

# District 3 Schools Accolades 2025



District 3 schools exemplify continuous improvement in motion.

## Towers Cluster Schools >>>

### Peachcrest Elementary School

- Strengthened schoolwide literacy outcomes through an increased focus on reading achievement and student engagement. Successfully launched a schoolwide reading initiative using Beanstack, reinforcing daily reading habits.
- Hosted a highly engaging “Trunk-a-Book” literacy event, every student received a new book and celebrated.
- Celebrated athletic excellence as the Peachcrest Elementary soccer team advanced to the District Playoffs, demonstrating teamwork, sportsmanship, and strong school pride.

### Rowland Elementary School

- Celebrated athletic success as the soccer team advanced to the playoffs with a 3–1 record, placing 8th in the first round and demonstrating strong teamwork and school pride.
- Partnered with the DeKalb County Sheriff’s Department to ensure every student received a holiday gift, reflecting a strong commitment to student well-being and community care.
- Recognized by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) as a “5th Grade Gateway Growth” school in Mathematics, highlighting significant academic growth and instructional effectiveness.

### Canby Lane Elementary School

- Elevated growth on the MAP Math for all grades was in the 61st percentile
- School provided 40 boxes of food for families in need this Christmas
- Increasing staff retention by providing monthly targeted initiatives to support staff wellness and mindset

### Bethune Middle School

- Achieved 91% implementation of Everyday Labs, strengthening data-driven instruction and targeted academic interventions.
- Provided real-world learning experiences as 6th and 7th grade students participated in Junior Achievement BizTown, building financial literacy, teamwork, and career readiness skills.
- Celebrated academic excellence with Spelling Bee Champion Prince Parker (6th Grade), recognizing strong literacy achievement.



## **Towers High School**

- Earned back-to-back State Championships in eSports, securing the state title for the second consecutive year and establishing Towers High School as a competitive leader in digital athletics.
- Increased the four-year graduation rate by 7.5 percentage points, reflecting strong systems of student support, persistence, and academic guidance.
- Demonstrated significant academic growth with a 7.3-point increase in CCRPI, highlighting improved college and career readiness outcomes.

## **Cedar Grove Cluster Schools** >>>

### **Cedar Grove Elementary School**

- One of only eight DeKalb schools recognized by the Georgia Department of Education as a Title I Reward School.
- Established an afterschool partnership with Beulah Baptist Church where scholars learn how to swim through the SWEM Program.
- Received a \$10,000 gardening grant to support community members in growing their own vegetables to address food desert issues and improve access to fresh, nutritious produce"

### **Cedar Grove Middle School**

- 3 GA REACH Scholarship Recipients are signing on December 16th
- DCSD Middle School All Sports Recipient
- MAP Growth has increased for the 25-26 SY compared to this time last year

### **Cedar Grove High School**

- 27 Cedar Grove HS students will be early graduates in December 2025.
- Flag football made it to the State Playoffs in its inaugural season.
- Cedar Grove HS Beta Club won the Most Outstanding Leadership and qualified nationally. Beta Club has 110 members strong!

### **Oak View Elementary School**

- Recognized as a CCRPI School of Distinction for Progress and Closing the Gaps (2025).
- Demonstrated increased Content Mastery across all content areas.
- Designated as a Leader in Me School, promoting student leadership and ownership of learning.

## **McNair Cluster Schools** >>>

### **Barack Obama Elementary School**

- One of only eight DeKalb schools recognized by the Georgia Department of Education as a Title I Reward School.
- Established over 25 dedicated Partnerships in Education. Our community partners directly support our school initiatives each year.
- For the last eight years, we have had the largest number of elementary students in the district to win at the DCSD Technology Fair. Many of our students go on competing at the state level, and some have won at the state level.
- In 2024, Obama Elementary was honored by the Ga. Dept. of Education as a Literacy Leader School for the State of Georgia for a significant increase in our Reading/ELA scores on the Ga. Milestones.

## **Flat Shoals Elementary School**

- Achieved academic growth across all MAP assessments, reflecting effective instructional alignment, targeted interventions, and data-driven decision-making.
- Maintained robust PBIS and student support systems, with an active PBIS team and a weekly Care Team meeting to address academic, behavioral, and social-emotional needs.
- Earned recognition from the Horizon Team for effective strategies and measurable progress in improving student attendance.

## **Ronald E. McNair Discovery Learning Academy**

- Opened the MedCura Health Clinic, providing on-site healthcare services for scholars and families, contributing to an 8-point increase in attendance.
- Demonstrated strong 2025 CCRPI gains, including a 6.3-point increase in Content Mastery and a perfect 100% score in Closing Gaps.
- Earned state recognition as an Operational Status PBIS School.

