DeKalb County School District
Introduction & History of Student Assignment

Presented by: Sarita M. Smith

Introductions

Mr. Diijon DaCosta Sr.
Board Chair
District 6

Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce
Vice Chair
District 3

Dr. Devon Q. Horton
Superintendent

Mrs. Anna Hill
District 1

Mrs. Whitney McGinniss
District 2

Ms. Allyson Gevertz
District 4

Mrs. Vickie B. Turner
District 5

Dr. Joyce Morley
District 7

Introductions

Dr. Triscilla Weaver
Chief Equity Officer
DeKalb County School District

Sarita Smith
Executive Director, Student
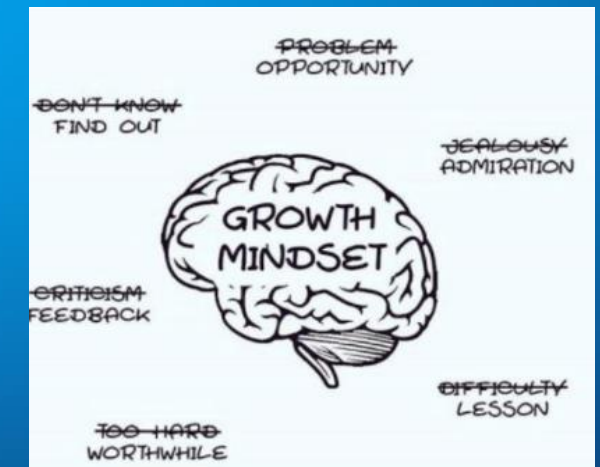Assignment
DeKalb County School District

Agenda

- ✓ Establish meeting norms and review schedule
- ✓ Review SAP Advisory purpose and non-purpose
- ✓ Understand SAP goals, outcomes, and big question
- ✓ SAP Defined
- ✓ Review the road to a recommendation and resources
- ✓ Engage in a DCSD history walk
- ✓ Get to know our programs
- ✓ Understand current student assignment policy
- ✓ Understand what's next

Meeting Norms

DON'T MAKE ASSUMPTIONS
TODAY

TRUST THE PROCESS

Here & Now

Impossible

Collective IMPACT

PROBLEM OPPORTUNITY
DON'T KNOW FIND OUT
JEALOUSY ADMIRATION
GROWTH MINDSET
CRITICISM FEEDBACK
DIFFICULTY LESSON
TOO HARD WORTHWHILE

STUDENT ASSIGNMENT
Reimagining DeKalb

DeKalb County
School District

Today's Working Session Schedule

Task	Resources	Time Allotment
Establish meeting norms and review schedule	See slide deck	6:40 – 6:45 pm
Review SAP Advisory purpose and non-purpose	See slide deck	6:45 – 6:50 pm
Understand SAP goals, outcomes, and big question	See slide deck & Table Partners	6:50 – 7:00 pm
SAP Defined	See slide deck	7:00 – 7:10 pm
Review the road to a recommendation and resources	See slide deck	7:10 – 7:20 pm
Engage in a DCSD history walk & share out	See slide deck	7:20 – 8:00 pm
Get to know our programs	School Choice Website	8:00 – 8:15 pm
Understand current student assignment policy	DeKalb Policies	8:15 – 8:20 pm
Understand what's next	See slide deck	8:20 – 8:25 pm
Exit Ticket	See slide deck	8:25 – 8:30 pm

DeKalb County
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Advisory Purpose and Non-Purpose

Purpose

- **Serve as a critical thought partner in assessing systems related to buildings, boundaries, and programs.**
- Serve as a critical thought partner in assessing DCSD's current student assignment procedures and policies.
- Provide impartial recommendations suited to dismantling structural inequities.
- **Use data to make informed decisions and recommendations.**
- Recommend ways for DCSD to become fiscally efficient.
- Review and recommend ways to **reimagine** DCSD programs and offerings so all students have a quality education.
- Recommend boundaries, buildings, and programs suited for the current and projected enrollment.

