Parent Resource Guide

2009-2010

Your Guide to DeKalb County School System

Spanish and Somali versions coming August 2009!

The school cannot live apart from the community.

www.dekalb.k12.ga.us

premier DEKALB County School System

DeKalb County School System

Parent Resource Centers

Where Parents Help Children Succeed

Get Involved!

Be a Role Model • Teacher • Mentor • Provider

Center Locations and Contact Information

Atherton Elementary 678-874-0333
Fairington Elementary 678-676-8724
Jolly Elementary 678-676-5832
E. L. Miller Elementary 678-676-3333
Avondale Middle 678-875-0148
Cedar Grove Middle 678-874-4248
Chapel Hill Middle 678-676-8548
Columbia Middle 678-875-0546
McNair Middle 678-874-5147
Sequoyah Middle 678-676-7945
Cross Keys High 678-874-6139

premier DEKALB County School System

For a schedule of free activities and resources visit
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/improvement

Parent Resource Guide 2009-2010

Publisher
DeKalb County School System

Design and Photography
Office of Communications

Translations
The International Student Center

DeKalb County School System
3770 North Decatur Road
Decatur, GA 30032
678-676-1200
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us

The information contained in this publication is current as of August 1, 2009. Suggestions and feedback are welcomed. Contact us at 678 676-1200 or via e-mail, www.dekalb.k12.ga.us.

District Accreditation as a Quality School System 2007 SACS CASI

Contents © 2009 DeKalb County School System

DeKalb Board Of Education
Thomas E. Bowen, Chair
Zepora Roberts, Vice-Chair
Sarah Copelin-Wood
Jesse "Jay" Cunningham
Don McChesney
Jim Redovian
Pamela Speaks
Eugene P. Walker
H. Paul Womack

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Parents play a vital role in the education of their children. Our goal is to increase opportunities for you to become involved in your child's education through activities and awareness of the many services we provide for children.

To further enhance the communication between home and school, the DeKalb County School System has created this Parent Resource Guide. This guide provides helpful information as you advocate for your child's education. We hope you will find this guide to be useful as you further your involvement and knowledge of the DeKalb County School System. We look forward to a great 2009-2010 school year!

Sincerely,

Crawford Lewis, Ph.D.
Superintendent
DeKalb County School System

CONTENTS

Introduction
Parent/Family Involvement . . . 6
Parent Portal . . . 6
Know Your Child's School and Teacher . . . 6
PTA/PTSA . . . 6
International Parent Outreach Program. . . . 6
Parent Resource Centers . . . 6

PreK & Elementary
What Your Child Should Learn in Elementary School . . . 7
If Your Child Needs More Challenging Work. . . . 7
Monitoring Your Child's Progress . . . 7
Developing the Reader in Your Child. . . . 8
Standardized Tests Your Child Will Take in Elementary School . . . 9

Middle School
Monitoring Your Child's Progress . . . 11
If Your Child Is Ready for More Advanced Classes. . . . 11
Standardized Tests Your Child Will Take in Middle School . . . 14

High School
If Your Child Is Ready for More Advanced Classes. . . . 15
Advanced Placement . . . 15
IB Programme. . . . 15
Joint Enrollment . . . 16
Career Technology . . . 16
Online Classes . . . 16
Grades. . . . 17
Promotion Requirements . . . 17
High School Graduation Requirements. . . . 17
College Entrance Exams . . . 17
Georgia's HOPE Scholarship. . . . 17
Program of Study . . . 18
Standardized Tests Your Child Will Take in High School . . . 19

What All Parents Need to Know
Student Health Services . . . 21
Immunizations and Health Certificates . . . 21
Registration Procedures . . . 22
English Language Learners Program . . . 23
International Student Screening Center . . . 24
Special Education . . . 24
Psychological Services . . . 25
Hospital and/or Home-Bound Instruction . . . 25
School Social Work Services. . . . 26
Guidance and Counseling . . . 26
Mentoring Programs. . . . 26
School Choice Opportunities. . . . 26
Student Attendance . . . 27
Student Dress Code . . . 28
Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act . . . 28
Student Discipline and Due Process Hearings . . . 29
Bullying . . . 29
Electronic Communication Devices . . . 30
Transportation . . . 30
Food Services . . . 30
School Regions . . . 31
About the School Board . . . 31
Helpful Links . . . 31

The school year has now begun.

All across DeKalb County, students have returned to classrooms. Teachers and administrators are there to assist them in meeting new challenges that will help them learn and grow. This Parent Resource Guide has been prepared to provide basic information so that you can make the most of your vital role as your child's first and most important teacher. In this guide, you will find tools and resources necessary to maximize various levels of support for optimal student learning.

The Parent Resource Guide is a foundational piece to the Parental Involvement Framework. The Parental Involvement Framework is a district-wide systemic initiative with measurable goals that support the DeKalb Board of Education and Superintendent's strategic priority of increasing parental involvement. The purpose of the Parental Involvement Framework is to provide strategies that support the District as it forms a collaborative partnership between home, school and the community.

The mission of DeKalb County School System is to work collaboratively with families to maximize students' social and academic potential and prepare them to compete in a global society.

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM CHAIN OF SUPPORT

Your Child's Teacher and/or Guidance Counselor

▼

Assistant Principal of the School

▼

Principal of the School

▼

Area Assistant Superintendent

▼

Division of School Operations
DeKalb County School System
3770 North Decatur Road
Decatur, GA 30032

▼

Superintendent
DeKalb County School System
3770 North Decatur Road
Decatur, GA 30032

▼

Board of Education
DeKalb County School System
3770 North Decatur Road
Decatur, GA 30032
678-676-1200

Parent/Family Involvement

Children perform better in school when parents or guardians are actively involved in their child's education. Parental involvement begins at home when parents emphasize to their children the importance of a good education. Turn off the TV so that reading and learning can take place. Read to and with your child. Ask them about their homework. Set expectations high and let them know you expect them to do well.

Parent Portal

The Parent Portal page at www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/parent.portal is your launching point for reviewing your child's academic progress and attendance history. This information is available to any legal parent/guardian of a DeKalb high and middle school student who completes the online registration for Parent Access and accepts and agrees to the Terms of Service Policy. Academic and attendance history will be available to legal parents/guardians of elementary students beginning in the fall 2009 with the implementation of the new student information system.

Know Your Child's School and Teacher

Get involved by visiting, volunteering and communicating with schools often. Every school will schedule an evening for parent-teacher conferences. Your child's school will notify you about specific dates, times and scheduling procedures. Parents are also encouraged to schedule a conference anytime during the year if there are concerns regarding their child's progress.

PTA/PTSA

As parents, we have to let our children know that their education is a priority. Each child, regardless of his/her age, has to be supported, encouraged and nurtured to achieve. When you join your local PTA/PTSA (Parent Teacher Association/ Parent Teacher Student Association) two things happen; you show your child that you are committed to his/her success, and your support network of experience and information reaches from the local to the national level.

PTA is the largest child advocacy group in the United States. The DeKalb County Council of PTAs is divided into 19 areas; each encompassing a local high school, middle school and all of their feeder elementary schools. Membership in your local PTA/PTSA forges a strong alliance among all stakeholders who promise to speak for every child with one voice, all of the time. Your membership matters! For more information, visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/schools/pta.

The International Parent Outreach Program

The International Parent Outreach Program is a federally funded project that uses a combination of Refugee Impact Grants and Title III funds.

The goal of the program is to help families make constructive strides towards involvement in the school community and claim a sense of belonging. In addition, the program aids international families as they adjust to their new surroundings, fostering basic skills for self-sufficiency. It also emphasizes the acquisition of English language skills.

The programs helps families develop an understanding of the American culture by showing them how to navigate the community and take advantage of the available public resources such as libraries, parks and public transportation.

While parents receive instruction, their children participate in academic activities designed to improve English language proficiency and to improve performance on standardized assessments.

Parent Resource Centers

The Office of School Improvement created 11 Parent Resource Centers conveniently located throughout the district. These year-round centers provide parents free workshops, conferences, books, materials, and online access related to the educational opportunities available to their children. Some topics include standardized testing and homework help for students along with parenting skills, GED preparation, and job skills training available to parents. The centers provide parents with the opportunity to gain more skills, knowledge and confidence to champion their child's education. Parents are a child's first teachers, role models, mentors and providers, and have the capability to make their children's lives better. Visit the Parent Centers website at www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/improvement for the 2009-2010 course directory, events, and other helpful information.

Center Locations and Contact Information

Atherton Elementary 678-874-0333
Fairington Elementary 678-676-8724
Jolly Elementary 678-676-5832
E. L. Miller Elementary 678-676-3333
Avondale Middle 678-875-0148
Cedar Grove Middle 678-874-4248
Chapel Hill Middle 678-676-8548
Columbia Middle 678-875-0546
McNair Middle 678-874-5147
Sequoyah Middle 678-676-7945
Cross Keys High 678-874-6139

PreK & Elementary

The voluntary full-day PreK program that focuses on pre-literacy and pre-math skills helps Georgia children develop the skills they need to become good readers and successful students in child-centered environments. Every Georgia child who is four years old by September 1, 2009 is eligible to register for the program. Registration will take place in the spring of 2010, and students are selected through a lottery. For more information about PreK, call the Division of Teaching and Learning, 678-676-0379.

