



2015-2016 District Nominee Presentation Form

CERTIFICATIONS

District's Certifications

The signatures of the district superintendent on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the district's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the superintendent's knowledge.

- 1. The district has been evaluated and selected from among districts within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental education.
2. The district is providing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the school district concluding that the nominated school district has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the school district has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
6. The district meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2015-2016 District Sustainability Award

Name of Superintendent: Dr. David Dude (Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

District Name: City Schools of Decatur (As it should appear on an award)

Address: 125 Electric Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030

Telephone: 404-371-3601 Fax: 404-373-5579

Web site/URL: http://www.csdecatur.net/ E-mail: ddude@csdecatur.net

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

Signature of Superintendent with text: have reviewed the information accurate.

Date: 1/28/16

(Superintendent's Signature)



Nominating Authority’s Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the district’s eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority’s knowledge.

- 1. The district is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental education.
- 2. The district meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: **Georgia Department of Education**

Name of Nominating Authority: **Mr. Richard Woods**
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.

Date: **1/28/16**

(Nominating Authority’s Signature)

SUMMARY AND DOCUMENTATION OF NOMINEE’S ACHIEVEMENTS

Provide a coherent summary that describes how your district is representative of your jurisdiction’s highest achieving green school efforts. Summarize your strengths and accomplishments, being sure to cover equally all three Pillars. Then, include concrete examples for work in every Pillar and Element. Only districts that document progress in every Pillar and Element can be considered for this award.

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to ed.green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2018

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.



In our stated mission, the **City Schools of Decatur (CSD)** is committed to providing safe and inviting schools, which equates to a healthy and vibrant learning environment for our students and staff. We strive to maximize our resources through responsible operational procedures. We use best practices in energy savings to limit our consumption and expenditures. We support healthy living through our Farm to School program. We engage students in healthy lifestyle choices and habits through physical activity and Physical education. Our curriculum is infused with learning about our community and the environment. As we move to becoming one of the nation's top school districts in the 21st century, these efforts will help us develop a student population that is provided with great opportunities to develop lifelong habits that support a sustainable environment and healthy living.

The City Schools of Decatur has embarked on a five-year master plan that will bring us in line with best practices for energy savings and lower impact on the environment around us. We are in a unique situation where we serve over 4,500 children in a four square mile area. Our buildings range in ages from over 100 years old to less than 18 months old. We are also experiencing rapid growth due to our academic success and the city's desirability. Our master plan has touched on many areas of improvement. The first of our efforts are to change internal procedures and products for cleaning and maintenance. We no longer use harsh chemicals and cleaners. All of our cleaning products have been replaced with "green" supplies. We are also working with a new energy savings audit process. This process uses a once a quarter look at where we are using the most energy and focusing our efforts on upgrades at those sites. We are 3 years into a system wide expansion program for our facilities. With each project we have held ourselves to Energy Star standards and "green" practices. One of the efforts we are most proud of is bringing Decatur High School and Athletic center to an Energy Star rating of 76. This building was originally built in the 1952 and has been updated through our master plan efforts. These upgrades and expansions have resulted in a building that has our highest school ratings. We have worked in conjunction with the City of Decatur on all of our projects to preserve green space and mitigate negative environmental conditions such as extreme runoff caused by constructing more impermeable space. Our water retention and bio retention cells located under our new athletic field store and treat over 121,347 cubic feet of runoff. We are not only replacing trees on construction site, but we are actually replacing total canopy coverage.

Our most robust and honored area of work is with the Farm to School movement in our nutrition department. Our staff has worked to build community relationships with local farmers and community groups to provide our students with healthy lunches that source from our area. Recently, we were able to contract directly with local farmers to grow food specifically to our district to our specifications. This was a giant leap forward in our effort to reduce the dependency on large food suppliers who are not able to source food from our community. Through these changes, we have seen a rise in students making healthy choices at breakfast and lunch and overall participation in our program. This translates to a



student population that is better prepared for learning and positive life-long habits. We are most proud of the efforts of our nutrition department in finding ways to expand our healthy menu and provide education to our students. In addition to the strides we have made with the nutrition department, we have also become one of the largest participants in the state with the walk to school program. Currently, we average over 50% of our students will walk or ride a bike to school on any given day. This reduces the need for buses and cars, and promotes healthy living. The City Schools of Decatur also provides students with a robust staff of physical education teachers and plenty of time outside of the classroom for play and exercise.

