

“COMMITTED TO HIGH PERFORMANCE”

NEWS RELEASE

CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CCPS Safety and Security Department to Utilize Veterans Securing America Inc. to Oversee District Crosswalks

JONESBORO – In keeping with one of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) Strategic goals– to provide and maintain a safe, orderly and secure learning environment, coupled with the district’s Commitment to High Performance, the CCPS Department of Safety and Security has assumed management and oversight responsibilities related to crossing guard assignments throughout the district.

Approved as part of the FY 2018 budget and effective July 1, 2017, the CCPS Department of Safety and Security will utilize Vets Securing America Inc. (VSA) to ensure crosswalks through the district are staffed as students travel to and from school. This task was previously supervised by the Clayton County Police Department.

As part of the agreement with the Vets Securing America, the security firm has provided the district with sixty-one (61) crossing guards with varied law enforcement and crossing guard experience. The company has also internally funded the hiring of an additional fifteen (15) substitute crossing guards to be used as needed.

“It is the fundamental mission of school crossing guards to allow children safe passage across the street,” said CCPS Chief of Safety and Security, Thomas Trawick. “With Clayton County Public Schools having a large student population and being a part of a large metropolitan area, we have a lot of commuters traveling through our district as students are arriving to and departing from campuses. Due to the high number of travelers in our school zones and large numbers of students arriving to and departing from our campuses daily, VSA provides a solution that allows school district officers to safeguard our campuses while the crossing guards ensure our scholars’ safe and on time arrival by controlling the flow of traffic,” he concluded.

According to Georgia Codes O.C.G.A 20-2-1131 (direction of traffic by school-crossing guards) and O.C.G.A 40-6-2 (obedience to authorized persons directing traffic), the crossing guards have the power of authority to control automobile and other vehicular traffic, as well as pedestrians at all locations.

“To be a district *Committed to High Performance* means to be a school district where the well-being of students is the first priority in every decision that has to be made,” said Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Morcase J. Beasley. “As a school system, we have a duty to ensure student safety. I applaud the Board of Education for its approval. I commend Chief Trawick and his staff for their hard work in securing the

resources needed to make sure that as students travel to, arrive at and depart from our campuses, they are doing so under the supervision of well trained and qualified crossing guards,” he concluded.

Under the previous agreement with the Clayton County Police Department, the district utilized forty (40) crossing guards and two supervisors to cover forty-six (46) crossing sites. In an effort to more efficiently support students, the district added an additional 19 sites to the previous allotment of 42, which makes for a total of 61 sites with crossing guards. The additional 19 sites were identified as critical locations based on the complexity of those intersections relative to traffic congestion and the density of children using those crosswalks.

“We are ready,” stated Chief Trawick. “All of the crossing guards have been trained and issued uniforms as well as other items necessary to protect our students. We are excited to work with VSA and look forward to a great, in addition to a safe, 2017-18 School Year.”

According to the company website, VSA was formed out of a deep respect for the dedication and commitment of the members of the United States military and domestic law enforcement communities with a mission to provide veterans with stable employment opportunities.

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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