SUBCOMMITTEE ON MEMBERSHIP
COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

Subcommittee on Membership

2021-2022

Subcommittee Goal

To review criteria and applications for membership, and recruit and retain members.

Chair

Sharon Contreras, Guilford County Superintendent

Members

Siad Ali, Minneapolis School Board
Marcia Andrews, Palm Beach County School Board
Valerie Davis, Fresno School Board
Leslie Grant, Atlanta School Board
Van Henri White, Rochester School Board
Jesus Jara, Clark County Superintendent
Joe Gothard, St. Paul Superintendent

Ex Officio

Barbara Jenkins, Orange County Superintendent
## COUNCIL OF THE GREAT CITY SCHOOLS

### Membership by Region

**July 2021**

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DEKALB COUNTY MEMBERSHIP REQUEST
June 17, 2021

Council of the Great City Schools
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1100 N
Washington D.C.  20001

Dear Council of the Great City Schools:

The DeKalb County School District respectfully requests your consideration for entry into the Council of the Great City Schools.

DeKalb County School District (DCSD) is Georgia’s third largest school system. The District covers 257 square miles within DeKalb County, excluding the areas served by Atlanta Public Schools and City Schools of Decatur. The District serves nearly 93,470 students, 140 schools and centers, and 15,500 employees. Our students and parents speak over 185 languages and represent over 155 nations.

When I joined DCSD in 2020, my mission was to ensure that the great work being accomplished in our district aligned with our strategic plan, or vision and core beliefs. My focus remains on providing a world-class education for our scholars without barriers, which is why I believe becoming a member of the Council of Great City School (CGCS) is a great next step towards this effort.

The legacy commitments of the district include improving graduation rates, transforming the way we support disconnected youth, committing to establishing a district-level methodology to provide support and assistance for our ELS families, developing a school improvement framework, increasing data literacy and teacher proficiency and strengthening our regional superintendent structure.

I believe that our size and the complexity of issues that we face as a large urban school district makes us a good fit. We are a District that is committed to collaboration, sharing and learning from other districts. Part of why DCSD wants to join CGCS is our keen interest on access to the national set of Key Performance Indicators shared amongst CGCS.
Not unlike CGCS, our work is centered around helping our scholars meet the highest standards and become successful and productive members of society. CGCS touts in its 2019-2020 Annual Report, the completion of an interactive Academic KPIs dashboard to align the NAEP math frameworks with the career and college readiness standards. In addition, CGCS offers a program with Harvard University to provide professional development for our school board members and superintendents, and expanded its Professional Learning Platform to help districts with struggling learners.

These membership benefits align with DCSD’s strategic plan and could aide in our strategic plan goal areas and performance objectives.

Like CGCS and its members, DCSD is dedicated to helping our scholars meet the highest standards and become successful and productive members of society. It will be an honor to partner with CGCS to share DCSD’s current programs and initiatives, instructional methods and support services that we employ to embrace the diversity of our scholars. We are continuously thinking of new and innovative ways to engage our learners and to propel them to the next level. With this knowledge and experience, we can share our successes and also, learn from others within CGCS through our membership.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Watson-Harris
Superintendent
DeKalb County School District
June 17, 2021

Council of the Great City Schools
1331 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 1100 N
Washington D.C. 20001

Dear Council of the Great City Schools:

I write on behalf of the DeKalb County Board of Education in support of our district becoming a member of the Council of the Great City Schools (CGCS). As Board Chair, and having served on the Board of Education for seven years, we understand the importance of providing opportunities for our students to receive the best education possible. We also know a school district cannot function without the community. Community support and involvement plays a significant role in building well-educated, well-rounded children, which is why I am excited and pleased to hear about the opportunity for our district to join the Council of the Great City Schools.

As you may know, our school district sits in DeKalb County, one of the most diverse counties in the Southeast. DeKalb County School District is Georgia’s third largest school system. The district serves over 93,000 students, 140+ schools and centers, and 15,500 employees, including 6,600 teachers. Our districts students and parents speak over 185 languages and represent over 155 nations.

