



# Clayton County Public Schools

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## ADVISORY

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Division of Communications, Public Relations, Marketing & Strategic Improvement

February 25, 2026

### Clayton County Public Schools Celebrates the Retirement of Dr. Anthony W. Smith After Nearly 40 Years of Professional Service

**JONESBORO** - Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) proudly hosted a distinguished retirement celebration on February 19, 2026, honoring Dr. Anthony W. Smith, former Superintendent of Schools, for nearly four decades of exceptional professional service, innovation, and leadership. The ceremony, held at 1180 Southlake Circle in Morrow, Georgia, brought together family, colleagues, community partners, alumni, and local officials to celebrate Dr. Smith's enduring contributions to education in Clayton County and across the state of Georgia.

The evening opened with a musical selection by the Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts Chorus, followed by the Presentation of Colors by the Joint CCPS AFJROTC Cadets, reflecting Dr. Smith's deep commitment to student leadership and excellence. The program, led by Dr. Ebony T. Lee, Chief of Communications, featured a series of heartfelt presentations from local, state, and national leaders, each highlighting Dr. Smith's profound impact on academic achievement, community relationships, and districtwide innovation.

Interim Superintendent Dr. Douglas Hendrix Sr. delivered the official "Occasion" message, noting Dr. Smith's remarkable tenure as a visionary educator: a classroom teacher, principal, assistant superintendent, deputy superintendent, and ultimately superintendent, who consistently championed student success and organizational growth.

A centerpiece of the evening was the premiere of "The Journey: The Impact," a multi-chapter retirement tribute video capturing Dr. Smith's influence through five powerful pillars. Pillars I through IV — A Legacy Leader, Impact on Students and Staff, Family-Oriented Leadership, and Service-Oriented Leadership — featured reflections from colleagues, students, families, and district leaders whose lives and careers were shaped by Dr. Smith's guidance. Pillar V offered a closing message from the Board of Education and the Interim Superintendent, delivering a unified and heartfelt expression of gratitude and recognition for Dr. Smith's unwavering impact and enduring legacy.

Additional remarks and presentations were offered on behalf of the Board of Education, Core Cabinet, community and business partners, the Clayton County Chamber of Commerce, faith-based leaders, and state representatives. Each message underscored Dr. Smith's steadfast commitment to service, integrity, and educational excellence.

The evening concluded with a moving "Legacy Address" from Dr. Smith, followed by a final student musical tribute of "Lovely Day" which closed the celebration on a joyful and affirming note.

To view images from the event, [click here](#). To view the full program, [click here](#). To view the tribute videos in their entirety, [click here](#).

**-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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