## **Kelley Lake Elementary School**

- **IGNITE DeKalb Teacher Residency Program Partnership:** Kelley Lake Elementary serves as a host site for the IGNITE DeKalb Teacher Residency Program, supporting the recruitment and development of high-quality educators for high-need schools. Through this partnership, residents receive intensive training, ongoing mentorship, and graduate level coursework while gaining hands on classroom experience.
- **Community Partnership with New Life and Expanded Callanwolde Fine Arts Participation:** Through our partnership with New Life, students in grades three and four receive targeted tutoring as a free after-school opportunity designed to strengthen academic skills. In addition, New Life provides school supplies to students, reducing barriers to learning and supporting families. Kelley Lake Elementary has increased student participation in Callanwolde Fine Arts programs through free after school opportunities, including Young Artists visual arts instruction and Progressions dance classes in ballet and jazz.
- **Focus Friday Instructional Model:** Kelley Lake Elementary Implements Focus Friday as a schoolwide instructional model that provides targeted, data driven instruction aligned to student needs. During Focus Friday, teachers use assessment data to group students and deliver intentional support, enrichment, and intervention in both literacy and mathematic

## **McNair Middle School**

- Ranked 3rd in the district on the Beanstack Leaderboard, reflecting strong student engagement and commitment to literacy.
- Earned the title of District Champions in Girls Flag Football, showcasing excellence in athletics, teamwork, and school pride.
- Demonstrated strong academic outcomes in mathematics, with all student subgroups except one meeting or exceeding the 3% growth target on the Georgia Milestones Assessment.

## **McNair High School**

- Demonstrated exceptional musical excellence as 40 students auditioned for the Georgia Music Educators Association (GMEA) District Honor Band, with 14 students advancing to the second round on January 10 for consideration for the All-State Honor Band.
- Celebrated extraordinary postsecondary and academic achievement, as band students have collectively earned \$33.6 million in academic scholarships.
- Earned Superior ratings in every category at the DeKalb County School District Marching Band Evaluation, ranking as the second highest-scoring band in the county.





## Columbia Elementary School

- Guitar Center Music Grant Awarded: Columbia Elementary was selected as a recipient of the Guitar Center Music Grant, securing \$5,000 to purchase musical instruments and enhance the school's music program. This grant expands access to high-quality arts instruction and supports student creativity and engagement.
- Our Sister's Keeper (OSK) & My Brother's Keeper (MBK) Mentoring programs: Student Leadership & Community Service: Columbia's OSK students demonstrated leadership through community service and public speaking, participating in Breast Cancer Awareness initiatives (OSK) and community cleanup in partnership with Greenforest Community Baptist Church (MBK). Students strengthened their communication skills while raising awareness and modeling service to others.
- Winter Coats for Every Student: Through a generous partnership with TJX Companies, Inc. and Operation Warm, all PreK–5th grade students at Columbia Elementary received new winter coats, with additional coats provided for students and families in need—supporting student wellness and readiness to learn.

## Toney Elementary School

- Achieved a 93.24% attendance rate, supported by monthly celebrations, targeted incentives, and intentional family engagement initiatives, as the school works toward its 95% attendance goal.
- Increased student engagement in athletics through the basketball program, growing participation from 8 students last year to 15 student athletes, promoting teamwork, discipline, and school pride.
- Expanded community partnerships and resources, including, local churches donating bookbags to support student readiness, local Italian Ice business contributing to student incentives and school initiatives, AJAX Construction Company, which donated resources to support the development of a Sensory Room for diverse learners, Big Bear Grocery Store, providing continued support to students and families

## Snapfinger Elementary School

- Hosted DeKalb County CEO Lorraine Cochran as Principal for the Day, providing students and staff with a unique leadership experience and district-level engagement.
- Operates a fully functioning Snappy News Daily Broadcast, highlighting student voice, communication skills, and schoolwide engagement.
- Celebrated athletic success as the Girls Track Team placed 3rd in the district, demonstrating dedication, teamwork, and competitive excellence.

## Columbia Middle School

- Two CMS students were selected as GEORGIA REACH SCHOLARSHIP recipients.
- The CMS Flag Football team reached the quarterfinals (Final Four) in the first year of existence.
- CMS secured two new partners in education (Rainbow Park Baptist Church and The Stewart Group)

## Columbia High School

- Graduation rate above 80% for 2 consecutive years!
- Columbia HS PTSA returned this year after 4 years of no representation
- Cyber Champions: CHS students placed 2nd & 3rd in the Georgia Leaders of Educational Technology Cyber Safety Contest.



# Specialty Cluster Schools



## DeKalb School of the Arts

- DSA's Chorus and Orchestra programs recognized for its exemplary musicianship and have been selected to perform at the Georgia Music Educational Association (GMEA) Conference in January 2026.
- The Spanish & Creative Writing programs will visit Spain in February to immerse scholars in its culture and educational experiences.
- DSA has been acknowledged for improving its overall content mastery score in math. Percentage points increased by 23 points during the 24-25 school year.

## Early Learning Center

- 100% of our Pre-K students from 24-25 SY were at or above kindergarten readiness based on CFA!
- ELC serves as a model site for Early Learning and has been visited by three metro districts seeking to replicate a program in their district
- We were able to gain another class allotment based on our increasing enrollment, so we are able to serve more students through our programming.

## International Student Center

- ISC has had Phase I renovation completion. Phase II will begin in February.
- Our school won the Innovative Solutions Lab Grant - The \$10,000 STEAM Lab Grant is to improve STEAM
- Mr. Stephon Rivas was the Second Runner up to the District Teacher of the Year

## Wadsworth Magnet School

- National Junior BETA School of Excellence for a second consecutive year!
- #1 Middle School in Georgia according to US News & World Report and #3 Elementary School in Georgia according to US News & World Report and
- Named a Title I Distinguished School again this year