What Your Child Should Learn in Elementary School

Every student in Georgia is exposed to the same benchmarks within a grade level. The Georgia Department of Education has created Georgia Performance Standards, a list of learning goals for students in every grade. DeKalb County School System has incorporated these standards into the district's required curriculum. The Department of Teaching and Learning offers elementary-grade course syllabi for English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Social Studies.

If Your Child Needs More Challenging Work

District-wide instructional delivery and trends in student progress are monitored, assessed, improved upon and shared with school leadership teams through the elementary department. If you believe that your child is ready for more challenging academics or would like to participate in before- or after-school activities, ask your school's principal about the elementary gifted program, called the Discovery Program, or after-school and summer enrichment programs.

Monitoring Your Child's Progress

The Georgia Academic Placement & Promotion Law (20-2-283) and DeKalb Board of Education Policy IHE require that all students in 3rd and 5th grades pass the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) in the area of Reading, and that 5th grade students also pass Mathematics to be promoted to the next grade level. For more information about the promotion law, visit www.doe.k12.ga.us/pea_policy.aspx. This law is not meant as a punishment; it is aimed at giving your child the skills he/she needs to make adequate yearly progress. If you learn that your child will be retained, it is important for you to meet with his/her teacher to better understand what skills your child did not master and the next steps to help promote success.

In Grades K-5, Your Child Should Learn To:

- Read stories, books and magazines and be able to explain what has been read
- Read independently for a sustained period of time.
- Correct his/her own writing, spelling, grammar and punctuation.
- Use technology for simple writing assignments.
- Write stories, poems, letters and simple reports using correct grammar.
- Make effective presentations.
- Use graphic organizers and other note-taking strategies.
- Read a map, graph and table.
- Do hands-on projects in school such as creating charts, simple models, books and science experiments.
- Apply mathematics to the real world.
- Study about other countries.
- Study the history of Georgia and the United States, including major ethnic/cultural groups.
- Understand the basic structure of the U.S. Government.
- Understand the importance of civic and character education

Developing the Reader in Your Child

Children develop language skills long before they speak. They also develop literacy skills long before being able to read. What you do, or don't do, will have a lasting effect on how your child develops reading skills.

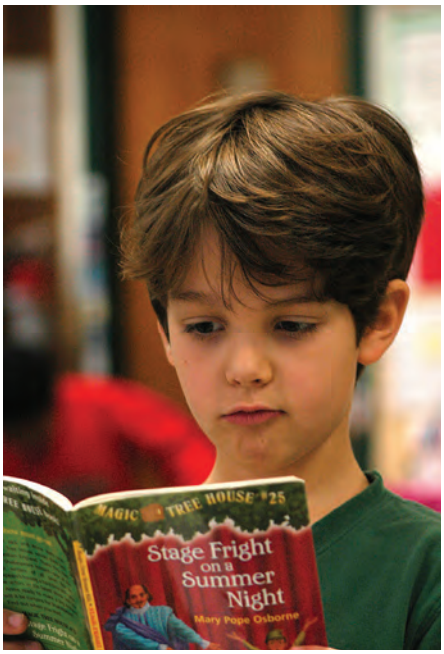
• **Read stories out loud.** Reading aloud to young children is so critical that the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that doctors prescribe reading activities along with other advice given to parents at regular check-ups. Listening to stories has a life-long effect on children's education. Research suggests that the more stories children hear before entering school, the more likely they will be successful academically. Listening to books benefits their vocabulary and comprehension.

• **Encourage your child to write.** When children write, they naturally begin to pay attention to the sounds words make and the letters that form words. And it doesn't matter how they spell! Recent research shows that young children who are allowed to write often develop the ability to become good readers.

• **Talk about stories!** Conversations with your children about what they are reading are vital to children's learning. Discussing books helps them understand how stories work and how language works.

• **Let Them Try.** We all learn best by doing things ourselves. Encouraging children to figure out words on their own helps them to become independent readers.

• **Becoming Independent Readers.** Most children who have been exposed to many books and literacy activities before entering school become efficient, independent readers by second grade.



Standardized Tests Your Child Will Take in Elementary School in 2009-2010

Test	Date	Students to be tested	Purpose of test
Georgia Kindergarten Inventory of Developing Skills (GKIDS)	Ongoing throughout the school year	All kindergarten students	This assessment provides ongoing diagnostic information about kindergarten students' developing skills in English Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies, Personal/ Social Development, and Approaches to Learning.
Iowa Test of Basic Skills Contingent upon state/local funding	October 5-8 & 13-23, 2009 (Schools create local schedule within window)	All students in grades 1,3,5	The ITBS obtains information about the performance of Georgia's students compared with that of students in a national sample, an external reference group.
Cognitive Abilities Test Contingent upon local funding	October 21-30, 2009 (Schools create local schedule within window)	All students in grades 1,3,5	This mental abilities test is designed to measure a student's verbal, non-verbal, and quantitative skills.
Renzulli	November 2-13, 2009	All students in grades 1,3,5	This assessment of creativity and motivation is used in the district's process to determine gifted eligibility.
ACCESS for ELL Students	January 19-February 24, 2010	All English Language Learner (ELL) students	This state assessment is administered annually to all English Language Learners to assess their English proficiency.
Writing Test – 5th Grade	March 3, 2010	All 5th grade students	The 5th Grade Writing Test is designed to measure a student's writing ability in advance of entry into middle school.
Grade 3 Writing Rating Window	March 15-19, 2010	All 3rd grade students	This assessment allows teachers to rate student writing in four genres in order to provide diagnostic information for future instruction.
CRCT Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies	April 15-27, 2010	All students in grades 1-5	This is Georgia's accountability assessment in elementary schools that assesses a student's knowledge and skill level against the Georgia Performance Standards.
CRCT Re-Test	June 28-29, 2010 June 30, 2010 Tentative	Re-test for grades 3 & 5 Makeup Day	This re-test is administered for students in Grades 3 and 5 who do not meet standards in Reading (Gr. 3 and 5) and Math (Gr. 5) during the spring administration.

Middle School

Every student in Georgia is exposed to the same benchmarks within a grade level. The Georgia Department of Education has created Georgia Performance Standards, a list of learning goals for students in every grade. DeKalb County School System has incorporated these standards into the district's required curriculum. The Division of Teaching and Learning offers middle school course syllabi for English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, Health, and World Languages. The system-wide literacy program includes the reading of 25 books per year and writing weekly in all classes as well as writing a minimum of one research paper and one research-based project each year.

The middle school program is designed to introduce the academic setting that your child will have in high school and post-secondary education. Student-centered and content-driven instruction in the middle school is delivered by academic teams, which provide smaller learning communities. An involved, informed parent is essential to a student's success, especially in the middle school years. Take every opportunity to communicate with teachers on your child's team.

At the eighth grade level, the CRCT is a promotional exam. Study guides for the CRCT can be found at www.doe.k12.ga.us/curriculum/testing/. Eighth graders also participate in the state Writing Assessment Test administered in January. This assessment is a valued indicator of a student's success on the writing section of the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT). Middle school students who are not meeting expectations are eligible for intervention programs and services provided by the reading specialist or other designated support personnel.

Monitoring Your Child's Progress

The Georgia Academic Placement & Promotion Law (20-2-283) and DeKalb Board of Education Policy IHE require that all students in 8th grade pass the Georgia Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT) in the area of Reading and Math to be promoted to the next grade level. For more information about the promotion law, visit www.doe.k12.ga.us/pea_policy.aspx. This law is not meant as a punishment; it is aimed at giving your child the skills he/she needs to make adequate yearly progress. If you learn that your child will be retained, it is important for you to meet with his/her teacher to better understand what skills your child did not master and the next steps to help promote success.

If Your Child Is Ready For More Advanced Classes

If you believe that your child is ready for more challenging academics or would like to participate in before- or after-school activities, ask your school's principal about the Impact Program, or after-school and summer enrichment programs. Middle school gifted students are taught at least one period per day in a content-based program by a certified teacher of the gifted.

