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CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Clayton County Public Schools Discussing Plans for New College & Career Academy

JONESBORO- Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) has started preliminary discussions to build an innovative College & Career Academy in the coming years. Designed to minimize challenges facing business and industry leaders, the Clayton College & Career Academy (CCCA) will offer progressive Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) pathways to students aligned to existing and future job projections.

Projected to begin construction in 2020 with an estimated cost of \$36 million dollars, the proposed academy is contingent upon the passing of the Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST) VI. Currently, Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is seeking to hold a special election regarding SPLOST VI on March 19, 2019.

“The purpose of the Clayton College and Career Academy is to provide accelerated learning opportunities to our students while also allowing them to simultaneously earn high school and college credits,” said Dr. Morcease J. Beasley, Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “It is our continued goal to ensure students are receiving the necessary skills that businesses and industry leaders desire. This proposed academy will not only assist us in that goal but influence positive outcomes on academics, attendance and graduation rates, as well as increase post K-12 options for students,” he added.

According to data, 92.8 percent of all CCPS students with a CTAE concentration graduate. With a district-wide focus on expanding School Choice Programs, Advanced Placement Classes and CTAE Programs, the CCCA will serve all high schools. In addition, the academy will provide 8th grade students the opportunity to earn high school credit upon successful completion of each course.

While program offerings and building features are still being proposed, the College & Career Academy will additionally provide, but not limited to, the following services and features:

- On-site dual enrollment courses
- Apprenticeship programs designed for each pathway
- Tri-Semesters to allow for early pathway and high school completion
- Google Fiber conference/meeting rooms and technology savvy auditoriums

“We are truly excited about the possibility of establishing a world-class facility in the footprint of our school district that will enable CCPS to lead the talent pipeline by creating a steady workforce and economic development,” said CCPS CTAE Coordinator, Dr. Eboni Chillis. “As educators, we must provide students with a future-ready education that will remain relevant in an ever-evolving technological world and this proposed facility will aid us in that mission. Research shows that of the 55 million projected job openings created by 2020, 30 percent of those will require some college experience or a two-year associate degree. By establishing the CCCA and providing accelerated learning options, we will become key influencers of the economic growth within our community, state and nation,” she concluded.

Open to all high school students, there is no application for participation in the academy. Students are encouraged to speak with school counselors for scheduling. Eighth grade students interested in attending the Clayton College & Career Academy will be accepted using a lottery system. Please note, students attending the academy will maintain enrollment in their home school and share-time between the two campuses. At this time, details indicate transportation will be provided by the school district. As logistics are still being worked out, stakeholders are encouraged to periodically visit the Clayton County Public Schools website, www.clayton.k12.ga.us, for updates.

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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