

Welcome to the

# STATE OF THE SCHOOLS ADDRESS

Thursday, February 8, 2024 5:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.

(Hors d'oeuvres)

(Program Starts)

Morrow Center 1180 Southlake Circle Morrow, GA 30260

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!



Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited through Cognia. The district offers a world-class program based on a challenging curriculum that is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia and ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. Made up of nearly 70 schools and a variety of programs, the school system has approximately 7,300 employees.

# **Vision Statement**

The vision of Clayton County Public Schools is to prepare ALL graduates to have the skills to pursue and accomplish college, post-secondary training, and/or career opportunities in order to live and compete successfully in a global society.

#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of Clayton County Public Schools is to empower scholars to achieve academic, professional, and personal goals by providing equitable access and experiences that build skills in literacy, creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration.

# **Demographics**

Student Total - 50,818

Male - 50.47% Female - 49.53%

<b>Ethnicity</b>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
African American	34227	67.35%
Hispanic/Latinx	12610	24.81%
Asian	1509	2.97%
Multiracial	1557	3.06%
Caucasian	722	1.42%
American Indian or	168	0.33%
Alaska Native		
Native Hawaiian or	25	0.05%
or Other Pacific Islander		

Active employees (including subs) - 8131 Active employees (excluding subs) -7337 Active teachers - 3398 Currently, we have 2172 teachers with a master's or higher degree, which is 64% of our 3398 teachers.



# CLAYTON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS' GRADUATES WILL BE ABLE TO...

- read proficiently and critically in order to use knowledge to solve problems;
- effectively communicate when writing and speaking;
- demonstrate noble character as an engaged, well-rounded citizen;
- exude self-awareness, self-management, and self-confidence;
- leverage technology efficiently and creatively;
- lead, collaborate, and contribute to a team and community;
- manifest passions into realities; and
- exhibit cultural awareness and responsiveness and international competitiveness in order to adapt and keep pace with an ever-evolving world.





















Greetings Stakeholders,

I extend a warm welcome to each one of you as we gather for my inaugural Clayton County Public Schools 2024 State of the School Address. I am beyond excited to share with our valued stakeholders our most significant accomplishments toward our goals. Just over a year ago, I assumed the role of Interim Superintendent on December 5, 2022, and I was officially appointed to lead this dynamic school system as the Superintendent/CEO of Schools on June 26, 2023. I continue to be grateful and humbled by the Clayton County Board of Education's trust in me to lead us toward becoming a more prosperous and prominent school system.

At the onset of my tenure, my administration established a mantra that would propel us to build upon the foundation that had already been laid. We are "building a better tomorrow, today!" This charge speaks to urgency, courageous decision-making, equity and inclusive practices, and innovative ways of thinking about how we educate our students and how we engage various stakeholders. This mantra calls upon us to activate our best thinking, devote our best resources, and exert our best effort during the time and space that we have to make a difference. If the inevitable challenges before us do not outweigh our collective effort and wisdom, we will continue to forge a path towards progress. Our path toward becoming a high-performing school district must be guided by our commitment to excellence and deep engagement.

Undoubtedly, we have made significant progress. Tonight, I, along with my dedicated colleagues, amazing students, and engaged community and business leaders, will share our state of affairs and our advancement towards the five priorities. We will share where we are and where we are headed. Ultimately, these priorities serve as the blueprint for our desired destination.

Superintendent/CEO of Schools' Five Priorities:

- 1. Cultivate a School Safety Culture & Promote a Positive Working Environment
- 2. Increase Academic Achievement
- 3. Maintain Financial Stability
- 4. Strengthen the Organizational Structure
- 5. Enhance Infrastructure & New Facilities

I challenge all of us to remain resolute - in word and deed - in our belief that every student can graduate from high school fully prepared to live and lead a successful life. Let us continue to work collectively, strategically, and innovatively, recognizing the pivotal role our educators, support staff, community, and partners in education play in shaping conditions for success. I extend a heartfelt appreciation to each of you. Thank you for your continued commitment to ensuring Clayton County is the best place to learn, work, and live. Let's build a better tomorrow, today!