In Grade 6, Your Child Should Learn To:

- Use oral and written language, media and technology for expressive, informative, argumentative, critical and literary purposes
- Determine specific areas of interest and engage in personal reading
- Analyze his/her writing in order to revise what it says and how it says it
- Employ distinctive voice and style in writing
- Proof his/her own writing and edit to conform to basic conventions
- Convey opinions through oral communication, role play or performances
- Apply specific guidelines to evaluate content and strategies in listening, speaking and viewing assignments
- Understand the four arithmetic operations as they relate to positive rational numbers
- Compute with and convert between different forms of positive rational numbers
- Understand the concepts of ratio and proportion, and solve problems using proportional reasons
- Understand and use line and rotational symmetry
- Determine the surface area and volume of solid figures
- Use variables to represent unknown quantities in formulae, algebraic expressions and equations
- Utilize data to make predictions
- Determine the probability of a given event

The middle school earth science course is designed to give all students an overview of common strands in earth science including, but not limited to, meteorology, geology, astronomy, oceanography, resources, and human impact on the earth.

Middle school Social Studies comprises World and Georgia Studies. The emphasis for 6th grade is as follows: the history, geography, economics and government of Europe, Latin America, Canada, and Australia.

In Grade 7, Your Child Should Learn To:

- Use oral and written language, media and technology for expressive, informative, argumentative, critical and literary purposes
- Discuss and analyze compelling works of literature
- Constructively critique writing assignments and the writing of peers
- Use descriptive words and complex sentences in a variety of writing genres
- Proofread his/her writing and edit to conform to basic conventions
- Participate in oral presentation and dramatic interpretations for various audiences
- Analyze the effects of media images, texts, and sound on viewers
- Understand and use rational numbers, including signed numbers
- Solve linear equations in one variable
- Sketch and construct plane figures
- Describe and sketch solid figures, including their cross sections, and examine properties of similarity
- Represent and describe relationships between variables in tables, graphs and formulas
- Analyze the characteristics of linear relationships
- Represent and analyze data using graphical display, measures of central tendency and measures of variation
- Solve problems, communicate mathematically, reason and evaluate mathematical arguments, make connections among mathematical ideas and in other contexts, and represent mathematics in multiple ways.

The middle school life science course is designed to give students the necessary skills for a smooth transition from elementary life science standards to high school biology standards. The purpose is to give all students an overview of common strands in life science including, but not limited to, diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, ecosystems, and biological evolution.

Middle school Social Studies comprises World and Georgia Studies. The emphasis for 7th grade is as follows: the history, geography, economics, and government of Africa, The Middle East, and Asia.

In Grade 8, Your Child Should Learn To:

- Use oral and written language, media and technology for expressive, informative, argumentative, critical and literary purposes
- Extend appreciation of written and spoken language beyond the school setting
- Produce quality essays and narratives, as well as writing drawn from research
- Use strong verbs, adjectives and adverbs and continue to develop a personal writing style
- Proofread his/her writing and edit to conform to basic conventions
- Convey, both orally and in writing, a developing interest in discussing and debating social issues
- Deepen their study of Georgia history by identifying Georgia authors and examining texts these authors created
- Understand various numerical representations, including square roots, exponents and scientific notation
- Use and apply geometric properties of plane figures, including Pythagorean Theorem
- Use a symbolic algebra to represent situations and solve problems, especially those that involve linear relationships
- Solve linear equations, systems of linear equations and inequalities
- Use and understand set theory and simple counting techniques
- Determine the theoretical probability of simple events
- Make inferences from statistical data, particularly data that can be modeled by linear functions

The middle school physical science course gives students an overview of common strands in physical science including, but not limited to, the nature of matter, laws of energy, motion and forces.

Middle school Social Studies comprises World and Georgia Studies. The emphasis for 8th grade is as follows: The history of Georgia in the context of the development of the United States, characteristics of state government, public issues, citizen rights and responsibilities, and contemporary and historical comparisons of state and national political institutions.

Standardized Tests Your Child Will Take in Middle School in 2009-2010

Test	Date	Students to be tested	Purpose of test
Iowa Test of Basic Skills Contingent upon state/local funding	October 5-8 & 13-23, 2009 (Schools create local schedule within window)	All students in grade 7	The ITBS obtains information about the performance of Georgia's students compared to that of students in a national sample, an external reference group.
PSAT	October 14, 2009	8th grade students (In participating schools)	This low-stakes national assessment is designed as a diagnostic test for students in advance of their participation in the SAT.
Cognitive Abilities Test	October 21-30, 2009 Contingent upon local funding (Schools create local schedule within window)	All students in grade 7	This mental abilities test is designed to measure a student's verbal, non-verbal, and quantitative skills.
Renzulli	November 2-13, 2009	All students in grade 7	This assessment of creativity and motivation is used in the district's process to determine gifted eligibility.
Middle Grades Writing Assessment	January 20, 2010	All 8th grade students	The Middle Grades Writing Assessment is designed to measure a student's writing ability in advance of entry into high school.
ACCESS for ELL Students	January 19-February 24, 2010	All English Language Learner (ELL) students	This state assessment is administered annually to all English Language Learners to assess their English proficiency.
CRCT Reading, Lang. Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies	April 15-27, 2010	All students in grades 6-8	This is Georgia's accountability assessment in middle schools that assesses a student's knowledge and skill level against the Georgia Performance Standards.
End of Course Test	May 6, 2010	Middle School students requiring an End of Course Test (Math I)	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses as designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
CRCT Re-Test	June 28-29, 2010 June 30, 2010	Re-Test for grade 8 Makeup Day	This re-test is administered for students in Grade 8 in Reading and Math during the spring administration.

High School

This century's high school graduates must acquire skills and diverse experiences in order to be successful in college and compete in the global workplace. The Division of High School Teaching and Learning provides high school students with the curricular opportunities that will enhance communication and critical thinking skills. High School Instructional programs include English Language Arts, ESOL, mathematics, science, social studies, world languages, career technology, physical education, health, visual arts, choral music, and instrumental music. All units of study essential to high school graduation in DeKalb County Schools must be earned in grades nine through 12, with the exception of algebra and world language which may be earned in grade 8.

Every student in Georgia is exposed to the same benchmarks within a grade level. The Georgia Department of Education has created Georgia Performance Standards, a list of learning goals for students in every grade. DeKalb County School System has incorporated these standards into the district's required curriculum.

If Your Child Is Ready For More Advanced Classes

If you believe that your high school student is ready for more challenging academics, there are a number of options available to you, including:

- Advanced Placement (AP)
- International Baccalaureate (IB)
- Joint Enrollment
- Career Technology

Advanced Placement (AP)

AP classes are college-level courses that provide students with a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum. Students are encouraged to participate in AP classes based on academic performance, teachers' recommendations, and the AP Potential Report. Motivated students who desire the challenge may take AP courses. AP courses are available to high school students in more than 30 subject areas.

In May, students enrolled in AP classes take AP exams given by The College Board and paid for by DCSS. All students enrolled in AP courses must take the corresponding AP exams to earn weighted credit. Based on the AP exam results, students may be awarded college credit at the discretion of the university.

IB Programme (IB)

DeKalb's IB Programme is a collection of challenging courses in international education and rigorous assessment. The aim of all IB Programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world. IB learners strive to explore concepts, ideas and issues, and ultimately acquire in-depth knowledge across a broad and balanced range of disciplines.

DeKalb currently has the following IB Programmes:

IB Diploma Programme (DP)
Druid Hills HS
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/druidhills
MLK Jr. HS
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/mlkinghs
Tucker HS
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/tucker

IB Middle Years Programme (MYP)
Shamrock MS
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/shamrock

IB Primary Years Programme (PYP)
Avondale ES
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/avondale
Fernbank ES
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/fernbank
Midvale ES
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/midvale

IB Prospective Schools
Salem MS
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/salem
Tucker MS
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/tuckerms

Joint Enrollment

Eligible high school students who qualify may enroll in an accredited post-secondary institution and earn both high school Carnegie units and post-secondary credit. Qualified students who wish to take advantage of post-secondary options may do so in three ways:

a. State-funded prescribed courses
b. Privately funded courses
c. Combination of state-funded prescribed and privately funded courses

For participation in post-secondary options, the student must be at least 16 years old and be classified as a junior (with a minimum of 10 units of credit) or a senior (with a minimum of 16 units of credit) and must have been accepted by an eligible institution.

The student's participation in the program is limited to the remaining amount of time normally required to complete the high school diploma, from the time of initial participation in the program, based upon the ratio of two semesters (30 semester hours) or three-quarters (45 quarter hours) of post-secondary enrollment being equivalent to one academic year of high school (one Carnegie unit).

A student must take a combination of courses at the post-secondary and/or high school level that will equal a minimum of five Carnegie units. A student may not earn more Carnegie units in one year than the maximum possible at the student's home school. The student's grade(s) must be received by the high school prior to the graduation date. A student who has not completed the requirements for graduation and who has not supplied the school with final grades will not be allowed to participate in graduation exercises until the following year.

The prospective student participant and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) must meet in a face-to-face session with a counselor and must sign a form stating that they understand the program, the courses needed for completion and the possible consequences that program participation may have on the student's plans to complete high school graduation requirements. This form must be signed prior to the student's enrollment in an eligible institution.

