

### Letter from the Superintendent

It is my pleasure to provide our stakeholders with a synopsis of the 2019-2020 school year for the Douglas County School System. However, the facts and figures in this report will never communicate the amazing performance of our staff during the last few months of the school year.



Because of COVID-19, teachers were thrust into the world of remote teaching from home with almost no notice and little preparation, and administrators learned to supervise from a distance. When it became obvious in April that we would not be returning to our buildings for the remainder of the school year, executives at the central office immediately began planning for a return to school in August amid a global pandemic. Committees were formed, surveys were taken, and communication with parents was increased. Cobb & Douglas Public Health became an even more important partner with DCSS and provided invaluable insight and advice during our planning.

All members of the Douglas County School System staff stepped up to the challenge of providing online learning for students during the last months of the school year and spent the summer honing skills to make digital learning better and more focused for the 2020-2021 school year. I could not be more proud of our staff.

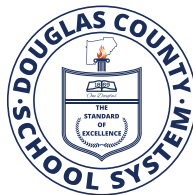
I must also thank our students and families, who trusted us to make the best decisions possible under very difficult circumstances. There is no playbook for holding school during a pandemic, but the “Learning by Design” manual we created has provided guidance that has taken us through the first semester of 2020-2021 with success.

I am proud of our students, especially the Class of 2020. I have no doubt that they will flourish in life, in part because of their perseverance under difficult circumstances at the end of their senior year. We have much to celebrate as we reflect on the 2019-2020 school year.

With heartfelt thanks for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trent North".

Trent North, Superintendent



*DCSS Honored and Proud*

# Douglas County Board of Education

The Douglas County Board of Education was one of 56 school boards in Georgia to be named a 2020 Exemplary Board by the Georgia School Boards Association. There are 181 school districts in the state.

## Accreditation

The Douglas County School System received its most recent accreditation in June, 2017, from AdvancED\*, an internationally recognized accrediting board that evaluates school systems across the U.S. and 70 other nations. The overall score for DCSS on AdvancED's evaluation tool was 307.93, well above the average score of 278.94 for all school systems which were evaluated by AdvancED during the prior year. The school system undergoes accreditation every five years.

\*AdvancED is now a part of Cognia.



Seated, left to right: Rita Fasina-Thomas, District V; Superintendent Trent North; Vice Chair Michelle Simmons, District IV; Standing: Devetrian Caldwell, District I; Chair Tracy Rookard, District III; D.T. Jackson, District II.

The goal of this Annual Report for the Douglas County School System is to provide our stakeholders with an overview of the 2019-2020 school year.

The 2019-2020 school year was unprecedented in many ways. Due to the global pandemic, all school buildings and offices in the Douglas County School System were closed beginning March 16, 2020. Students and staff members worked from home through online platforms for the remainder of the 2019-2020 school year.

The State Board of Education canceled all state-required spring testing for 2020, including the Georgia Milestones (GMAS) End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of Course (EOC) assessments. The Georgia Department of Education received approval from the U.S. Department of Education to waive federal assessment and accountability requirements; hence, the College & Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) was canceled for the 2019-2020 school year. Therefore, the 2020 Annual Report contains no GMAS or CCRPI scores.



## Mission, Vision, Goals, Beliefs

### MISSION

The mission of the Douglas County School System is to provide a quality education for all students in a safe, supportive environment.

### VISION

Our vision is to build a community of lifelong learners that become responsible individuals, independent thinkers, and productive citizens.

### GOALS

- To improve community engagement and involvement in district initiatives and decision making
- To enhance and improve school district communication strategies and practices
- To provide a challenging, comprehensive instructional and curricular program for all learners

### BELIEFS

We believe that we must...

- Understand how children and adults learn and continue learning
- Build communities of lifelong learners
- Cultivate the leadership potential of every employee, student, and parent in our school system
- Be creative, energetic visionaries who respond quickly to diverse and evolving issues
- Meet the needs of our stakeholders (students, parents, employees and community)
- Maintain efficient and effective administrative processes for instruction, operations, human resources and sound fiscal management

# DCSS

## Students and Staff

(per March 2020 FTE)

Students	26,668
Employees	3,366
Certified Staff	2,128
Certified Staff with Advanced Degrees	1,474

- ▶ 17th Largest School District in Georgia
- ▶ Largest Employer in Douglas County
- ▶ 70% of Employees Reside in Douglas County

### Average Number of Students Per Instructional Staff

(Teachers and Paraprofessionals)

