

FCS MESSENGER

Fulton
County Schools
Where Students Come First

September 2026



The THRIVE Campaign: Supporting Student Well-Being Every Day

September is Suicide Prevention Awareness Month, a time dedicated to raising awareness, reducing stigma, and reminding individuals and families that support is available when it is needed most.

At Fulton County Schools, student success extends beyond academics. We are deeply committed to prioritizing the mental health, well-being, and emotional wellness of every student. Through our [THRIVE](#) initiative, we work to ensure students feel safe, connected, supported, and empowered to reach their full potential.

We encourage families to take time to connect with their children, engage in meaningful conversations, and remember that seeking support is a sign of strength. Together, we can ensure that every student knows they are valued, supported, and never alone.

If you are struggling or are concerned about a student, colleague or loved one, please reach out. You do not have to carry it alone, dialing 988 is a quick way to receive direct live support and resources for yourself or loved ones.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 7
Labor Day
(Schools & Admin Offices Closed)

September 13-19
Suicide Prevention Week

September 10
Board Work Session
(NLC)

September 17
Board Meeting
(SLC)

September is:
Suicide Prevention Month
Hispanic Heritage Month
(September 15-October 15)



How Schools Respond in a Crisis

Let's Talk Schools launches its first podcast of the school year with an inside look at how Fulton County Schools keeps students safe when the unexpected happens. From weather events and power outages to school safety concerns, discover how decisions are made, how families are notified, and what you can do to stay informed when it matters most. [Listen here.](#)



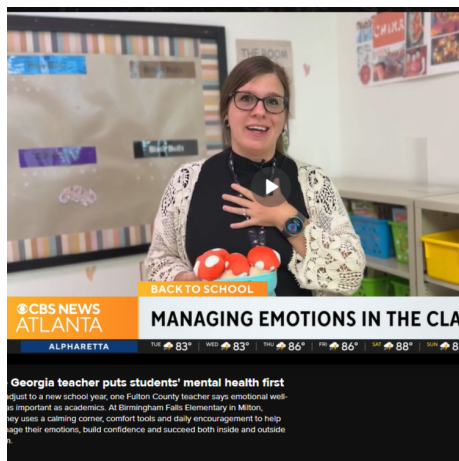
95% to Thrive: Attendance Matters

As students return to classrooms, a districtwide effort is emphasizing one of the most important factors in student success: being present. Through the "95% to Thrive" attendance campaign, schools across the district are encouraging students and families to make daily attendance a priority and recognize the lasting impact it has on learning, engagement, and achievement. [Read more.](#)



Raising the Bar on Georgia Milestones

Fulton County Schools students made measurable academic gains across every tested subject area on the 2025-26 Georgia Milestones assessments, with districtwide performance improving in Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies compared to the previous year. [Read more.](#)



How One Georgia Teacher Puts Students' Mental Health First

As students adjust to a new school year, one Fulton County teacher says emotional well-being is just as important as academics. At Birmingham Falls Elementary in Milton, Breeand Abney uses a calming corner, comfort tools and daily encouragement to help students manage their emotions, build confidence and succeed both inside and outside the classroom. [Featured on CBS News.](#)



Asa G. Hilliard Elementary Recognized as a Lighthouse School

Asa G. Hilliard Elementary School has reached a defining milestone, earning the prestigious Leader in Me Lighthouse School designation, a national recognition reserved for schools that exemplify excellence in leadership development, academic achievement, and school culture. [Read more.](#)



FCS Bus Driver's Special Bond with Passengers Turned into Book

For students riding the "Red Elephant Bus" to Lake Windward Elementary School, the drive is more than transportation. It's a daily celebration filled with singing, dancing, and encouragement from a bus driver who has become one of the most beloved adults in their lives. [Featured on CBS News.](#)



FCS Police Earn Prestigious State Certification

The FCS Police Department has earned state certification from the Georgia Association of Chiefs of Police (GACP), which recognizes excellence in policies, training, operations, accountability, and community policing, reinforcing the department's commitment to providing a safe and secure learning environment for students and staff. [Read more.](#)



Discover What Is Possible in High School

FCS's new All Access Expo brings academic programs, electives, career pathways, and enrichment opportunities together in one place. Whether you are planning your courses, exploring career interests, or looking for new opportunities, this event will help 8th and 9th graders make the most of their high school experience. Learn more and register [here.](#)



Fulton Using Program to Protect Students Digitally In The New School Year

Fulton County Schools is one of nearly two dozen north Georgia school districts who went back to school on Monday. For the third year, Fulton County is using a program called [Linewize](#) to help students in crisis. [Featured on WSB-TV.](#)



Let's Talk Schools: From Memorizing Answers to Changing the World

What happens when students turn classroom learning into solutions for real-world problems? Explore how students are designing solutions, tackling community challenges, collaborating with industry professionals, and gaining hands-on experiences that connect classroom learning to real careers. [Watch here.](#)



Atlanta Teen Earns One of the Nation's Top High School Theater Honors

Milton High School senior Jake James has earned one of the nation's highest honors in high school musical theater, winning the 2026 Jimmy Award for Best Performance by an Actor. James, who has been performing since elementary school, was recognized for his outstanding talent on the national stage. [Featured on CBS News.](#)



Join Your Board Member at a Community Meeting

Fulton County Board of Education members host monthly gatherings that are a great way to connect, share what's on your mind, and hear directly from your Board representative. It's your chance to be part of the conversation and help shape the future of our schools. [Check out the full schedule.](#)

Stay Connected with Us!