Career Technology

Career Technology Education (CTE) programs provide all middle and high school students the opportunity to explore and experience careers and apply their academic and technical skills in relevant, real-world settings. Career Technology Education prepares students with the knowledge and skills required for current and future careers in today's global economy by helping them

understand the connection between school, work, and setting and achieving goals. Career Technology instructional programs exist in every high school and most middle schools in DCSS. The variety of programs available provides unlimited opportunities for students to achieve academic and career success.

Students begin in the middle school by participating in career explorations. Activities expose the student to a variety of careers and reinforce academic skills. The high schools' Career Technology Programs are based on the 235 pathways from the following program areas: Architecture, Construction, Communication, & Transportation, Business & Computer Science, Engineering & Technology, Family & Consumer Science, Healthcare Science, Marketing, and JROTC. These programs provide the foundation for students to develop the academic knowledge and work-related skills required to meet entry level job requirements. The courses are designed to meet the needs of students' individual career goals. The courses prepare students for industry recognized examinations, post-secondary technical colleges or four-year college programs. Contact your local school for Career Technology course information.

Online Classes Through the DeKalb Online Academy (DOLA)

DeKalb County School System's virtual educational experience affords high school students access to learning and achievement accessible anytime, anyplace and at any pace to meet the aca-

demic desires and needs of the community. Visit www.dekalbonlineacademy.org for more information.

Grades

A report card is issued to each student each semester of the school year and indicates the progress in each course. Grades for students in grades 6-12 are displayed numerically. The grading scale for the DeKalb County School System is as follows:

A	90-100	Excellent
B	80-89	Good
C	71-79	Fair
D	70	Passing
F	Below 70	Failing

In the event that a student fails to complete a subject satisfactorily, the student is eligible to enroll in an appropriate course, which may be available in a summer semester. A reexamination may be authorized at the discretion of the teacher and/or appropriate administrator(s).

Promotion Requirements

Students who enter the ninth grade in 2005-06 and beyond are required to complete three hundred sixty hours (24 units) in order to meet the requirements for graduation. The requirements for promotion are as follows:

a) to the 10th grade, 90 hours (6 units), three (3) of which must be core courses* and three (3) elective courses;

b) to the 11th grade, 180 hours (12 units), six (6) of which must be core courses* and six (6) elective courses;

c) to the 12th grade, 270 hours (18 units), nine (9) core courses* and nine (9) elective courses.

*Core Courses: English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, World Languages

High School Graduation Requirements

Many parents are concerned that their children will not receive a high school diploma because they did not pass the Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT). Students who did not pass the GHSGT in grade 11 will be given several opportunities to pass the test in grade 12 including the summer opportunity program. To receive additional academic help, inquire within your local school.

College Entrance Exams

To apply to college, your child will need to take special standardized tests called college entrance exams. The two most vital tests for college entrance are the College Board SAT and ACT Assessments. Tests are scheduled during the year and students must register and submit a fee to take each test. The testing schedule can be found below.

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship

Georgia's HOPE Scholarship is available to Georgia residents who have demonstrated academic achievement at the high school and/or college level. The scholarship provides funds to address many of the costs associated with tuition, fees and books for students who are pursuing an associate or bachelor's degree in Georgia's public and private colleges and universities. For more information visit www.GAcollege411.org.

SAT
October 10, 2009
November 7, 2009
December 5, 2009
January 23, 2010
March 13, 2010
May 1, 2010
June 5, 2010

ACT
September 12, 2009
October 24, 2009
December 12, 2009
February 6, 2010
April 10, 2010
June 12, 2010

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM PROGRAM OF STUDY • Class of 2012 and subsequent years

Courses	*General Education Diploma*					*Transition Diploma*
	Students with Disabilities (SWD) Georgia High School Graduation Test (GHSGT) Required	**Students with Disabilities** (SWD) Georgia Alternative Assessment (GAA) Required	**College Preparatory Seal**	**Career Technology Seal**	**Honors/ Distinction Seal †**	Required course work determined by Individualized Educational Program (IEP)
English*	4	4 Access Courses	4	4	4	
Math*	4	4 Access Courses	4	4	4	
Science*	4 4th science can meet science or elective requirement	4 Access Courses	4 4th science can meet science or elective requirement	4 4th science can meet science or elective requirement	4 4th science can meet science or elective requirement	
Social Studies* Rq'd: .5 Am Govt. .5 World Geography 1 World History 1 U.S. History 1 Economics	4	4 Access Courses	4	4	4	
Health/Physical Education .5 Health .5 PE 1**	2	2 Access Courses	2	2	2	
Electives * Humanities*** World Languages* Career Technology***	6 2 units of math support classes required *No Foreign Language as determined by IEP General Electives determined by IEP	6 Access Courses	6 *2 Units of the same World Language required ***3 Units of Career Tech in the same pathway required or 3 Units of Humanities 1 General Elective	6 *1 Unit of a World Language required *** 3 Units of Career Tech in the same pathway required 2 General Electives	6 *3 Units of the same World Language required 3 General Electives	
Total	***24***	***24***	***24***	***24***	***24***	

Students must pass the Georgia High School Graduation Test in five areas to receive diploma.

†Requires 3.5 Cumulative Grade Point Average (CUGPA) and a 3.0 Core Grade Point Average (CGPA)

*Core Courses

**One unit may be exempt through validated full-year participation in school sponsored athletics, marching band, dance and/or JROTC.

***Students are required to select elective courses based on the area of concentration with a minimum of three (3) units within the area of Career Technology or a minimum of three (3) units within the area of Humanities. Career Technology units must be in one of the following ares: BUS ED, FCS, TE, T&I or JROTC. Humanities include the following areas: World Languages, +ESOL, Fine Arts, Visual Arts, Performing Arts, ELA and Social Studies.

+All identified ELL students must be enrolled in an ESOL course. Course level placement must be made per results of the ACCESS and/or WIDA Standards Language Proficiency Level. For approved ESOL delivery models, please refer to GaDOE ESOL Resource Guide.

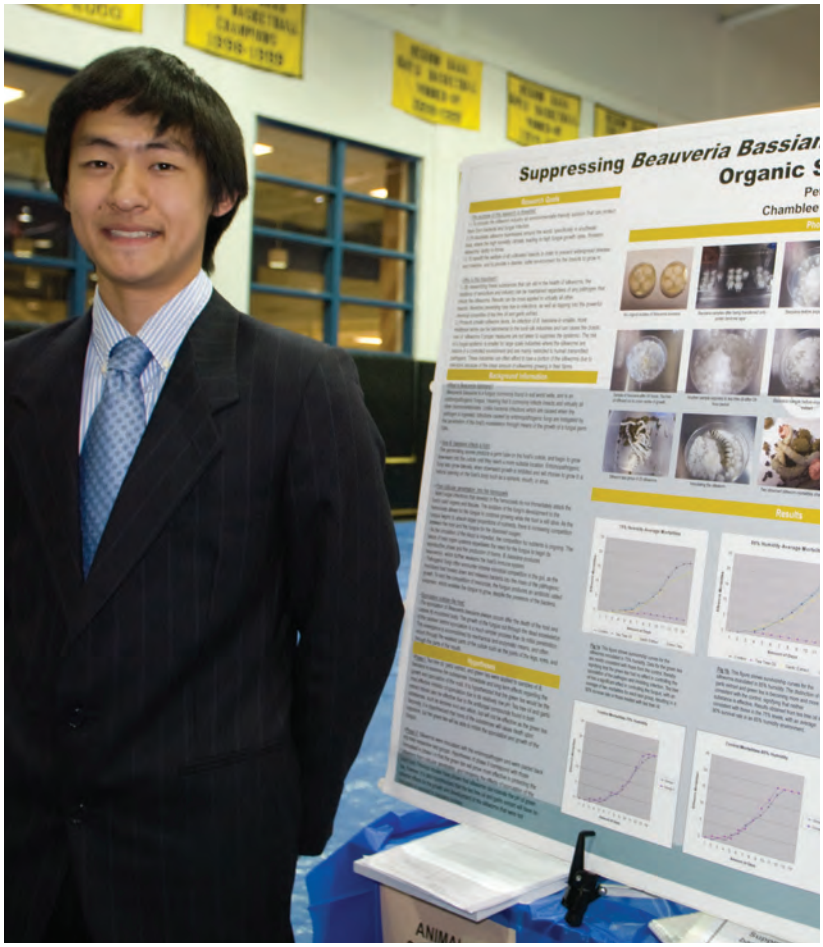
Standardized Tests Your Child Will Take in High School in 2009-2010