Keep building,

Dr. Anthony W. Smith

Superintendent/CEO of Clayton County Public Schools





Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# **Biography - Dr. Anthony W. Smith Superintendent/CEO of Schools**

Dr. Anthony W. Smith was appointed by the Clayton County Board of Education on December 5, 2022, to serve as the Interim Superintendent of Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS). In recognition of his outstanding service, Dr. Smith was named the Superintendent/CEO of Schools by the Board of Education on June 26, 2023. In his role as Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Smith leads the sixth largest school system and one of the nation's top 100 largest school districts in the State of Georgia. Immediately prior to his appointment as the district's top administrative official, Dr. Smith served as Clayton County Public Schools Deputy Superintendent of Governmental Relations, Partnerships, and Operations.

Beginning his career with CCPS in 1995 as a Computer Technology teacher, he was a classroom instructor for four years before being selected to serve in a variety of administrative positions in multiple school systems. These administrative roles include assistant principal and principalships at the middle and high school levels, Chief Academic Officer, Assistant Superintendent, and Deputy Superintendent. Additionally, Dr. Smith previously served eight honorable years in the United States Air Force and three years as a branch president in the financial industry.

As a direct result of Dr. Smith's nearly 30 years of service in the field of education and working collaboratively with numerous business, collegiate, and religious community leaders, he has received multiple recognitions, including but not limited to, the Outstanding Servant in Educational Leadership Award (2015 - Association of Christian Ministers of Clayton County); Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Vision (2016 - Elite Scholars Charter School); Living Legend Award (2016 - Forest Park Ministers Association) and an Appreciation Award (2022 - Clayton County Office of Economic Development). Most recently, Dr. Smith received the 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce due to his achievements in advancing quality of life through economic progress and for being an outstanding and lifelong supporter of the Clayton County business community.

Dr. Smith has also received numerous United States Armed Forces awards and decorations associated with his distinguished service in the military. Additionally, as a former Deputy Superintendent, Dr. Smith was instrumental in the re-establishment of the Clayton County Public Schools Foundation, which has raised millions of dollars to support Clayton County Public Schools students by providing thousands of scholarships to graduating seniors and sponsoring numerous employee initiatives.

Dr. Anthony W. Smith is highly regarded as a dedicated leader with a transformative and innovative approach to education and those elements designed to improve the educational experience and outcomes of all students. Clayton County Public Schools is certainly Building a Better Tomorrow, Today under his leadership!



Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# **Board of Education Members**



Ms. Jasmine Bowles (District 1)



Mr. Mark Christmas (District 2)



Dr. Jessie Goree Chair (District 3)



Ms. Victoria Williams (District 4)



Dr. Deatrice "Dee" Haney (District 5)



Ms. Mary Baker (District 6)



Ms. Sabrina Hill (District 7)



Ms. Joy Tellis Cooper (District 8)



Mr. Benjamin Straker Vice-Chair (District 9)



Dr. Anthony W. Smith Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

Welcome	Emeli Giron-Rosales	
	Kendrick Middle School - 8th grade	
Presentation of Colors	Morrow High School	
1 reservation of colors	AFJROTC Honor Guard	
	Til Jico To Hollor Guard	
National Anthem	-	
	Lovejoy High School - 12th grade	
Acknowledgment and Introduction of Distinguished Guests		
	Relations, Marketing, and Strategic Improvement	
Remarks	Dr. Joseph Compa	
Remarks	Board of Education Chair Woman, District 3	
	board of Education Chair Wollian, District 3	
CCPS "Breaking Ground" Video Premiere		
	WSB-TV Channel 2	
Recognition of Mr. Le'Var Norsworthy	Lori Wilson	
CCPS Alumnus and Chief Creative Officer	WSB-TV Channel 2	
for Marc Norsworthy & Co		
	*** 1 x 1 = 1	
Introduction of Superintendent/CEO of Schools		
	Jonesboro High School - 10th Grade	
State of the Schools: Opening Address	•	
	Superintendent/CEO of Schools	

# Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

A Year in Review: Setting the Stage
Senior Deputy Superintendent - Chief of Stat
Progress Towards the Superintendent/CEO of Schools' Five PrioritiesCore Cabinet Members
Dr. Delphia Young, Deputy Superintendent - Teaching and Learning & Strategic Improvement
Dr. April C. Crawford - Deputy Superintendent of Student Services & Strategic Improvement
Dr. Ralph Simpson - Deputy Superintendent of Administrative Services & Strategic Improvement
Ms. Ramona Bivins - CFO/Chief of Business Services & Strategic Improvement
Mr. Ronick Joseph - Chief of Construction/SPLOST & Strategic Improvement
Economic DevelopmentBishop CH Braddy Jr., M.D. Ph.D.
Chairman - Clayton County's Development Authorit
State of the Schools: Closing Address
Special Recognitions
Recessional
Entertine Director of Greater Ger (1995) and Gommanity and Employee Engagement

Jonesboro High School Majestic Marching Cardinals Drumline Lynel Goodwin, Band Director

# **Mistress of Ceremony**



**Lori Wilson** is an Emmy Award winning Anchor & Reporter who joined the WSBTV family in January 2017. Lori co-anchors Channel 2 Action News This Morning, Monday - Friday, from 4:30 am -7am.

Despite her alarm clock waking her up at 2am for work, she says being able to wake up Atlantans every morning is the best job in TV. On air in Atlanta for a second time, Lori has worked in four other television markets.

Some of Lori's most memorable assignments have been covering the Braves World Series Championship games in Houston, UGA's National football championship win in Indianapolis, anchoring coverage of the George Floyd protests in Atlanta, covering Hurricanes Irma and Sandy, reporting from the 2nd Inauguration of President Barack Obama, and anchoring coverage of 9-1-1 as President George W. Bush made his first statement to the world from the local military base.

In every city she has worked, Lori has been passionate about giving back to the community. Lori is an author, a member of NABJ, AABJ, NATAS, and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.

Finally, when she's not reporting or doing community events, Lori works full time for a five year old whose energy is limitless... so she asks you to please forgive her for the delayed response to any and all DMs/ voicemails/ snail mail and/or text messages.



Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# A Year in Review: Progress Towards the Five Priorities

#### Setting the Foundation for a Culture of Excellence:

- Communicated the guiding mantra: "Building a Better Tomorrow Today!"
- Developed Five Priorities as a blueprint for the work
- Established Professional Agreements for all stakeholders
- Created Key Performance Indicators for all District Divisions

#### **Special Awards and Speaking Engagements:**

- 2024 Lifetime Achievement Award to Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Dr. Anthony W. Smith (Clayton County Chamber of Commerce)
- 2024 Vanguard Award to the Clayton County Board of Education (Clayton County Chamber of Commerce)
- 2023 Leading Edge Award, [Georgia School Board Association/Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSBA/GSSA)]







- Clayton County Board of Education, 2023 Exemplary School Board Recognition, (GSBA/GSSA)
- 2023 RICE (Rising in Community Excellence) TORCH Award
- 2023 American Association of AdaptED Sports Program's ASPIRE (Adapted Sports Programs in Recreation and Education) Award
- AGC Build Georgia Award for Construction/Architecture for Jonesboro High School, Morrow High School, and Michelle Obama STEM Academy



- Nationally recognized staff members, such as Terry Young National Alternative Award for Principal of the Year and Construction-Ready Leader of the Year
- Superintendent/CEO of Schools, Dr. Anthony W. Smith was invited to:
  - deliver the 2023 Winter Commencement Address for Clayton State University.
  - deliver opening remarks at the State of the Aerotropolis annual meeting the first educator to serve in this capacity
  - deliver remarks at the ATL Chamber of Commerce New Heights Educational Empowerment Gala
  - participate in numerous locally and nationally-recognized media affiliates' interviews to highlight the District's efforts to improve outcomes and to promote Clayton County
  - serve as an Ambassador for NABSE National Alliance for Black School Educators - National Conference that will occur in Atlanta















Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# A Year in Review: Progress Towards the Five Priorities

#### Priority 1 - Cultivate a School Safety Culture & Promote a Positive Working Environment

- Enhanced our overall safety, security, and overall well-being measures:
  - Lowered disciplinary infraction referrals (involving gangs, fights, drugs, weapons, and bullying) by 74%
  - Expanded the Village on Patrol initiative to leverage community stakeholders to increase vigilance at all school campuses
  - Increased personnel and use of golf carts to monitor the perimeters of our schools
  - Instituted Safety Checks and Weapon-Detection Devices
  - Implemented The Opportunity Room and the Youth Empowerment Services (YES) Program to temporarily de-socialize students to provide wrap-around services to improve behavior.



