

Cedar Grove Cluster Townhall Remaining Questions

What is the percentage of students per grade in elementary & middle schools who are math & reading proficiently and the process to improve numbers in this quarter? Mitchell
Math & Reading Proficiency Data

Provide specific examples of how the district is supporting authentic parent engagement?

DCSD has adopted the core values of H-PRIDE.

- H-Humanization
- P- Professionalism
- R- Respect
- I-Integrity
- D- Dignity
- E-Empathy

These values set the tone for the district as it relates to how we approach the work of educating our students and engaging our parents/guardians and other stakeholders. We want to interact with each other with all of these in mind. Operating with a sense of H-Pride will allow our parents to feel welcomed and engaged, and therefore experience a sense of belonging as we all work as a team on behalf of students.

Roundtable visits are conducted at approximately 2-6 per week. The principal, a parent, teacher, student, and community member are invited by the principal to attend the meeting to answer two questions posed by Dr. Horton. 1) What is going well at your school? 2) What can the district do to better support your school so that students can have a better experience? During the visit panel members share their thoughts as it relates to the questions while Dr. Horton's team listen intently and note concerns for follow-up.

Stakeholders are encouraged to take advantage of the weekly ThoughtExchanges. It is an excellent way to provide ongoing feedback about various topics. The QR code and link can be found in the Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter and social media. The newsletter is sent by text, social media, and posted on the district's website.

During the months of October and November, several townhall meetings have been scheduled. These meetings provide a platform for open and transparent communication between community members and leaders. They are also scheduled to encourage active participation from the community, giving them a voice in decisions that directly affect them.

Finally, it's an excellent way for the District to disseminate important information for townhall discussions.

What are the plans to possibly increase parent engagement throughout the cluster?

Communication is a fundamental component of community engagement. Effective communication helps build trust, foster relationships, and ensure that all stakeholders are informed and involved in the decision-making process. It takes various forms in DCSD, including:

1. Hitting the Road Weekly Newsletter is a great way to stay abreast of happenings in the district. It can be found on the DCSD website and the each school's website it is also sent by text message for those who have a correct telephone number in Infinite Campus
[Hitting the Road with Horton – DeKalb County School District \(dekalbschools.ga\)](https://www.dekalbschools.ga/hitting-the-road)
2. Because each school community is unique, the local schools have the option to use additional methods of communication through School Messenger, text, hard copy flyers, Dojo (elementary schools), and etc.
3. Stakeholders are encouraged to take advantage of the weekly ThoughtExchanges. It is an excellent way to provide ongoing feedback about various topics. The QR code and link can be found in the Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter and social media. The newsletter is sent by text, social media, and posted on the district's website. The data from the ThoughtExchange questions will be shared in the upcoming weeks. This data will also inform next steps for improvement.
<https://my.thoughtexchange.com/scroll/451910965/welcome>
4. DCSD's official social media platforms are listed below:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/DeKalbSchoolsGA>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/dekalbschools/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/DeKalbSchools>
[DCSD FamilyEngagement | Facebook](#)
[DCSD Family Engagement](#)
5. DCSD makes every effort to uplift the voices of all stakeholders. The newly launch Superintendent Parent Advisory Councils provide a way to discuss issues/concerns and problem solve in a small group with Superintendent Horton. After each advisory meeting, next steps will be developed in order to address issues on a given topic.

How is the Board assisting with the teacher shortage?

The Board of Education has done a phenomenal job supporting the District in this age and era of teacher shortages.

First, rewarding the teachers who were retained by providing a \$2,000 retention payment on October 6, 2023. Approving a 6% cost of living adjustment and step increase for all new and existing teachers. Approving a \$3,000-\$4000 new teacher incentive for every new teacher hired by October 1, 2023.

Approving the IGNITE DeKalb Teacher Residency Program which is scheduled to launch in January 2024 and will yield 150 new teachers by December 2025.

We are grateful for the Board of Education leadership and support.

How can we get more students to come more and help the community together?

- Getting students involved in the community is a valuable way to promote civic engagement, foster a sense of responsibility, and build important life skills.
- Student leadership opportunities such as the Superintendent Student Advisory Council.
- Participate in community events that are promoted on DCSD platforms.
- Students can take advantage of service-learning projects assigned at the school level.
- Join clubs/organizations at the school level that allow students to engage in the community.
- Attend DCSD townhall and other public meetings.

How can students assist each other as tutors, mentors, etc.?

Students can assist by working with their school counselors or any mentoring programs that the school has in place. As far as tutoring we are looking to have more tutoring available for schools.