Test	Date	Students to be tested	Purpose of test
End-of-Course Test Online	August 17-21, 2009 Tentative	High School students requiring an End Of Course test (Makeup)	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses as designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
High School Graduation Test Re-Test	September 14-18, 2009	Social Studies, Science, Math, Language Arts for eligible students who failed or missed previous testing	Students are required to pass this state assessment in order to earn a diploma. This test window is a re-test for students not successful during previous administrations.
End-of-Course Test Online	September 21-25, 2009	High School students requiring an End of Course Test (Makeup)	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses as designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
High School Graduation Writing Test	September 30, 2009 October 1, 2009	All Grade 11 students and eligible students who failed or missed previous testing Makeup	Students are required to pass this state assessment in order to earn a diploma. This window is for both first time test takers and those requiring a re-test.
PSAT	October 14, 2009	All 9th and 10th grade students (Contingent on state and local funding)	This low-stakes national assessment is designed as a diagnostic test for students in advance of their SAT participation.
End-of-Course Test Online	October 19-23, 2009	High School students requiring a mid-semester End Of Course Test (9 Week Courses & Makeup)	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses as designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
High School Graduation Test Re-Test	November 9-13, 2009	Science, Social Studies, Language Arts, Math, for eligible students who failed or missed previous testing	Students are required to pass this state assessment in order to earn a diploma. This test window is a re-test for students not successful during previous administrations.
End-of-Course Test Online	November 16-20, 2009	High School Students requiring End of Course Test (Makeup)	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses as designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
End-of-Course Tests	December 7-15, 2009	High School Students completing the following courses: 9th Grade Literature, American Literature, Math I, Math II, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Physical Science, U. S. History, Economics	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses as designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
End-of-Course Test Online	January 5-8, 2010	High School Students requiring an End of Course Test (Makeup)	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses as designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
ACCESS for ELL Students	January 19-February 24, 2010	All English Language Learning (ELL) Students	This state assessment is administered annually to all English Language Learners to assess their English proficiency.
End-of-Course Test Online	February 8-11, 2010	High School students requiring an End of Course Test (Makeup)	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses as designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
High School Graduation Writing Test	February 24-25, 2010	For eligible students who failed or missed previous testing makeup	Students are required to pass this state assessment in order to earn a diploma. This test window is a re-test for students not successful during previous administrations.
End-of-Course Test Online	March 8-12, 2010	High School Students requiring a mid-semester End of Course Test (9 week courses & makeup)	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.

CONTINUED NEXT PAGE

Standardized Tests Your Child Will Take in High School in 2009-2010 continued

Test	Date	Students to be tested	Purpose of test
High School Graduation Test Main Administration	March 22-26, 2010	All Grade 11 students and eligible tudents who failed or missed previous testing. Lang. Arts, Math, Science, Social Studies	Students are required to pass this state assessment in order to earn a diploma This window is for both first time test takers and those requiring a re-test This test administration serves as Georgia's accountability assessment for high schools.
End-Of-Course Tests	May 3-11, 2010	High School students completing the following courses: 9th Grade Literature, American Literature, Math I, Math II, Algebra I, Geometry, Biology, Physical Science, U.S. History, Economics	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
Advanced Placement Exams	May 3-14, 2010	All AP Students	This College Board national assessment is administered at the conclusion of an AP course.
End-of-Course Tests	June 29-30, 2010 Tentative	High School students enrolled in Summer School EOCT Course	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.
High School Graduation Writing Test Re-Test	July 14, 2010	For eligible students who failed or missed previous testing	Students are required to pass this state assessment in order to earn a diploma This test window is a re-test for students not successful during previous administrations.
High School Graduation Test Re-Test	July 12-16, 2010	English Language Arts, Math, Social Studies, Science for eligible students who failed or missed previous testing	Students are required to pass this state assessment in order to earn a diploma This test window is a re-test for students not successful during previous administrations.
End-of-Course Tests	July 22 – 23, 2010 Tentative	High School students enrolled in Summer School EOCT course	This state assessment is administered at the end of courses designated by the state and serves as 15% of the student's course grade.



What All Parents Need to Know

Student Health Services

The Student Health Services department serves all students in DeKalb Schools. It consists of four registered nurses—one lead nurse and three consultants. The consultant RNs serve a cluster of schools; each including elementary, middle, and high schools. There are RNs, LPNs and UAPs (unlicensed assistive personnel) in each elementary school. The school health program expectations include self-medication administration, vision and hearing screening, or testing administration first aid, reviewing immunizations, and assisting with Scoliosis screening.

Immunizations and Health Certificates (Forms 3300 and 3231)

Form 3300
(Certificate of Eye, Ear, Dental Exam)
A student, regardless of grade level, who has never been in a Georgia public school must provide certification of eye, ear and dental examinations on the Georgia Department of Human Resources Form 3300. Any child admitted to school without a certificate must present one within 120 calendar days. Forms may be obtained and completed at the local public health departments or physician offices.

Form 3231
(Certificate of Immunization)
Georgia Law requires children attending school (Kindergarten-12th grade) to be age-appropriately immunized with all the required vaccines at the time of first entry in school. A new entrant is a child entering a school in Georgia for the first time or entering after having been absent from a Georgia school for more than 12 months or one school year. All students, regardless of grade and including foreign exchange students, must have the Georgia Department of Human Resources Form 3231 immunization certificate marked "Complete for School."

Immunizations Required for Sixth Grade

All currently enrolled children entering sixth grade on or after July 1, 2007, must meet the following requirements:

1. Two doses of Measles vaccine, two doses of Mumps vaccine, one dose of Rubella vaccine, or laboratory proof of immunity against each of these three diseases.
2. Two doses of Varicella (chicken pox) vaccine or documentation of disease or laboratory proof of immunity. At the time your child entered school, only one dose of this vaccine was required.

For more information about the immunization requirements/exemptions, please visit www.doe.k12.ga.us.

Registration Procedures

Registration is an ongoing process throughout the school year. In order to make registration easier for parents new to DeKalb or parents who are new to a school attendance zone, **the month of June** has been designated as a time that parents may use to complete any registration procedures for the next school year.

The following procedures serve to provide information for parents and to assist school personnel to register students as expeditiously as possible. The procedures contained in this document include the process for students new to DeKalb and for students moving from one DeKalb attendance zone into another DeKalb attendance zone.

Where does registration for school take place?

Student registration occurs at the school where the child is slated to attend. Students returning to the same school are expected to update and submit registration forms. Registration forms will be provided to parents by the school during May or June of the school year. Students who are new to the school district or who move into the school's attendance area from another DeKalb school attendance area are encouraged to enroll during the month of June at the local school.

When does registration take place?

Registration is ongoing. June has been designated as a month during the summer that new students can be registered if they have not already been registered. Parents of students may register during the normal school work week. Please check with local schools for specific days and hours when registration is open.

What documents are required for registration in a DeKalb County school or center?

Students new to the District must present the following:

Kindergarten

Parents or guardians must present an original or state-certified copy of the child's birth certificate. The child must be five years old (5) on or before September 1, 2009.

First Grade

Parents or guardians must present an original or state-certified copy of the child's birth certificate. The child must be six years old (6) on or before September 1, 2009.

All other grades must present:

- An original or state-certified proof of guardianship
- Social Security Card
- Certificate of Immunization (GA form 3231 – GA-DHR)
- Certificate of Eye, Ear, and Dental Examination (GA form 3300 – GA-DHR)
- Photo ID of the parent or guardian enrolling the child
- Proof of Residency documents
- Discipline report (middle and high schools)
- Withdrawal records from previous school including last grade placement

Students moving from one DeKalb attendance area to another must present the following:

Parents must update the DeKalb registration form and any school-related materials each year (Fernbank field trip permission, dismissal arrangements, clinic forms, etc.).

What documents are needed to verify Proof of Residency?

One of the following:

- Current utility bill (gas, electric, or water only – no phone bills)
- Signed lease
- Mortgage contract
- Co-residency/Statement of Legal Residence (affidavit):

(1) Current utility bill in the name of the home owner or lessee; (2) an official or current business letter from the place of employment or other official business letter addressed to the parent or guardian at their place of residence;
(3) Their last utility bill from their previous address; and (4) the information must be updated each semester by the homeowner or individual leasing a residence plus the parent of the child being enrolled must be present when the affidavit is presented to the school.

How can a homeless child register for school?

Children who meet the definition of homeless as set forth in section 103 of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act and who are located within the DeKalb County School System district may present themselves to the school's principal in the respective attendance areas where the child's parents/guardians are located. Homelessness may be characterized by the following:

- Live in a shelter or motel
- Share housing with relatives or others because you lost your housing or cannot afford housing
- Live in a campground, car, abandoned building, or other inadequate shelter
- Do not have a permanent address and/or permanent housing

- Live on the street
- Live in a temporary foster care residence
- Have been abandoned in a hospital

Homeless parents have the right to enroll their child in school:

- With or without health and school records
- Where the parent resides or in the school attended when permanently housed, if in the best interest of the child
- Where they can receive transportation to and from school
- Where they can participate in school-related activities and receive other needed services.

Is there a means for Provisional Enrollment?

The compulsory attendance law of Georgia requires parents, guardians, or other persons residing within Georgia having control or charge of a child between the 6th birthday and the 16th birthday to send such child to a public, private, or home study program. A student must be enrolled on a provisional basis and allowed to attend school for 30 days while awaiting evidence of residence, guardianship, or other local requirements.