Elementary	11.2
Middle	13.8
High	15.7

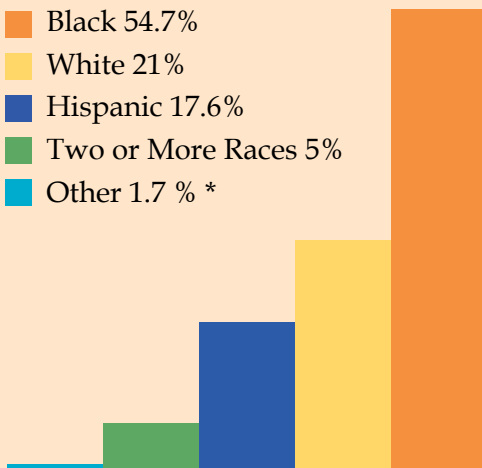
### Free and Reduced Lunch Rate

62.05%

### Expenditure Per Pupil

\$9,892

### Student Demographics



\* Other = Asian 1.3%, Pacific Islander .2%, American Indian .2%

# DCSS Schools

20 Elementary Schools

8 Middle Schools

5 High Schools

1 Charter School

4 Non-Traditional Schools and Programs

- Academy at CCI - Full-day program offers high school and technical college classes.
- College and Career Institute (CCI) - Half-day program offers high school career and technical programs and dual enrollment programs through West GA Technical College.
- Douglas County Success Center offers the following programs:
  1. Performance Learning Center (PLC) operates as a full-day program where students learn at their own pace with teachers and an online curriculum to accelerate or catch up on credits.
  2. Advantage Academy is an alternative program serving middle and high school students who have been removed from the traditional school setting due to disciplinary infractions.
  3. The Newcomer Center offers middle and high school students who are new to the United States and the English language the opportunity to develop English language skills through rigorous courses in a nurturing environment.
- FLEX Academy, established in 2020, is a fully online option for independent learners who desire a more flexible approach to education. Certified DCSS teachers monitor student progress and offer differentiated instructional support.





# DCSS Enhancements and Projects

On June 9, 2020, the citizens of Douglas County voted to extend ESPLOST by a vote of 71.68%. ESPLOST is the 1% sales tax, collected since 1997, that benefits students and schools. Voters may renew the tax through a referendum every five years, with funds designated for capital projects (construction, buses, technology) or for retiring debt.

Among the ESPLOST projects completed in 2019-2020:

- Classroom additions at Alexander High School and Chapel Hill Middle School
- Payment of bond debt
- Safety enhancements at all schools
- Instructional technology, including the purchase of Chromebooks and laptops so that all students could be issued a learning device for the 2020-2021 school year

Upcoming ESPLOST projects:

- Douglas County High School stadium renovation, to be completed in summer of 2021
- Performing Arts Center at Alexander High School, groundbreaking in 2021
- Multi-purpose sports arena for graduation ceremonies and other events, groundbreaking in late 2021

# DCSS Financial Statement

## Expenditures FY 2020

<b>Instruction</b>	\$181,387,889	68%
<b>School Administration</b>	\$20,273,949	7.6%
<b>Maintenance and Operations</b>	\$16,013,851	6%
<b>Student Transportation</b>	\$12,403,981	4.7%
<b>General Administration</b>	\$11,097,741	4.2%
<b>Pupil Services</b>	\$10,030,974	3.8%
<b>Staff Services</b>	\$15,015,722	5.6%
<b>Total</b>	\$266,224,106	

## Revenues 2018-2020

	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020
<b>State</b>	\$156,435,475	\$166,125,315	\$169,448,849
<b>Local</b>	\$82,716,307	\$89,915,650	\$95,313,734
<b>Federal</b>	\$14,406,770	\$16,680,516	\$15,362,916
<b>Total</b>	\$253,558,552	\$272,721,481	\$280,125,499

## Operating Fund Resources FY 2020

<b>State Sources</b>	60.49%
<b>Local Sources</b>	34.03%
<b>Federal Sources</b>	5.48%



# Academic Rigor

## Advanced Placement (AP)

The College Board offers specific AP courses students may elect to take during high school. These courses are more rigorous than regular high school courses and prepare students for college academics. At the end of the school year, students may choose to participate in the AP exam. Scores range from 1 to 5, with a 3 or above being accepted for college credit at most colleges. The percentage of students earning a score of 3 or above has increased every year for the past six years.

### Percentage of Total Exams Earning a 3, 4, or 5

	DCSS	State	Global
2020	46	64.1	64.3
2019	41.7	61.6	59.6
2018	37.3	60.3	59

## International Baccalaureate (IB)

The IB program was established at Douglas County High School in 2007 as a magnet program. The IB Diploma is recognized by the world's leading universities. The chart reflects the percentage of IB students who earned the full IB Diploma.