- Launched Elementary and Middle School Sports: Flag Football, Basketball, Soccer, Track, and Cheerleading; these events are extremely well attended and appreciated
- Enforced a Parent and Schools Communication Protocol to promote positive collaboration
- Enhanced the District's community and appreciation engagement efforts. All stakeholder groups are recognized in Clayton County Schools from teachers to support staff such as Social Workers, Psychologists, Counselors, and more; staff attend special events (e.g. luncheon) and receive appreciation tokens from our community partners to demonstrate their appreciation for their services. Hosted over 700 employees for Dinner En Denim and the Employee of the Year Gala
- Secured grants to expand our emotional and mental wellness efforts; Superintendent/CEO of Schools served as a
  guest panelist at the 2023 National Inner Explorer Conference
- Ongoing support of the newly created Alumni Association and their efforts [Working to implement the Alumni Hall of Fame]
- Assisted employees with obtaining home ownership
- Increased community engagement efforts through the "Blueprint Series Tour" and Superintendent's advisories

















Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# A Year in Review: Progress Towards the Five Priorities

#### Priority 2 - Increase Academic Achievement

- Increased the 2023 Graduation rate to above 80% (with 2 at 100%); CCPS' English Learners' (EL) 2023 graduation rate exceeded the state of Georgia's ELs' graduation rate
- Significantly reduced the number of schools on the Federally Identified Improvement List from 22 to 4
- Increased College and Career-Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) scores in various categories, exceeding the state in five areas
- Graduated 50 students in the Construction-Ready program; these students transitioned from high school to work with a high-paying salary



- Enhanced site-based support for schools: All schools have 3 hours a week of support from the Central Office staff; Teaching and Learning has provided lesson plans for elementary Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies; will secondary underway
- Instituted a comprehensive data analysis and review process with school administrators and district leaders, as a part of the District's continuous improvement effort
- Implemented a beyond-the-school-day Acceleration and Learning Loss Recovery Program called AIR (Actions Intended for Results)
- Hired CCPS high school students to support students during Summer Learning Camps and the Actions Intended for Results (AIR) Acceleration and Learning Recovery Program
- Expanded the implementation of free tutoring services to all students, providing 24/7 access via Tutor.com and our C.L.A.S.S. Act service providers
- Expanding Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) programs to Elite Scholars Academy and Stilwell School of the Arts
- · Streamlined the number of assessments administered to increase instructional time
- Providing differentiated Professional Learning (PL) for leaders and teachers
  - Professional Learning Team presented at the National Learning Forward conference because of our comprehensive professional development plan

















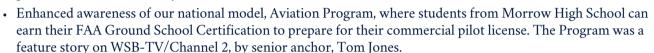


Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# A Year in Review: Progress Towards the Five Priorities

#### **Priority 2 - Increase Academic Achievement (Continued)**

- Implemented Grow Your Own program to provide pathways for paraprofessional and other staff to the teaching profession
  - IGNITE Program teachers can obtain advanced degrees free from Clark Atlanta University, Gordon State, Mercer University, Georgia State University
- Leading the way in implementing the Georgia Literacy Act The State has acknowledged that CCPS is ahead of most districts CCPS has been invited to present at the state's literacy conference.