Georgia law requires a certificate of immunization prior to enrollment. There is no mandatory grace period of enrollment while obtaining required documents to prove immunization. If the parent does not produce the appropriate paperwork, the school must notify the parent, in writing, 10 days before withdrawing a student from the school. If appropriate documentation is not produced during the 10-day notification period, the student may be considered withdrawn at the end of the 30th day. Provisional enrollment does not apply to students in grades 7-12 who are subject to disciplinary actions or felony convictions. Students pre-registering shall not be eligible for Provisional Enrollment.

How can I establish guardianship for a child under my authority?

Guardianship may be granted by the Probate Court of DeKalb County. The contact number for Probate Court is 404-371-2892. The website is www.gaprobate.org. Parents/guardians may download forms and other information.

The ELL Studies Program

The English Language Learners Studies Program provides English language support to all students identified as English Language Learners (ELLs) through our ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) services. The ELL Program is currently serving more than 11,000 international students from 170 countries, who speak more than 140 languages and dialects. Nearly 7,000 of these students have been identified as ELLs. In addition to ESOL services, the ELL Studies Program provides support to local schools through our county-wide programs such as the ESOL Endorsement Program, the ESOL Summer Enrichment Program, after-school tutorials and the Immigrant and Refugee Parent Outreach Program, among others. Our ELL team is formed by our ELLcoaches, ELL coordinator, ELL data coordinator and director. This group of specialists provides instructional support to teachers and administrators at the local schools district-wide. The specialists offer a variety of services such as professional development training, ELL data collection and analysis, teacher coaching and mentoring. They also monitor compliance to ensure identification, quality services and assessment of all our English Language Learners.

The International Student Screening Center (ISSC)

The International Student Screening Center (ISSC) provides assistance to international families in the student registration process. A multi-lingual and multi-cultural staff registers, screens and places more than 2,500 newcomers every year. Counseling, international transcript evaluations and screening are conducted by a team of certified specialists in the field. Furthermore, a group of professional translators and interpreters offers translation and interpretation services to the local schools and district offices during registration, parent/teacher conferences, SST, IEP, PTA meetings, student evidentiary hearings and district conferences.

Special Education

Under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), students ages 3-21 with any disabilities listed under that law are guaranteed a "free and appropriate education in the least restrictive environment" along with all appropriate "related services" required for a student to benefit from his/her education.

Special Education Identification Process

If you are concerned about problems your child may be having in mathematics, reading, writing, or behavior, first contact your child's teacher, who will work with you to develop an intervention to address these concerns.

If your child continues to experience difficulties and/or sufficient progress after interventions are implemented, the student is referred to the Student Support Team (SST), which typically comprises a school administrator, teachers, parents, and support staff. The Student Support Team will provide teachers with additional resources and support in developing and implementing interventions in the classroom according to the student's instructional needs. Student progress is then monitored in order to determine his/her response.

If the SST team determines that the student has not sufficiently responded to the interventions and is in need of additional support, they may request a multidisciplinary evaluation. A Parent Consent for Evaluation (PCE) is required to conduct the evaluation, and a copy of Parent Rights is provided to the legal guardian(s). For more information on Parent Rights, see http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_exceptional.aspx.

A meeting comprises relevant staff members and the parent(s) will be held after the evaluation is completed. The results of the evaluation will be discussed, and a determination of whether the student is eligible for special education services in one or more of the following areas is recommended:

- Autism
- Intellectual Disabilities
- Deaf and Hard of Hearing
- Visually Impaired, Emotional and Behavioral Disorders
- Significantly and Developmentally Delayed
- Specific Learning Disabilities
- Speech/Language
- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Orthopedically Impaired
- Other Health Impaired

Once determined eligible, an Individual Education Program (IEP) meeting is conducted, and an educational plan is collaboratively developed. Visit www.doe.k12.ga.us for more information on eligibility criteria.

Services and Environments

The DeKalb County School System provides a full continuum of service delivery models, services and programs. It is our policy to ensure that to the maximum extent appropriate, students with disabilities shall be educated with students who are not disabled; and that special classes, separate schooling, or other removal of students with disabilities from the regular class environment shall occur only when the nature or severity of the disability is such that education in regular classes with the use of supplementary aids and services cannot be achieved satisfactorily.

ADA 504 Compliance

Section 504 is civil rights legislation for persons with disabilities. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 is major federal legislation that affects all entities that receive federal funds, such as schools. This act is designed to protect individuals with disabilities from discrimination based upon the disability. Individuals who are otherwise qualified are protected. In DCSS, the SST serves as the 504 committee. The committee serves to determine eligibility for 504 at the local school level.

Students Who Are 3-5 Years Old

Beginning at ages 3-5 years of age, students identified with a disability or who are significantly developmentally delayed are eligible to receive special education services. Support services from specialists in speech and language, vision, and physical and occupational therapy, assist teachers and students in achieving educational goals. In all aspects of the program, from referral to screening to assessment to eligibility to educational planning, parental involvement is vital to the student's success. All service delivery models provide individual and group meetings with appropriate resource personnel as well as opportunities for parents to become involved in school activities. Students enrolled in the Preschool and Kindergarten Special Education Program are served in selected sites strategically located throughout the DeKalb County School System. Service delivery includes:

- Home-based services – provided by an itinerant teacher and/or therapist in the home where parents are trained to help facilitate learning in the student's natural environment.
- Community-based services – provide instruction for the student and the staff in the student's community-based placement. Itinerant teachers and/or therapist(s) instruct students on identified goals and teach staff how to accommodate the individual needs of the student.
- Facility-based services – provide educational programming for students in self-contained or resource classes in elementary schools. Instruction in small classes or groups with service from a variety of special education resource personnel provides each student with opportunities to succeed.

For further information, contact the Office of Special Education, 678-676-1800. You may also contact a parent mentor (Parents of a child with a disability who work for the system as a connection between schools and families) at 678-676-1897.

Psychological Services

A school psychologist is assigned to each school within the district. This professional is specially trained to identify and provide assistance for students who may be having problems at school, most of whom are referred by the local school's Student Support Team (SST) or the IEP committee.

The school psychologist recommends strategies/interventions for the home and school to meet a student's needs and services may include:

- Assessment
- Consultation
- Direct intervention
- Educational/training programs
- Research

Questions to ask if your child is considered for an evaluation:

- What interventions are in action to address my child's learning needs, and have there been positive results?
- Do the interventions need to be modified to meet my child's needs?
- Is my child's behavior affecting his/her ability to learn?
- Who has been monitoring my child's progress?
- How can I support the intervention at home?
- What evaluation materials and tests will be administered?
- Will there be a translator or an interpreter available for my child during the evaluation?
- How should I prepare my child for the evaluation?

Hospital and/or Home-Bound Instruction

Hospital/Home-Bound (HHB) Instruction is designed for children unable to attend school for a period of time long enough to significantly interfere with their education. These children MUST be enrolled in a DeKalb County School and will remain on roll while receiving hospital/home-bound instruction.

Hospital/Homebound Instruction for any DeKalb County School System student who meets the eligibility criteria is coordinated through the HHB Office of the Department of Exceptional Education and Student Support Services. The Student Support Team (SST)/504 Committee or the IEP Team and the local school principal will manage the process for all students.

School Social Work Services

Any student attending a DeKalb County school is eligible for social work services. To obtain the assistance of the school social worker, a written referral can be made by lead teachers, counselors, assistant principals, and principals.

School social workers strengthen students' learning opportunities, achievements and socio-emotional functioning by providing the following services:

- Assisting families in identifying community services and resources
- Providing casework services to students who have problems adjusting to school
- Facilitating individual and group support sessions
- Consulting with teachers, administrators, and parents regarding classroom behavior
- School policies and procedures affecting student performance
- Acting as mandated reporters of suspected child abuse
- Responding to suicidal statements made by students
- Participating in crisis intervention teams
- Coordinating with the juvenile court to uphold the Georgia Compulsory School Attendance Law
- Participating as an active member of relevant special committees
- Securing support resources for homeless students

Guidance and Counseling

The mission of the DCSS counseling program is to facilitate the development of student competencies in the academic, social/personal, and career domains. The counseling curriculum is delivered to all students through individual, small group and large group sessions. Each school incorporates a team approach in which all school personnel, parents, and community work in a collaborative effort to enhance the success of all students in today's changing multi-cultural society.

All DeKalb counselors support instruction by helping students prepare for their cognitive experiences and by helping to dispel affective disorder in their lives. Counselors work with both faculty and family to assure the best possible learning experience, resulting in each DeKalb student's learning to learn, learning to live and learning to work.