### IB Diploma Graduates

	DCSS	Global
2020	87%	79%
2019	65%	77%
2018	71%	78%

## Dual Enrollment

Through Dual Enrollment, qualifying students in grades 9-12 may enroll, part-time or full-time, to take college courses. High school and college credit may be earned simultaneously. Dual Enrollment students may graduate from

# College and Career Ready

## American College Testing (ACT)

The ACT is a national college admissions examination that consists of curriculum based subject area tests in the following areas: Mathematics, English, Reading, Science, and an optional writing portion. ACT results are accepted by all 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. The ACT is an achievement test and is scored on a scale from 0 to 36.

### ACT Scores

	English		Mathematics		Reading		Science		Composite	
	State	DCSS	State	DCSS	State	DCSS	State	DCSS	State	DCSS
2020	21.3	18.7	21	18.5	22.5	20.4	21.6	19.4	21.7	19.4
2019	20.9	18.4	20.7	18.4	22.2	20.1	21.2	19.4	21.4	19.2
2018	20.9	18.6	20.7	18.7	22.1	20.2	21.2	19.6	21.4	19.4

## Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT)

The SAT is a globally recognized college admissions test designed to assess academic readiness for college through student reasoning based on knowledge and skills. The maximum score is 800 for each section for a total possible score of 1600. In 2020, 1,010 students in Douglas County took the SAT.

### SAT Scores

	Evidence-Based Reading & Writing		Mathematics		Total	
	State	DCSS	State	DCSS	State	DCSS
2020	532	518	511	484	1043	1002
2019	533	512	515	487	1048	999
2018	537	518	517	488	1054	1005

high school with a significant number of college credits or with an associate degree from a college, university, or technical college. Students who take technical college classes may graduate from high school with a certificate or diploma in a particular area.

The following numbers reflect students who completed Dual Enrollment classes during the 2019-2020 school year. Due to the unusual circumstances beginning in March 2020, several colleges gave students extended time to complete their classes. Additional students in the

Class of 2020 completed classes over the summer but are not included in the following numbers.

West Georgia Technical College	271
Georgia Highlands	51
University of West Georgia	31
Truett McConnell University	1
Georgia Institute of Technology	1
Georgia Military College	1
Kennesaw State University	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>357</b>





# Graduation Rate

The DCSS Class of 2020 four-year high school graduation rate of 89.4% once again surpassed the graduation rate for Georgia and for many surrounding school districts. All five high schools in Douglas County exceeded the state graduation rate for the sixth consecutive year.

Graduation rate is defined as the percentage of students who graduate from secondary school with a regular diploma in the standard number of years.

## Graduation Rates

	2020	2019	2018
<b>DCSS</b>	89.4%	87.4%	86.5%
<b>State</b>	83.8%	82%	81.6%

## DCSS Schools

### ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

- Annette Winn Elementary School
- Arbor Station Elementary School
- Beulah Elementary School
- Bill Arp Elementary School
- Bright Star Elementary School
- Burnett Elementary School
- Chapel Hill Elementary School
- Dorsett Shoals Elementary School
- Eastside Elementary School
- Factory Shoals Elementary School
- Holly Springs Elementary School
- Lithia Springs Elementary School
- Mason Creek Elementary School
- Mirror Lake Elementary School
- Mt. Carmel Elementary School
- New Manchester Elementary School
- North Douglas Elementary School
- South Douglas Elementary School
- Sweetwater Elementary School
- Winston Elementary School

### MIDDLE SCHOOLS

- Chapel Hill Middle School
- Chestnut Log Middle School
- Factory Shoals Middle School
- Fairplay Middle School
- Mason Creek Middle School
- Stewart Middle School
- Turner Middle School
- Yeager Middle School

### HIGH SCHOOLS

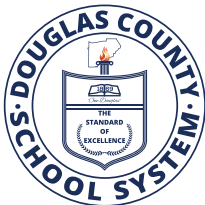
- Alexander High School
- Liberal Arts College Preparatory and AP Capstone Magnet
- Chapel Hill High School
- Advanced Placement (AP) Magnet
- Douglas County High School
- International Baccalaureate (IB) Magnet
- Lithia Springs High School
- STEM Academy Magnet
- New Manchester High School
- Fine Arts Magnet

### CHARTER SCHOOL

Brighten Academy

### NON-TRADITIONAL SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS

- Academy at CCI
- College and Career Institute (CCI)
- Douglas County Success Center



## Douglas County School System

P.O. Box 1077, Douglasville, GA 30133 | 770-651-2000 | [www.dcssga.org](http://www.dcssga.org)

© Copyright 2020, Douglas County Board of Education, Douglasville, GA

Employees, students and the general public are hereby notified that the Douglas County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, national origin, handicap or age in its education programs, activities or employment practices.

