity to continue the instruction they are currently engaged, in the event of an absence or school closure. This project goes beyond merely issuing computers to students. The goal of *Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom* is to help our students achieve at higher levels and better prepare them for college or careers. Additionally, ELBC will further support CCPS instructional priorities, by increasing access, engagement, communication, and collaboration opportunities.

Proposed to be initially funded by the current Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST V), with sustainability contingent upon a SPLOST VI, the ELBC pilot will provide laptops to approximately 991 students in grades three, six and nine at Harper and Brown Elementary, Babb Middle, and North Clayton High (during the pilot year). The four-year phased approach will equip students in grades 3-12, at sixty of the district’s schools at no additional or hidden costs to stakeholders by the 2021-2022 school year.

The project will cost an estimated average of \$6.8 million dollars per year over four years. The device refresh will cost an estimated \$5,000,000 per year, once the cycle begins in the 2023-2024 school year. Please see the following four-year, estimated cost break down.

	School Year	Number of Schools	Total Students	Estimated Cost
<b>Phase I</b>	2018-2019	4	991	\$1,029,141.90
<b>Phase II</b>	2019-2020	16	5320	\$3,556,328.50
<b>Phase III</b>	2020-2021	31	14244	\$6,183,012.00
<b>Phase IV</b>	2021-2022	60	38003	\$16,509,536.20
<b>Total Cost for 4 Year Implementation</b>				<b>\$27,278,018.60</b>

“We understand that learning should occur in all phases of life and access to materials should not stop because the school day has ended,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Morcease J. Beasley. “I am very excited for this opportunity to present this to the Board as we continue to seek traditional and nontraditional ways to truly place our students in a position to succeed within and beyond the classroom. This initiative will also ensure that we are allowing students an opportunity to take advantage of tools previously provided,” he added.

In the spring of 2017, CCPS implemented the district-wide use of G Suite for Education (formerly Google Apps for Education) which provided staff and students with anywhere/anytime access to a suite of creation, communication and collaborative learning tools.

“Our school district is one that is rich in innovative technology as well as various digital learning opportunities. However, we understand that [potentially] 30% of our student population may not have access to the Internet at home,” said CCPS Chief Technology Officer Rod Smith. This cost has been considered in the above estimate. “By expanding the district’s *“Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom”* program and providing over 38,000 laptops to students by the 2021-2022 school year, we are closing the digital gap between school and home and setting our students up to be successful academically and beyond.”

### **About Clayton County Public Schools**

Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through AdvancED – Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Council on Accreditation and School Improvement. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving almost 55,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the fifth largest school system in Georgia.

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