Mentoring Programs

Teacher/Student Mentor Program

Caring, concerned staff members are paired with children who are nominated by the faculty as being able to benefit from one-to-one encouragement, support, and monitoring of personal, academic, and behavioral goals. The total number of staff members participating during each school year is approximately 8,000. Because many of the mentors work with more than one student, the number of students served far exceeds 6,000. Data shows students improve their grades, attendance, and conduct after at least one year in the program.

Partners 'n Pals Mentor Program

Individuals from the community and corporate participants in the Partners in Education Program who choose to volunteer, are fingerprinted, receive training, and are matched with a particular student. The volunteer spends 30 minutes a week with the student at the partner school on a regular, predictable schedule. The goal of this program is improved student achievement.

Graduation Coaches

Graduation Coaches are assigned to many middle and high schools in the state of Georgia. The graduation coaches provide individualized and group assistance to students regarding graduation including, but not limited to, analyzing data to identify students or subgroups with potential high school graduation problems; planning, implementing, and tracking individual high school graduation plans; identifying and resolving barriers to graduation; and facilitating career choices and planning.

For more information about the DCSS Mentoring Program, contact Student Support Services, 678-676-1883.

Prevention/Intervention

The DCSS Prevention/Intervention Department supports schools through services and resources designed to foster a positive school climate and pro-social skills development. Programs supported by this department have the specific aim of reducing and stopping violence as well as preventing tobacco, alcohol, and drug use.

The Prevention/Intervention Department has been a vital component of the Division of Student Support since 1990. This department designs, implements, and monitors substance abuse and violence prevention activities for the students in the district. This department maintains documentation and files local, state, and federal reports to ensure the district's compliance with Title IV and No Child Left Behind federal mandates, Georgia Standards and drug education requirements.For more information, contact the Prevention/Intervention Department, 678-676-1820.

School Choice

DeKalb boasts more public school choice offerings than any other school district in the state. There are a number of programs in the DeKalb County School System that offer students the opportunity to go to a school other than their "home" school, that is, the school

that serves their home address. All Choice Programs/schools offer specialized curricula designed to cultivate specific talents and abilities in students.

Magnet Programs in Schools

If your child has a special interest or talent, you may want to research one the magnet programs or schools DeKalb offers. Magnet programs provide high-quality instruction with an emphasis on a special area of study.

The magnet programs address the following themes of study:

- Higher Achievers
- Performing Arts
- Math/Science
- Environmental, Energy, Engineering
- Computer Technology

Theme Schools

The Theme school is an elementary school within a community which attracts students from neighboring schools by offering a comprehensive, interdisciplinary educational program in a highly structured setting. Continued enrollment is contingent upon compliance with the Theme School regulations and requirements that include the completion of parent involvement service hours. There are currently seven theme schools in the DCSS.

Charter Schools

Charter Schools operate under a performance contract, or "charter," with the school district. Charter schools are free from many of the regulations and rules created for traditional public schools. There are five conversion charter schools (existing public schools that have converted to charter status) and five start-up charter schools (new schools created by private individuals, private organizations or state or public entities) in the DeKalb County School System. For further information, visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us for DCSS Charter locations.

NCLB Transfers

As mandated by the U.S. No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, all schools are evaluated according to whether or not their students are making Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). Students attending a school that fails to meet AYP three years in a row can exercise school choice to a school within the district that is not designated as needs improvement. For information regarding AYP transfers visit our website, www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/improvement.

HB251 Student Transfers

Effective July 1, 2009, parents or guardians residing within the DeKalb County School System attendance area can request to have their child transferred to another public school in the DeKalb County School System as long as the school district has determined that there is available classroom space at the requested school after all assigned students have been enrolled. As stated by law, if the parent elects to exercise this choice, the parent assumes all costs associated with transporting the child to and from the selected school as long as the child remains at that school. For further information, visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us.

Student Attendance

All stakeholders agree that student achievement is the primary purpose of school. However, it is also understood that students cannot learn if they are not present to receive instruction from the teachers. Therefore, student attendance is key to student success. Unless hindered by a lawfully excused absence, students are expected to attend school each day. Upon returning to school, the student should present documentation to the teacher to verify that the absence was excused (parent note, doctor's excuse, etc.). The following reasons constitute an excused absence:

- Personal illness
- Serious illness or death of a family member
- Religious holiday
- Instances when attendance could be hazardous as determined by DCSS
- Registering to vote/voting in a public election
- Service as a Page in the legislature
- Absences (up to five days) for students whose parents are in the armed forces who are called to duty or home on leave from overseas deployment in a combat zone

Any attendance issues that do no fall within the above reasons must be discussed in advance with the school principal. State law indicates that any parent/guardian who does not comply with compulsory attendance mandates (O.C.G.A 20-2-690.1[a]) shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and, upon conviction thereof, shall be subject to a fine not less than $25 and not greater than $100, imprisonment not to exceed 30 days, community service, or any combination of such penalties, at the discretion of the court having jurisdiction. Each day's absence from school in violation of this part after the child's school system notifies the parent/guardian of five unexcused days of absence shall constitute a separate offense (O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690.1[c]).

Student Dress Code

The atmosphere of a school must be conducive to learning. A student's appearance can positively or negatively impact the climate of a school. Students must adhere to DCSS dress code requirements. Students who fail to comply with the DCSS dress code requirements may be charged with Offense #25 – Student Dress Code Violation as outlined in the Student Rights and Responsibilities Handbook.

- Students are expected to follow all school rules governing safety in specialized programs that may require the wearing of protective clothing, safety glasses, or other similar requirements.
- Clothing or jewelry that disrupts the educational process or endangers the health or safety of other students, staff or visitors is prohibited.
- Clothing, insignia, symbols, or adornments worn or carried on or about a student that promote gangs, and the use of controlled substances, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco are prohibited.
- The wearing of clothing that shows offensive and/or vulgar words, pictures, diagrams, drawings, or includes words or phrases of a violent nature, a disruptive nature, a sexual nature, or words or phrases that are derogatory regarding a person's ethnic background, color, race, national origin, religious belief, sexual orientation, or disability is prohibited.
- The wearing of pants below the waist line, bare midriffs, halter tops/tank tops, tops/blouses revealing cleavage, short shorts, net/see through garments, flip-flops, between-the-toe shoes without heels, bedroom shoes, or other footwear that interferes with freedom of movement and dresses, pants, or skirts with high splits is prohibited. Note: Students/parents are urged to review local school handbooks for any additional requirements related to student dress.

Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TAADRA)

Section a.1 Georgia Code Section 40-5-22, Georgia's Teenage and Adult Driver Responsibility Act (TAADRA) of 1997, requires that local school systems certify that a student's attendance pattern and discipline record permits him or her to have a Georgia driver's permit or license. When such a minor submits an application for a Georgia driver's license or instruction permit, the applicant must present proof that he or she satisfies one of the following conditions as specified in O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22 (a.1):

1. Is enrolled in and not under expulsion from a public or private school and has not had 10 or more school days of unexcused absences in the current academic year or 10 or more school days of unexcused absences in the previous academic year;

2. Is enrolled in a home education program that satisfies the reporting requirements of all state laws governing such program. The Department of Driver Services shall notify such minor of his or her ineligibility for an instruction permit or driver's license at the time of application;
3. Has received a high school diploma, a general educational development (GED) diploma, a special diploma, or a certificate of high school completion;
4. Has terminated his or her secondary education and is enrolled in a postsecondary school or is pursuing a general educational development (GED) diploma.

A student who does not meet the above conditions is considered by state law to be non-compliant. **This results in a student having his/her driver's license/learner's permit, the ability to acquire a license/permit, or the privilege to operate a motor vehicle suspended for one year.**
A non-compliant student is one who:

A. Has dropped out of school without graduating and has remained out of school for 10 consecutive school days;
B. Has 10 or more school days of unexcused absences in the current academic year or 10 or more school days of unexcused absences in the previous academic year; or
C. Has been found in violation by the Student Evidentiary Hearing Committee of one of the following offenses, has received a change in placement for committing one of the following offenses, or has waived his or her right to a hearing and pleaded guilty to one of the following offenses:
   i. Threatening, striking, or causing bodily harm to a teacher or other school personnel;
   ii. Possession or sale of drugs or alcohol on school property or at a school sponsored event;
   iii. Possession or use of a weapon on school property or at a school-sponsored event. For purposes of this subparagraph, the term "weapon" shall be defined in accordance with Code Section 16-11-127.1 but shall not include any part of an archeological or cultural exhibit brought to school in connection with a school project.
   iv. Any sexual offense prohibited under Chapter 6 of Title 16; or
   v. Causing substantial physical or visible bodily harm to or seriously disfiguring another person, including another student. O.C.G.A. § 40-5-22 (a.1).

