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CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Clayton County Public Schools Continues Community Eligibility Provision Program *Program provides free meals for all students*

JONESBORO – Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) will continue to implement the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Program in School Year 2017 - 2018. Through CEP, the school district, will offer meals at no cost to all students. This eliminates the procedure of distributing and processing meal applications. CCPS recertified its CEP participation in 2015, and it is set to conclude on June 30, 2019.

“Reports indicate that the past five years of operating as a CEP school district has shown a significant impact in the number of students choosing to eat meals in the cafeterias throughout the district,” said Audrey Hamilton, Director of Nutrition Services. “We know our decision to become a CEP school district would benefit our students greatly. We are confident the meals we serve support student academic achievement,” she added.

The Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 includes the implementation of CEP to insure that every student in low-income neighborhoods can participate in the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and School Breakfast Program (SBP). To qualify, a district or school must have 40 percent or more of Identified Student Percentage (ISP) to be eligible for meals at no cost over a four-year period.

The program has a number of benefits to the school district and its stakeholders. CEP eliminates the need for meal applications, and reduces administrative and printing costs. Families also benefit from the elimination of completing and submitting annual free and reduced meal applications.

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(1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture

Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights

1400 Independence Avenue, SW

Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;

(2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or

(3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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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 over 54,000 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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