The students in the City Schools of Decatur are very fortunate to also have a curriculum from Kindergarten through Twelfth grade that focuses on community and the environment. Our Expeditionary Learning Curriculum provides City Schools of Decatur students in grades K-5 an opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary experiential education opportunities. Expeditionary Learning design principles provide all CSD students the framework to develop a direct and respectful relationship with the natural world refreshes the human spirit and teaches the important ideas of recurring cycles and cause and effect. Our International Baccalaureate curriculum encourages students in grades 6-12 to investigate issues through research, observation and experimentation, working independently and collaboratively. The curriculum supports interdisciplinary learning in all STEM areas and focuses on our relationship with the communities and natural world around us. All of this together provides learning that is environmentally focused and teaches our students how to be good stewards of the world around us.

Overall, the City Schools of Decatur is providing our students and community with an environment that supports learning through a clean and healthy environment. We use our resources wisely and are building in processes and practices that support “green” operations. We practice healthy habits through eating, exercise, and social support. And finally, we educate our students in a way that prepares them to support a sustainable environment around us.

Green Awards for CSD include:

Georgia High Performance Healthy Schools Program From the U.S. Green Building Council in 2014, Safe Routes to School Partner of the year 2014, 2015, Golden Radish Award for Health Foods 2013, 2014, 2015, Recognized by Dept. Agriculture for Farm to School 2011.

District Contact Information

District Name: **City Schools of Decatur**

Street Address: **125 Electric Avenue**

City: **Decatur** State: **GA** Zip: **30030**

Website: **http://www.csdecatur.net** Facebook page: **https://www.facebook.com/cityschoolsofdecatur/?fref=nf**

Superintendent Name: **Dr. David Dude**

Superintendent Email Address: **ddude@csdecatur.net** Phone Number: **404-373-5579**

Lead Applicant Name (if different): **Noel Maloof**

Lead Applicant Email: **nmaloof@csdecatur.net** Phone Number: **404-371-3601 x1035**

Number of schools at each Level <input type="checkbox"/> Elementary (PK - 5 or 6) <u>7</u> <input type="checkbox"/> K – 8 ____ <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Middle (6 - 8 or 9) <u>1</u> <input type="checkbox"/> High (9 or 10 - 12) <u>1</u>	Other data you wish to collect:	How would you describe your district? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban <input type="checkbox"/> Suburban <input type="checkbox"/> Rural	Is your district among the largest 50 districts in the country? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No Total Enrolled: <u>4661</u>
Does your district serve 40% or more students from disadvantaged households? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	% receiving FRPL <u>18%</u> % limited English proficient <u>2%</u> Other measures _____		Graduation rate: <u>97%</u> Attendance rate: <u>93%</u>

1. Is your district participating in a local, state or national program, such as EPA ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager, EcoSchools, Project Learning Tree, or others, which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion in any or all of the Pillars?

Yes Program(s) and level(s) achieved: **We Participate in the Energy Star Program for our schools. We have received ratings as high as 76 at Decatur High School.**

2. Has your district received any awards for facilities, health or environment?

Yes Award(s) and year(s) **Safe Routes To Schools Partner of the year 2014, 2015 Golden Radish Award for Health Foods 2013, 2014, 2015 Recognized by Dept. Agriculture for Farm to School 2011, Georgia High Performance Healthy Schools Program From the U.S. Green Building Council in 2014**

Pillar 1: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

The City Schools of Decatur (CSD) is constantly focused on practices that reduce our overall environmental impact while providing cost savings to the district.