- Launched the Aspiring Doctor's Club for junior and senior students to receive exposure and mentorship by those in the medical professions
- Expanded the number of Cognia-certified STEM schools (from 2 to 6 and more are underway)
- Established partnerships with the Latin American Association, and looking forward to building partnerships with the Asian American community
- Created and held the first Spanish-based district-wide Spelling Bee
- Expanded the partnership with the international organization Topical Talks from the Economist Foundation (as the only school district in the nation to have this partnership, which promotes global awareness and builds critical thinking and communication skills among students
- Enhanced our partnership with the Georgia Aquarium; Clayton County is the only school district in a formal partnership, which is connected to its marine biology pathway
- One of CCPS's students was elected the Kid Governor to represent the entire state of Georgia
- Judah Whaley, a student from Jonesboro High School, represents Clayton County Public Schools as a Youth Advisory Council member for the Georgia School Board Association
- Mt. Zion High School Marching Bulldog Band has been invited to participate in Washington D.C. for the National Independence Day Parade this summer
- Jonesboro High School is the only high school in Georgia that will participate in the 2024 Macy's Day
   Thanksgiving Parade first of its kind experience; also, Jonesboro High School, the only high school featured in
   the National Apple Super Bowl LVIII Usher Halftime Commercial, is the first Metro Atlanta High School to be
   featured in a Super Bowl Commercial















Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# A Year in Review: Progress Towards the Five Priorities

#### Priority 3 - Maintaining a balanced budget

- Created and passed a balanced budget
- Implemented a robust Compensation package for all Clayton County Public Schools Employees, serving as a model for how to create and effectively communicate enhanced financial supplements for staff - as a part of our retention efforts and to increase staff morale
- Worked to lower the millage rate for the first time in several years
- Highest approval rating for ESPLOST over 80% of Clayton County residents voted and approved the ESPLOST, which afforded the district \$434 million in bonds for capital improvement
- The Superintendent/CEO of Schools and the Senior Deputy Superintendent/Chief of Staff completed the Superintendent's Financial Management Training



#### Priority 4 - Strengthen the Organizational Structure

- Implemented a structure to assign support staff in schools assisting leaders, teachers, and school personnel to remove barriers to learning and provide customized support
- Ensured leaders are in positions that maximize their experience and training for long-term organizational success
- Promoted school leaders to infuse school leadership experience throughout Divisions and Departments within the district















Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# A Year in Review: Progress Towards the Five Priorities

#### **Priority 5 - Enhance Infrastructure and New Facilities**

- Implemented significant athletic upgrades in the following areas:
  - Field improvements include new baseball, softball, and football fields, new tennis courts, new dugouts, scoreboards, concession stands with restroom, fencing with windscreens, irrigation systems, rubberized tracks, turf practice football fields, and new turf stadiums at high schools
  - Adaptive Sports Complex; only facility of its kind with a gym and competition field specifically designed for students with disabilities
- Clayton State University has consistent access to our Athletic Complexes
- Commitment from top universities to use our in-door track in the North Clayton Community
- Plans are underway for the 9-hole executive golf course in the North Clayton Community
- Executed a robust facilities plan focused on:
  - New pre-kindergarten facilities (Riverdale Elementary Early Learning Center will include wrap-around services for students and families)
  - New STEM-based schools
  - Transportation system (awarded over 20 million in grant funds to fund upgrades)
  - Technology infrastructure enhancements



#### **Projects**

- Hosted the groundbreaking ceremony for the Clayton County Convocation Center
- Hosted the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Forest Park Middle School

#### Land acquisition

- Woolsey Rd, 100 acres to address population growth in County's panhandle
- North Clayton High, 3 parcels for new school, indoor track, golf course, and \$1 Million donation to CCPS Foundation
- Lake Drive, Office space and future location for expansion

#### **Capital Projects Procurement Changes**

 Over 30% SLBE contractors included in all 2023 capital project contracts (Small Local Business Enterprise)

#### **Enhanced Human Resources Practices**

- Improved hiring process
- The number of background questions on the employment application has been decreased. The number of required references has been reduced, and acceptable reference types have been expanded
- Teacher interview supporting documentation no longer has to be uploaded as a part of the request to hire
- Lastly, the position posting period has been modified from five (5) business days to five (5) calendar days
- Recent CCPS Perception Survey shows end users are pleased











Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools



#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

The Clayton County Public Schools Foundation is a philanthropic organization fostering the sustainable growth, development, and academic achievement of every student in Clayton County.