The local school district central office is required by this law to report information regarding non-compliance to the Department of Driver Services. The local school district must report this information from the public schools in its district, from private schools attended by students who reside in the public school district, and from home schools in the public school district. *The Department of Technical and Adult Education shall be responsible for submitting non-compliance data for students who withdraw from a public, private or home school to pursue a general educational development (GED) diploma.*

Upon receiving the *Certificate of Non-Compliance*, **the minor may request in writing a hearing within 10 business days from the date of receipt.** Within 30 days after receiving a written request for a hearing, the Department of Driver Services (DDS) shall hold a hearing. DDS shall sustain its order of suspension or rescind such order. DDS is authorized to grant an exemption from the provisions to a minor, upon such minor's petition, if there is clear and convincing evidence that the enforcement of the provisions upon such minor would create an undue hardship upon the minor or the minor's family or if there is clear and convincing evidence that the enforcement of the provisions would act as a detriment to the health or welfare of the minor. If no hearing is requested within the 10 business days specified above, the right to a hearing shall have been waived and the instruction permit or driver's license of the minor shall remain suspended.

Student Discipline and Due Process Hearings

Safe, orderly learning environments promote student success and positive well-being of the children, administration, faculty, staff and visitors in the school. To achieve this goal, students are expected to adhere to rules and regulations, respect others and strive towards self-discipline. To guide students, their parents and other stakeholders in this important effort, they are urged to read and understand the contents of the district's Code of Student Conduct. This document indicates behaviors that are in violation of school rules, describes procedures and defines terms relative to student discipline. Students are given a copy of the Code, taught its contents and administered a test. Parents are asked to partner with their local school by reviewing and reinforcing the expectations in the Code with their child. This partnership will aid in the reduction of discipline incidents in schools. For more information on due process hearings, go to www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/administration/safety.

Bullying

Bullying is any ongoing physical or verbal mistreatment where there is an imbalance of power and the victim (target) is exposed repeatedly to negative actions on the part of one or more other students. Bullying has no place in schools and must be addressed. State law prohibits and mandates a discipline hearing after the third incident of bullying with a referral to an alternative school setting upon a finding of guilt (O.C.G.A. §§ 20-2-751.4 and 20-2-145). The DeKalb School System WILL NOT TOLERATE bullying and other forms of harassment and, therefore, reserves the right to punish

students after the first incident and upon a finding of guilt. Such punishment may include suspension, expulsion, or a referral to an alternative school. Students, parents/guardians and other stakeholders may report incidents of bullying to an administrator, teacher, counselor or other staff member by using the complaint procedures indicated in the Code of Student Conduct or by calling 1-877 SAY-STOP (GaDOE Hotline). Please note: Any form of electronic bullying (cyberbullying) using school equipment, school networks, e-mail systems or committed at school is strictly prohibited.

Electronic Communication Devices (cell phones, pagers, PDAs, etc)

Although it is understood that electronic communication devices are wonderful technological tools for communication, information and other related uses, they can be a distraction to the learning environment at the school. Moreover, these devices can cause safety concerns and compromise instruction and assessment integrity. It is DCSS policy that, even though students may have electronic communication devices in their possession, any use (including texting, taking pictures/video, etc.) of these devices is prohibited during instructional time.

Instructional time is defined as the official start of the school day until the end of the school day. Students are asked to turn off these devices (not place them on vibrate or silent mode) and to put them away during this time. Furthermore, parents/guardians are asked to refrain from calling/emailing/texting their child during instructional time.

In the event of an emergency, the parent/guardian may contact the student via the school's phone system. All violations of these expectations will result in confiscation of the device. Moreover, the confiscated device will be returned only to the parent/guardian. It should be noted that no one is allowed to take pictures or video of other persons at school without the expressed permission of the principal.

For more information on electronic communication devices, please refer to the Code of Student Conduct.

Transportation

The Department of Transportation supports the educational day by providing safe, professional and efficient transportation to eligible students to all approved activities. This includes travel to and from school, educational field trips, and other qualifying activities such as athletic events and competitions.

Every school day our buses drive more than75,000 miles (roughly enough to circle the earth three times) and transport nearly 80,000 students. Over the course of a school year, our fleet of buses travels a staggering **14 million miles!** To put this number in perspective, those are enough miles for a bus to travel to the moon and back **28 times!** For more information or to locate your route, contact the Department of Transportation, 678 676-1300, or visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/~transportation/index.asp.

Food Services

The DCSS Food Service and Nutrition Program exists to promote lifetime wellness to DeKalb County students and staff by serving meals that are high-quality, nutritious, enjoyable and economical. The school district currently serves more than 18 million meals and meal equivalents each school year, with an average total of 95,000 meals per day.

Pay for Student Meals Using a Credit Card or Debit Card

DCSS Nutrition has an online payment system that allows parents to add money to their children's accounts using a credit card or debit card. At the site, MyLunchMoney.com, personal and payment card information is protected by advanced Internet security. Once an account is established, parents can check balances and fund their children's accounts from their computer. Those who do not have access to the Internet may use the convenient sign-up form for payment by phone or fax. The forms are available from DCSS food service managers.

Meal Prices 2009-2010

Elementary School	
Breakfast	$1.10
Lunch	$1.75
Middle and High School	
Breakfast	$1.20
Lunch (Middle)	$1.90
Lunch (High)	$2.00
For Adults	
Breakfast	$1.50
Lunch	$2.75
Milk	$ .50
Reduced Meals	
Breakfast	$ .30
Lunch	$ .40

School Regions

DeKalb County School System is divided into six regions with an area assistant superintendent assigned to each region. These offices are designed to provide administrative support to schools that are located within their regions. To find out in which region your child's school is located, visit www.dekalb.k12.ga.us and click on Superintendent, then Region.

About the School Board

The DeKalb Board of Education is the official policy making body for the DeKalb County School System. It, along with the Superintendent, sets the school system's mission and goals. The nine board members are elected by seven districts and two super districts in DeKalb County on a four-year rotating cycle.

The DeKalb Board of Education holds meetings throughout the year on a regular schedule, establishing the first Monday in each month as the official dates for the work sessions. Business meetings will be held on the second Monday of each month, with the exception of the December meeting, which will be combined with the work session and held on the first Monday. All business meetings begin at 6 pm and will be held in the Board Room. All DeKalb Board of Education meetings are broadcast live on Channel 24 on Comcast, DeKalb's Educational Access Channel, PDS TV-24. The meetings are also streamed live and archived on www.PDS24.tv.

The DeKalb County Board of Education encourages citizens to be involved in public education. To facilitate this involvement, the Board listens to citizen comments at its regularly scheduled work sessions. Those wishing to speak, must submit in writing to the board office via letter, fax, or e-mail a request to speak, which must be received no later than noon on the day of the Board work session. Such requests must include information regarding the topic to be addressed and previous steps taken to resolve the concern prior to making the request to speak. In addition, speakers may sign-up in person between 4:45 and 5:45 p.m. on the day of the work session. Each speaker addressing the Board shall have a maximum of three minutes to speak. The citizen comment portion of the meeting will be a maximum of one hour or 20 speakers.

Meeting information can be accessed at www.dekalb.k12.ga.us. Click on Board of Education and Meeting Information.

Helpful Links

DeKalb County Assessment
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/testing

DeKalb County Test Scores
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/testing/testscores.html

Georgia Dept. of Education Assessment & Accountability Division
http://public.doe.k12.ga.us/ci_testing.aspx

College Board
www.collegeboard.com

ACT, Inc.
www.actstudent.org

Georgia Dept. of Education
www.doe.k12.ga.us

Georgia OnLine Assessment (Directions for access)
www.dekalb.k12.ga.us/instruction/testing/oas.html

Governor's Office of Student Achievement
www.gaosa.org

Textbook Parent Guide
www.phschool.com/cmp2/parent_guide.html

Student Link for Homework Assistance
www.phschool.com/comp2

Math Tutorial
www.purplemath.com

Math Tutorial
www.freemathhelp.com

Math Tutorial
www.coolmath.com

Online CRCT Preparation
www.mathscore.com

Cool Math 4 Kids
www.coolmath4kids.com

Math Problems Online Practice
www.AAAmath.com

Math Vocabulary
www.mathforum.org/library/drmath

World of Math
www.math.com

Algebra Homework Help
www.algebra.com

A Plus Math Practice Online
www.aplusmath.com

Adding, Subtracting, Multiplying and Dividing Fractions
www.math.com/homeworkhelp/HotSubjects_fractions.html

Comparing Numbers
www.321know.com/cmp22_x2.htm

Ordering Numbers
www.321know.com/g33_orx1.htm

Estimating and Rounding
www.math.com/school/subject1/lessons/S1U1L3GL.html

Rounding Flashcards
www.aplusmath.com/Flashcards/rounding.html

Least Common Multiple Website
www.aaamath.com/fra66i-lcm.html

GCF
www.math.com/school/subject1/lessons/S1U3L2GL.html

Factors and Multiples
www.math.com/school/subject1/lessons/S1U3L1GL.html

DeKalb County School System
3770 North Decatur Road
Decatur, GA 30032
Tel: 678-676-1200

www.dekalb.k12.ga.us

premier
DEKALB
County School System