I believe the unique qualities of our county and school district align with your organizations mission to promote the cause of urban schools and to advocate for inner-city students. I also believe that our district would greatly benefit from the services membership in CGCS offers. Benefits such as providing a network for school districts sharing common problems and helping districts build capacity in urban education with programs to boost academic performance and narrow achievement gaps.

Again, I am excited about the possibilities that membership into such a distinguished organization could bring to our district. We believe that with your help, the DeKalb County School District can continue to realize its goals for educating our students to the highest academic standards.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Vickie Turner, Chair
DeKalb County Board of Education
**DeKalb County School District (DCSD) Demographics (2019-20 School Year)**

### Total DCSD Student Population

98,957

- **51.3%** Male
- **48.7%** Female

### Racial Breakdown

- **Black: 58,912 (60%)**
- **Hispanic: 19,114 (19%)**
- **White: 11,457 (12%)**
- **Asian: 6,872 (7%)**
- **Other: 2,602 (3%)**

### Median Household Income by Region

- Region 1: $59,286
- Region 2: $56,207
- Region 3: $58,746
- Region 4: $53,809
- Region 5: $46,058
- Region 6: $46,361
- Region 7: $59,826

*Size of slice is proportional to household population of the Region (Source: EOE Demographic Data for Education Institutions)*

### Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL)

- **Region 1:** 52.8%
- **Region 2:** 53.3%
- **Region 3:** 78.9%
- **Region 4:** 88.9%
- **Region 5:** 85.7%
- **Region 6:** 96.3%
- **Region 7:** 91.1%

### District Wide Groups

- **Students:** 98,957
- **Schools:** 139
- **FRL:** 64,061

### Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL) by Region

- **Region 1:** 52.8%
- **Region 2:** 53.3%
- **Region 3:** 78.9%
- **Region 4:** 88.9%
- **Region 5:** 85.7%
- **Region 6:** 96.3%
- **Region 7:** 91.1%

### Regional Breakdown

#### Region 1

- Elementary School (PK-5): 11,617
- Middle School (6-8): 4,350
- High School (9-12): 5,526
- Charter School (K-12): 631
- Total: 22,199

- Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL): 5,384

#### Region 2

- Elementary School (PK-5): 8,623
- Middle School (6-8): 3,651
- High School (9-12): 5,117
- Program School (PK-12): 275
- Charter School (K-12): 1,964
- Total: 19,630

- Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL): 4,441

#### Region 3

- Elementary School (PK-5): 5,773
- Middle School (6-8): 2,936
- High School (9-12): 4,901
- Program School (PK-12): 0
- Charter School (K-12): 451
- Total: 14,061

- Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL): 4,561

#### Region 4

- Elementary School (PK-5): 5,397
- Middle School (6-8): 2,999
- High School (9-12): 2,886
- Program School (PK-12): 259
- Charter School (K-12): 718
- Total: 12,259

- Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL): 4,668

#### Region 5

- Elementary School (PK-5): 5,896
- Middle School (6-8): 2,742
- High School (9-12): 3,938
- Program School (PK-12): 0
- Charter School (K-12): 451
- Total: 14,061

- Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL): 4,561

#### Region 6

- Elementary School (PK-5): 3,439
- Middle School (6-8): 1,641
- High School (9-12): 2,139
- Program School (PK-12): 214
- Charter School (K-12): 541
- Total: 7,974

- Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL): 3,371

#### Region 7

- Elementary School (PK-5): 5,561
- Middle School (6-8): 1,605
- High School (9-12): 2,139
- Program School (PK-12): 214
- Charter School (K-12): 0
- Total: 9,519

- Free & Reduced Lunch (FRL): 4,923

**Student Data Date:** 10/01/2019
2019 Population of DeKalb: 759,000
2019 Population of Decatur: 25,696