Non-Purpose of the Advisory

- To make **final decisions** regarding policy or standard operating procedures related to DCSD.
- **To determine the daily operations of schools or programs.**
- To direct DCSD to make specific changes within the purview of the Board of Education.
- **To make decisions that only impact your children or your community.**

Goals, Outcomes and Big Questions

Vision

To reimagine DCSD as it relates to **programs**, **boundaries**, and **buildings** using data **holistically**, with a cadence to review every **5 years** to align with E-SPLOST.

This comprehensive planning process will help position **ALL** of our students upon graduation to **E**nroll, **E**mploy, engage in **E**ntrepreneurship, and **E**nlist.

Outcome (this session)

To understand the SAP vision and process and gain a foundational understanding of DeKalb's history as it relates to student assignments.

Big Question

How do we prepare ourselves to reimagine in a county that is economically divided and where the needed changes will undoubtfully impact the status quo?

SAP Defined and Process

What is student assignment?

Student Assignment is a process that aligns the values of the community and district to assign students to schools and programs, review boundary lines, and determine school opening or closing.

SAP Advisory Committee Defined and Meeting Expectations

The SAP Committee will assist in the reimagining of DeKalb County School District. The advisory committee will review the District's policies, programs, boundaries, and building usages.

The SAP advisory committee will triangulate data from multiple sources. This will include (a) community and district stakeholders, (b) enrollment and projection data, and (c) operation and finance data to develop recommendations that meet the vision.

This committee will use several decision-making processes to reduce emotional drivers and elevate critical thinking, sound decision-making, and analytics.

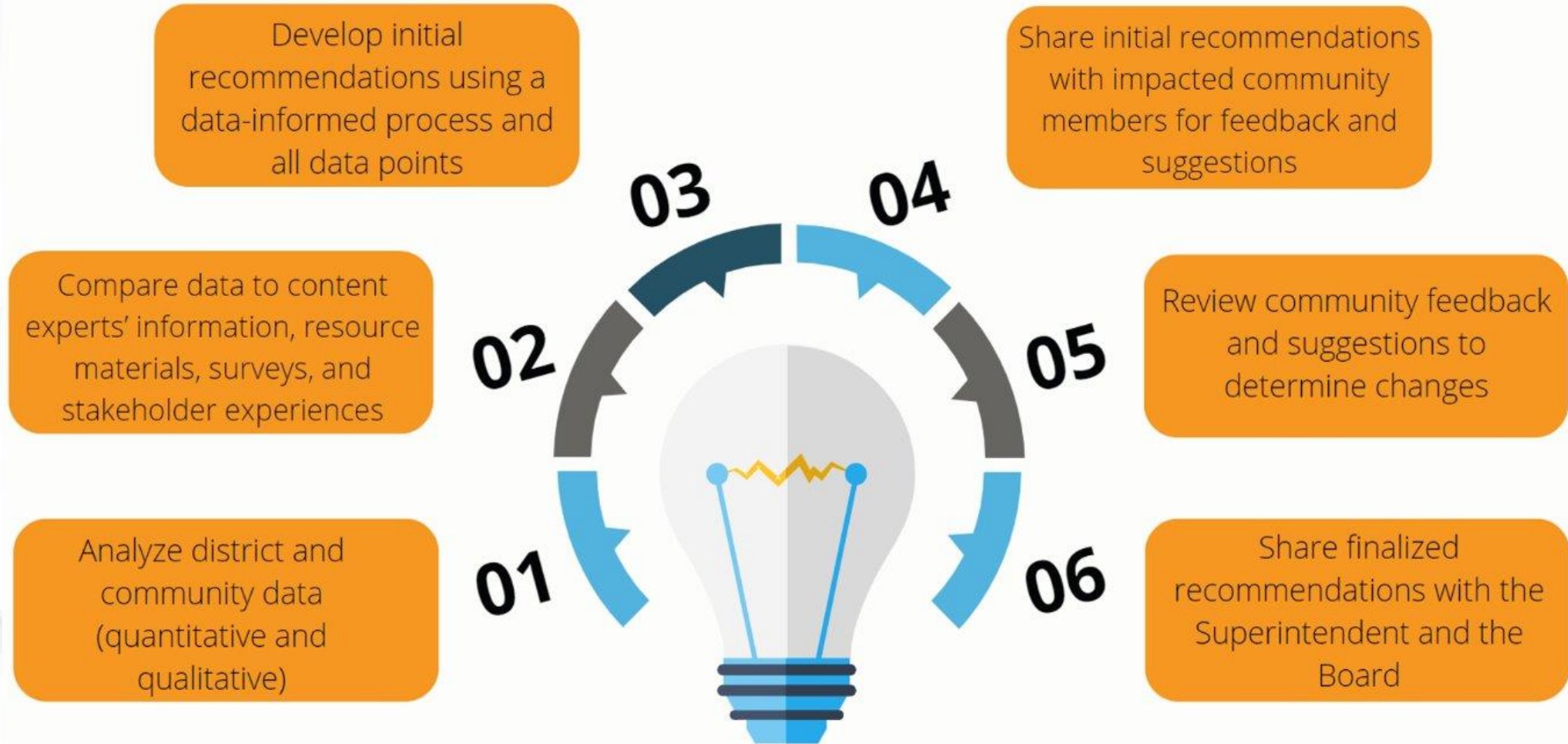| Time Commitment	Locations	Days/Time
This is about an 18-month long commitment.	Different committee members will meet in the several locations throughout the district. North – Cross Keys HS Central – St. Mountain HS Southwest – Southwest HS Southeast – Miller Grove HS	Wednesday evenings 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm

Road to SAP Recommendations

SAP Recommendation Process

03 — Develop initial recommendations using a data-informed process and all data points

04 — Share initial recommendations with impacted community members for feedback and suggestions

02 — Compare data to content experts' information, resource materials, surveys, and stakeholder experiences

05 — Review community feedback and suggestions to determine changes

01 — Analyze district and community data (quantitative and qualitative)

06 — Share finalized recommendations with the Superintendent and the Board

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Timeline & Website

S.A.P. TIMELINE

1 Spring /Fall 2024
Kick-Off and SAP
Committee Selection

2 Fall 2024/Winter 2026
SAP Planning, Committee
Meetings, and Data Analytics

3 Winter 2026
Community Review
Preliminary Recommendations

4 Winter/Spring 2026
Share Final
Recommendations

SAP Website

DeKalb County School District Post *Brown v. Board*

DeKalb History 1873 - 2024

DeKalb County School District (DCSD) was established in 1873 when residents raised $4,200 to open public schools. Named for Baron Johann DeKalb, a German soldier who aided the colonists in their fight for independence, DeKalb County, Georgia, is the community served by the DeKalb County School District. DeKalb County School District is Georgia's third largest school system, covering 257 square miles.

The DeKalb County School System (DCSS) had been operating a "dual system" of schools for its citizens. The system's only response to Brown v. Board of Education was to institute a building program to upgrade the quality of schools designated for African Americans – in effect, finally complying with the Plessy v. Ferguson decision of 1896, which required "separate but equal" facilities. Some residents continued fighting for equality, eventually leading to policy changes and more integrated schools through programming. DeKalb schools largely remained segregated.

Today, in 2024, The District serves over 92,000 students, 138+ schools and centers, and 14K employees, including 6,600 teachers. Students and parents speak over 166+ languages and represent over 155+ nations. School choice options are available in nearly 50 schools to include theme, magnet, dual language, IB, charter, and Montessori options.

DCSD School Desegregation Timeline

Brown v. Board of Education (**1954**)

In this milestone decision,
the Supreme Court ruled
that separating children in public
schools based on race was unconstitutional.

1965 The system's
only response to Brown v. Board
of Education was to institute
a building program to upgrade the quality
of schools designated
for African Americans. DeKalb agreed in
writing to desegregation plans.

In **1966**, the DCSS instituted a "freedom
of choice" plan, which allowed students to
transfer, on a voluntary basis, to another
school.

Litigation in DeKalb County, Georgia over
school desegregation began in **1968** with
the filing of a class action lawsuit against
the DeKalb County Board of Education to
end the practice of racial segregation
(*Pitts v. Cherry*).

In **1969,** the U.S. District Court for the
Northern District of Georgia imposed a
desegregation plan upon the DeKalb
schools and retained authority to oversee
the implementation of the plan.

The DCSD was in litigation for school desegregation from **1968 to 1997**.