#### INVESTING IN OUR STUDENTS TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW.

Clayton County Public Schools Foundation Executive Director - Nina Packer

Clayton County Public Schools Foundation Board of Directors Chair - Hayelom Tadesse Vice Chair - Mitch Johnson Treasurer - Valencia Williamson

#### **Board Members**

Dr. Anthony Smith - Superintendent/CEO
Dr. Jessie Goree - School Board Chair
Altimese Dees
Ashley R. Black
Charlene Craig
Doria Jenkins
Dr. Rose Marie Greene

Michael Hightower Pastor Jeremy Tuck Regina Deloach Ricky Clark, Jr. Rod Smith Shakira Rice Shirley Nichols Ebony Austin

#### Key Accomplishments Under Dr. Smith

- In this school year alone, Dr. Smith has raised over \$1.5 million in major gifts to the foundation.
- Dr. Smith championed the effort to create a partnership between the Board of Education and the CCPS Foundation to manage the Clayton County Convocation Center and College & Career Academy for the purpose of generating additional revenue for students.
- Each year Dr. Smith and the Board of Education award out over \$130,000 in Foundation scholarships.
- Dr. Smith worked with the CCPS Foundation to create a Student Bereavement fund with an allotment of \$5,000 in the foundation's budget to support families that have lost a student to death with a gift of \$500.
- Dr. Smith hosts a Superintendent's Golf Tournament which supports the CCPS Foundation's annual scholarship awards.
- Dr. Smith's leadership and influence through the CCPS Foundation has prioritized ADVOCACY by making sure that we are out in the community supporting and building relationships with our stakeholders and letting them know the ways that we are intentionally investing in our students today, for a better tomorrow.

Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools

# **Special Acknowledgements**

Superintendent's Core Cabinet

Communications Division

Facilities & Maintenance Department

**Technology Department** 

Transportation Department

Safety and Security Department

**Interpretive Services** 

Morrow Center

Charles Drew High School Culinary Arts Program

Jonesboro High School Majestic Marching Band

Morrow High School AFJROTC Honor Guard

Stilwell School of the Arts Jazz Ensemble

**Program Presenters** 

**Program Volunteers** 

# **Program Sponsors**





### Shrewsbury's Graduate Supplies, LLC

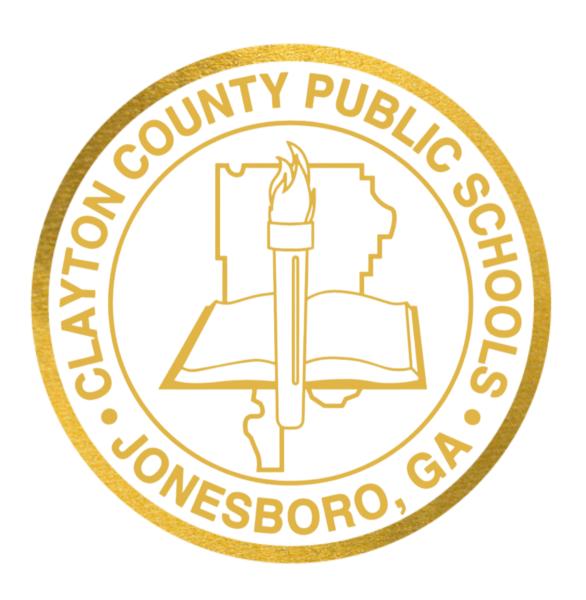
Josh and Rick Shrewsbury
Products: Class Rings, Championship Rings, Graduation Supplies,
Caps and Gowns, Medals and Awards and Letter Jackets.

4634 Lawrenceville Hwy. Lilburn, Ga 30047 (770) 921-9022





# CCPS Presents the State of the Schools Address 2024 Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools





"There is no better time than right now to dream a grander vision for our youth - a vision that can manifest if we activate our best thinking, devote our best resources, and exert our best effort to pave the way to a more prosperous future. Let us commit to shaping a future where opportunities know no bounds. We can do this by redefining what it means to be a Clayton County Public Schools graduate by building a better tomorrow, today...together!"

Superintendent/CEO of Schools Dr. Anthony W. Smith

