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Council of the Great City Schools

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FOR RELEASE  
March 2, 2015

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## **Atlanta Public Schools Receives National Recognition For ‘Excellence in Financial Management’**

WASHINGTON, March 2 – The Council of the Great City Schools today recognizes the Atlanta Public Schools for attaining the highest standards in financial management, accountability and fiscal control.

The coalition of the nation's big-city school systems presented the **Award for Excellence in Financial Management** to the Atlanta school system for enhancing, safeguarding, and protecting the financial integrity of the district.

This is only the fourth time since the Council initiated the award in 2008 that it has honored a school district with its highest national award for sound financial management. The last award was given to the Miami-Dade County Schools in 2012, with the Houston Independent School District and Florida's Broward County Public Schools in Fort Lauderdale receiving the top financial honor earlier.

“This is a significant milestone for the Atlanta Public Schools,” Council Executive Director Michael Casserly said, honoring the school board, superintendent, chief financial officer and staff for providing exemplary financial management and stewardship of taxpayer dollars. “Citizens and taxpayers in Atlanta should take pride in how well the city’s public schools are managing their resources. Few city school systems can match Atlanta on this front.”

To receive the Award for Excellence in Financial Management, an urban school district must demonstrate it complies with a series of management practices that represent the highest standards in financial accountability and control in nine categories: general financial management, internal controls, budget, strategic planning and management, internal and external financial auditing, capital asset management, debt management, risk management and purchasing.

The Council convenes a panel composed of respected senior financial executives from major school systems across the nation to conduct the review process, which includes an assessment of the district's management practices, an extensive review of documents, and a lengthy site visit.

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