1969
"freedom of choice" plan abolished and neighborhood school attendance plan that had been developed.

1978-1979
In this class action lawsuit parents of black school children challenge that portion of the district court's desegregation plan which <u>does not require</u> the DeKalb County school system to provide transportation for kindergarten children who elect to participate in the voluntary majority-to-minority transfer program.

1989 DeKalb remained under complete court supervision until full integration was achieved. They met the requirements for student assignments, transportation, physical facilities, and extracurricular activities, but not faculty assignments and resource allocations.

In **1972**, the DCSS started a program to further desegregation in the county called the **Majority to Minority (M-to-M)** program, it allowed students who were members of the majority race in their neighborhood school to transfer to a school in which their race was a minority group.

The Circuit Court ruled in **1985** that any of the school's expansion plans had to be implemented in a way that "furthers desegregation and helps eliminate the effects of the previous dual school system" and sent the case back to the District Court to evaluate the "segregation" effects of the school board's expansion plan.

1997
DeKalb County Schools were declared integrated and therefore the school board no longer required judicial supervision.

1993 *(edited 9.19.24)*
Theme schools begin.

1997
ESPLOST Begins.

1999
DCSD Begin Middle Schools
State changes Quality Based Education (QUE) grade band funding.

Now DCSD begins building middle schools. Redistricted to fit the new programming and grade bands.

2000s
Housing boom in the South increased population in southern DeKalb.

Redistricting followed building new schools in the south and a few other parts of the district.

2001
No Child Left Behind begin grading schools. The conversation about school choice and charters begin.

2008
Consolidation because too many old small school and the neighborhood population didn't warrant them any longer .

2011
Major school consolidations due to the impact of the recession.

2011 - 2024
ESPLOST funding and enrollment projections drive redistricting. School choice remains a vehicle for integration and school programming.

DCSD Programs

DCSD Program Development

Between 1972 and 2000, many of the DCSD programs were developed based on desegregation laws and the M-to-M policy. There were several variations of how and which programs were developed, but many were in response to integration. We have also implemented best practice programs that meet community members' needs. There are currently no consistent metrics to create new programs or analyze current ones in DeKalb.

DCSD Program History

Freedom of Choice (1966-1972)

Minority-to-Majority (M-to-M) (1972-2000)

Art Magnets (1986-Present) — **Type**

1986	Arts @ Avondale HS (1986)	Program
1990	Arts Avondale/Atherton/Hooper (1990)	Program
2002	DSA (2002)	Stand-alone
2002	DESA/DAA (2002)	Stand-alone

High Achievers Magnets (1988-Present) — **Type**

1988	Kittredge High Achievers Magnet	Stand-alone
1988	High Achievers @ Browns Mill	Program
1992	High Achievers @ Chamblee MS	Program
1992	High Achievers @ Chapel Hill MS	Program
1995	High Achievers @ Chamblee HS	Program
1995	High Achievers @ Southwest DeKalb HS	Program
2003	Wadsworth High Achievers Magnet	Stand-alone

Coralwood-Hawthorne Inclusion Program (1990-Present)

STEM Magnet (?)

?	Clifton ES (until 2016)
2015 ?	Evansdale ES
?	Columbia Middle
1991	Columbia High
2017	Barack Obama EMST

Theme Schools & Arabia Mtn (1993-Present) — **Type**

1993	Oakcliff Theme Elementary	Conversion
1994	Marbut Theme Elementary	New
1996	Bouie Theme Elementary	New
1998	Robert Shaw Theme Elementary	Conversion
1998	Narvie Harris Theme Elementary	New
2001	Wynbrooke Theme Elementary	New
2006	Champion Theme Middle	Conversion
2009	Arabia Mountain High	New

DCSD Program History

Charter Conversions (1997 - 2020)

1997	Druid Hills High (until 2002)
1998	Kingsley Elementary (until 2016)
1998	Rainbow Elementary (until 2003)
2000	Chesnut Elementary (until 2017)
2001	Chamblee High (until 2020)
2001	Peachtree Middle (until 2020)
2009	Smoke Rise Elementary (until 2017)

Montessori (2000 - Present)

