

A woman with glasses and a green shirt is pointing at a whiteboard in a classroom. The background is slightly blurred, showing a typical classroom setting with desks and a whiteboard.

Explore specialized and innovative school models

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One District. One Goal. Every Child.

A COMMUNITY OF BELIEVERS GETTING BACK TO BASICS

Our Strength is Our Team

Atlanta's students will have effective and engaged teachers, leaders, and staff.

- Increase concentration of highly-effective teachers and leaders
- Prioritize engagement and retention for staff
- Grow and promote strong teachers, leaders, and staff

Our Responsibility Is Shared

Atlanta's students will have supportive families, communities, and partners.

- Build meaningful partnerships
- Expand Atlanta Partners for Education (APFE) impact
- Increase access and engagement for families and communities

Our System Is Efficient & Effective

Atlanta's students will have the schools and resources they need to succeed.

- Maximize facility usage for the student and community good
- Leverage data to drive strategic financial investments
- Implement sustainability initiatives

We Are Strengthening Our Instructional Core

Atlanta's students will have high-quality instruction, materials, and targeted support.

- Implement high-quality, relevant, and engaging instructional materials and professional learning in all core content areas
- Target resources towards subgroups (eg. exceptional education, English learners, economically-disadvantaged)
- Accelerate early learning

We Are Caring For Every Child

Atlanta's students will have trusted, supportive adults meeting their unique needs.

- Expand strategies that reduce chronic absenteeism and disproportionate discipline
- Implement systematic culture and climate strategies
- Increase student access to trusted and reliable adults (eg. mentors, coaches, counselors)

We Are Sparking Student Curiosity

Atlanta's students will have access to explore and expand their passions and interests.

- Promote robust arts, athletics, world language, and enrichment offerings
- Expand access to high-interest and workforce-ready offerings (e.g. career programs and pathways, advanced coursework)
- Explore specialized and innovative school models (eg. School of the Arts)



Why are Innovative & Specialized School Models Needed?



Promote Student Engagement & Readiness

- By offering choices in specialized areas of student interest, we can provide meaningful experiences and connect learning to students' daily lives.
- By providing high-quality, career-oriented instruction, we can create pathways to further education and the workplace.

Increase Student Enrollment

- By creating specialized, high-demand schools, we can offer unique options to families
- By increasing our enrollment, we can create a more sustainable academic and financial future for our entire system.

Approximately 11,000

Students Chose an Option Other than
an APS Neighborhood School (24-25)



36 Private Schools

19 Local Charter Schools

14 Statewide Charter Schools

7,500+

APS Students

20%

of APS Students

1,100+

APS Students

2 Statewide Virtual Schools

Georgia Promise Scholarship program

Parents want Choice

A Key Finding: Many respondents perceive non-traditional schools as more valuable because they allow students to focus on specialized education instead of following a traditional, one-size-fits-all curriculum.

“

Find their interest in something. Whether it be dental hygienists, phlebotomists, coding, or banking or whatever. And I think that'll get the young lady as well as the men excited. Because right now, the only thing they have to focus on is that they're going to be a star on the basketball team or the football team.

— Parent interview, Hanover Research (APS Family Study)

”

Why are **Innovative & Specialized School Models** Needed?

Surrounding school districts offer more robust **innovative/specialized choice options** than APS



**Coretta Scott King
Young Women's Leadership Academy**



**B.E.S.T. Academy at the
Thomas W. Dortch Institute**





APS Forward 2040

Forward: Onward so as to make progress toward a successful conclusion (Oxford Languages)



Focus Area:

We Are Sparking Student Curiosity

Objective:

Explore specialized and innovative school models

Strategy

1

Develop and implement a phased process to offer specialized and innovative school models based on student need and interest.



1

Develop and implement a phased process to offer specialized and innovative school models based on student need and interest.

