



Clayton County Public Schools

Building A Better Tomorrow, Today!

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ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

July 25, 2025

Thirty CCPS Schools Honored for Proficiency in Cursive Writing

JONESBORO - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is proud to congratulate the **30 schools** that have been formally honored for their proficiency in cursive writing by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). Recognizing that cursive writing strengthens student confidence, connects learners to history, and supports essential cognitive development, GaDOE is proud to honor schools that demonstrate excellence in cursive instruction through the John Hancock Award.

This award celebrates elementary, middle, and high schools that go above and beyond in teaching cursive writing – a skill that builds fine motor strength, enhances literacy, and allows students to engage meaningfully with historical texts in their original form. As part of Georgia’s English Language Arts (ELA) standards, cursive writing plays a vital role in preparing students for academic success and lifelong learning.

The following schools had 90% of students writing both their names and the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution in cursive. These schools are awarded the John Hancock Banner and Ribbon of Distinction.

- Church Street Elementary School
- Clayton County Virtual Learning Program
- E.J. Swint Elementary School
- E.W. Oliver Elementary School
- James H. Brown Elementary School
- Jewell C. Anderson Elementary School
- Joseph H. Huie Elementary School
- Lake City Elementary School
- Lake Ridge Elementary School
- Lillie E. Suder Elementary School
- Lake Ridge Elementary School
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Elementary School
- Michelle Obama STEM Elementary School
- Riverdale Elementary School
- Roberta T. Smith Elementary School
- Thurgood Marshall Elementary School
- Unidos Dual Language School
- West Clayton Elementary School

The following schools reported that 90% of students wrote their names in cursive. These schools will receive the John Hancock Banner and Proficiency Ribbon.

- Alfretta A. Harper Elementary School
- Arnold Elementary School
- BC Haynie Elementary School
- Callaway Elementary School
- Edmonds Elementary School
- Fountain Elementary School
- Hawthorne Elementary School

- Kay R. Pace School of the Arts
- Lee Street Elementary School
- Mount Zion Elementary School
- River's Edge Elementary School
- Tara Elementary School

“This recognition speaks volumes about the commitment of our school leaders and educators to preserving foundational skills while inspiring students to embrace both history and self-expression,” said Dr. Anthony W. Smith, Superintendent/CEO of Schools. “I am immensely proud of our scholars and their teachers for achieving such a distinguished honor.”

How Schools Can Earn the John Hancock Award

Schools are recognized based on the cursive proficiency of their students. The schools where 90% of students can write their name in cursive receive the John Hancock Banner and Proficiency Ribbon. Schools where 90% of students can write both their name and the Preamble to the U.S. Constitution in cursive are awarded the John Hancock Banner and Ribbon of Distinction.

To apply, schools submit a portfolio showcasing student outcomes of their cursive writing. During the 2024-2025 school year, more than 300 schools statewide applied for the award. As a result, 93 schools earned the Ribbon of Distinction, and 188 schools were recognized with the Proficiency Ribbon. Superintendent Woods began presenting banners to honorees before the end of the 2024-2025 school year. Clayton County Public Schools was proud to be among the few districts visited in the spring for the inaugural recognition ceremony.

-An official document from the Clayton County Public School System-

About Clayton County Public Schools: Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) is fully accredited by Cognia. The district offers a focused world-class program based on a challenging curriculum which is taught from pre-kindergarten through 12th grade. Serving over 50,000 students, Clayton County Public Schools is ranked among the 100 largest school districts in the U.S. and is the sixth-largest school system in Georgia.

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