2000	Huntley Hills Elementary
2000	Briar Vista Elementary
2000	Midway Elementary (2000 - 2014)

SB10 (2007-Present)

Discovery Learning Program (2008-Present)

2008	Discovery @ McNair DLA

HB251 (2009-Present)

International Baccalaureate (IB) (2004-Present)

2004	IB @ Druid Hills HS
2008	IB @ Druid Hills MS
2004	IB @ Tucker HS
2011	IB @ Tucker MS
2012	IB @ Salem MS
2004	IB @ MLK HS
2007	IB @ Avondale ES
2008	IB @ Midvale ES
TBD	IB @ Brockett ES
2008	IB @ Fernbank ES

DeKalb County
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DCSD Program History

Language Immersion (2014-Present)

Year	School	Language
2014	Ashford Park Elementary	German
2020	Chamblee Middle	German
2023	*Chamblee High*	*German*
2014	Evansdale Elementary	French
2018	Pleasantdale Elementary	Spanish
2020	Henderson Middle	French
2023	Lakeside High	French
2017	Barack Obama EMST	Spanish
2023	McNair Middle	Spanish
2026	*McNair High*	*Spanish*
2014	Rockbridge Elementary	French
2020	Stone Mountain Middle	French
2023	*Stone Mountain High*	French

Current DCSD Programs

DeKalb offers six types of programs in over 45 schools, which is 33% of DCSD Schools! We offer programs in the following categories:

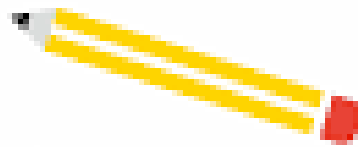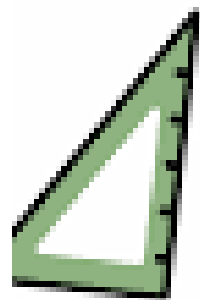|	
High Achiever Magnets	Special Interest Magnets
Dual Language Immersion (DLI)	International Baccalaureate (IB)
Montessori Early Learning	Theme Schools

Policies Related To Student Assignment
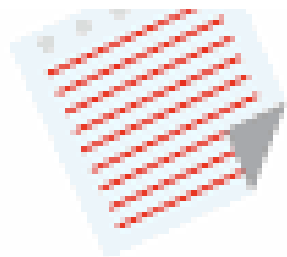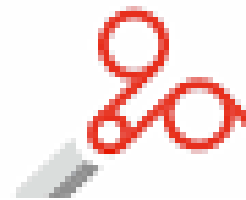
Current and Former Policies Related to Student Assignment

School Attendance Zones (AD)

Entrance Age (JBB)

Equal Education Opportunities (JAA)

School Admission (JBC)

Student Assignment (JBCC)

Minority to Majority (M to M)

E-SPLOST

What is ESPLOST (**S**pecial **P**urpose **L**ocal **O**ption **S**ales **T**ax for education)?

Georgia enacted the special purpose local option sales tax for education (ESPLOST) in 1996, giving school districts in the state the opportunity, with voter approval, to adopt a 1¢ sales tax with revenue earmarked for capital outlay.

E-SPLOST Specific law
Georgia Constitution Article VIII, Section VI, Paragraph IV https://law.justia.com/constitution/georgia/conart8.html

What's Next?

1. Ms. Smith will send calendar invites to all assigned SAP meetings.
   o All meetings are in-person, meetings of the whole will be live on DSTV, and committee meetings will be recorded and posted to our site.
   o BYOD – bring your own dinner
2. Each member should orient themselves on the SAP website.
   o Specific sections to review
     ▪ Engagement Opportunities
     ▪ Resources
3. How to connect with SAP and Ms. Smith.
   o sap@dekalbschoolsga.org
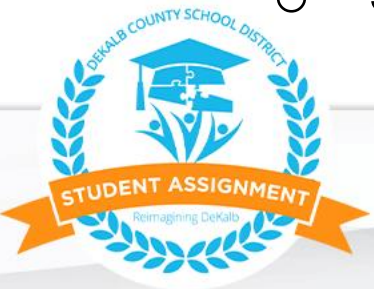
SAP Meeting Exit Ticket (Meeting of the whole) 9/18/25

QUESTIONS