Explore & Engage

Design & Develop

Implement

Sustain & Scale

- **Define and Share the Vision**
- **Community Engagement & Design (eg: Community Design Guide)**
- **Launch Awareness Campaign**
- **Strategic Partnership Initiation**
- Deep Collaborative Design
- Develop Councils or Committees
- Curriculum & Academic Alignment
- Finalize Partnership Agreements
- Develop Operational Blueprint
- Market & Recruit
- Onboard & Train
- Community Engagement & Launch
- Implement Operational Plan
- Sustained Leadership & Governance
- Measure & Continual Improvement
- Financial Stability
- Share Success

Example Timeline

Winter 2025 - Spring 2026

Spring 2026 - Spring 2027

Fall 2027

2028 - ongoing



APS 2040 Forward: Vision Sessions

■ Highlight APS Middle Schools

■ Focus on Key Topics:

- Early College
- Technology
- Vocational & Trades
- Arts
- Biomedical

■ Receive feedback on:

- Aspirations
- Assumptions
- Asks



Opportunities for Exploration & Expansion

Atlanta School of the Arts

**Academy of Biomedical &
Healthcare Sciences**

Literacy

**Additional Opportunities
for Exploring & Expanding**



Atlanta School of the Arts at Carver



Survey responses show that **86%** of Americans say “arts and culture are important to their community’s quality of life and livability”
(Americans for the Arts, AEP6, 2022).

***Inspired by legacy.
Driven by creativity.
Innovating for the future.***

- *Diverse Course Offerings*
- *College and Career Readiness*
- *Alternative Learning Structures*
- *Professional Partnerships*
- *Recruitment and Scholarship*

Potential Careers:

- Concept Artist
- Digital Arts Creator
- Augmented Reality Producer



Academy for Biomedical & Healthcare Sciences



Academy for Biomedical & Health Sciences



Research & Innovation Incubator



Community Wellness & Public Health Center

Potential Careers:

- Medical AI Agent
- Biomedical Specialist
- Data Scientist
- Nurse
- Physician

“Total employment is projected to grow 4.0% from 2023 to 2033. Of the 6.7 million new jobs, about one-third (2.3 million) will come from the healthcare and social assistance sector—the largest absolute growth of any sector.”



Early Literacy: Expanding Beyond Current Approaches



34.9



The percentage of 3rd Grade Students Scoring Proficient or above on the Georgia Milestones English Language Arts Assessment

How can we design an innovative school model to accelerate early literacy?



The Opportunity

Reimagining **Schools**
Reimagining **Futures**

Thinking Differently

Aggressive
Literacy
Acceleration

Reinvest

Strategic **Investment**
in Literacy



Join APS Literacy Council

Convening Early December 2025

We're Hearing from the Community

"Could APS get more training in the Science of Reading?"

"Is it possible to have access to more reading specialists?"

"More learning for parents in how to help with reading."

"More training for teachers in foundational skills"

"Bring back the city partnerships..."



How can we design an innovative school model to accelerate early literacy?



Help Shape our Early Literacy Vision

- Join principals, district leaders, community literacy leaders/organizations and community partners.
- Bring your voice, your stories, and your expertise so that, together, we will develop a clear vision to accelerate early literacy beyond our current approaches.



3DE Partnership at South Atlanta High School



Fortune 500 Business Exposure

- Case Studies
- Pitch Presentations
- Entrepreneurial Skills
- Customer Experience
- National Competitions

Additional Opportunities for Expansion: Carver Early College



Creating a Bridge for Diverse Learners to Achieve Academic & Professional Aspirations

- Rigorous Coursework
- Early Exposure
- College Credit Opportunities
- Flexible Structures
- Partnerships with Higher Education Institutions

Acceleration/Readiness Options:

- Advanced Placement
- Dual Enrollment
- Accelerated Career Diploma



Next Steps

- Continue Engaging Stakeholders Across the District
 - Community Engagement Sessions
 - Student Engagement Sessions
 - Superintendent's Office Hours
- Launch a Comprehensive Awareness and Feedback Campaign
- Build Relationships and collaborate with APFE to Secure Key Partners



THANK YOU!



ATLANTA
PUBLIC
SCHOOLS