Facilities/Construction Management

In 2011 we began a 2.5 million dollar deferred maintenance project. This project provided monies to the maintenance department for energy efficient lighting and HVAC retrofits. In addition, we worked to develop MEP Design Standards for all of our HVAC, Fire Suppression, and Plumbing Systems. These Design Standards were completed in July of 2012. In an effort to focus our Energy Management Program on a sound, known and respected, process, we require all new buildings and renovations to meet Energy Star standards. The Energy Star program is sanctioned by the US Environmental Protection Agency and is recognized as a premier means of creating sustainable buildings that offer healthy, productive environments for their student and staff. It is also a cost effective way for us to ensure standards without incurring the costs associated with certifications such as LEEDS. The capital projects that were completed over the last 4 years were held to this standard, which enables us to receive an Energy Star rating for that scope of work. All of these projects including Decatur High School, Renfore Middle School, Oakhurst Elementary addition, The 4/5 Academy at Fifth Avenue and Westchester Elementary meet the energy star standards for energy efficient schools. The Deferred Maintenance upgrades at Clairemont Elementary, Glennwood Elementary, Winnona Park Elementary, and Westchester Elementary also meet the Energy Star Design Standards. As we have brought this standard on line our buildings are attaining higher and higher Energy Star ratings. From our older buildings like Clairemont Elementary at an Energy Star Rating of 12, to our newer retrofitted buildings like Decatur High School at an Energy Star Rating of 76. Beginning in 2012 we have built into all RFPs a standard for sustainable equipment, materials, water conservation, energy usage, and sustainable site planning. Indoor environmental quality was enhanced under these standards as well. These are only a few of the upgrades that were made by implementing the current design standards. These standards will have a tremendous overall impact in the coming years as CSD is in the early stages of over 100 million dollars of capital projects spanning the next five to seven years. Examples of these design standards include a requirement of LED lighting to be used in all new construction and renovated spaces where possible. In the past four years we have retrofitted four of our elementary schools with T-8 and LED lighting. We require all new closed systems to have an energy star rating and all open mechanical systems to meet the energy star ratings. These efforts will continue over the next five years as we work through our current master plan that includes over \$75 million in renovations and new construction.



CSD regularly works with Georgia Power and other agencies to conduct energy audits. This helps us drive our continuing upgrades to lighting and HVAC throughout the district. We also receive a quarterly updates and analyses to assist our facilities management department reduce our overall consumption of energy. Over the last three years we have realized an average consumption and cost savings over our baseline of 12%. Over the past three years our energy consumption has dropped an average 10% across the district and up to 20% in some of our older facilities. This results in a savings of over \$10,000.00 annually.

In conjunction with the City of Decatur, CSD had worked to manage storm water throughout the city. All of our new construction has included underground detention and mitigation to limit storm water runoff that has become a city wide problem. For example, we installed underground detention vaults beneath the Decatur High School football stadium to capture 320,779 gallons of storm water runoff. The stadium/gym project also has 4 small bio-retention cells that combined for an additional 12,455 gallons of water quality volume storage and treatment. That is a total storage of 333,234 gallons of storage that stores and treats storm water runoff. In addition, the recently installed phase 1 parking lot project has an underground detention system with at 100-yr storage volume 86,774 gallons. After the phase 2 addition, the DHS site will have a total of 121,347 cubic feet of storm water storage among 5 underground detention systems and 4 bio-retention cells. These tanks together with tanks installed at our other facilities, reduce the overall impact on local streams from excessive storm-water runoff in Decatur. This has reduced the environmental impact city-wide from damaging flooding and pollutants being washed directly into streams. In future projects we will continue this practice.

We have also worked to reduce our water consumption by moving to a completely synthetic athletic turf at our stadium. This reduces the overall water consumption at the high school by an average of 50% equating to over 450,000 gallons of water per year. It also eliminates the need to introduce fertilizers and pesticides on the campus for the upkeep of athletic fields.

Support Services

City Schools of Decatur maintenance and facilities department works to provide the students and staff clean and environmentally healthy facilities each day. We provide custodial services that use environmentally friendly products such as Zing Floor care products. This has completely eliminated the use of harsh chemicals in all areas of our schools and other facilities. We have been able to scale back the use of wax stripper and waxing compounds necessary to keep our floors clean and presentable. This initiative has resulted in a district-wide reduction of almost 75% in the use of chemical stripper and 10% in the use of wax over the last two years. At Decatur high school we have been able to



completely replace floor waxing on all terrazzo floors through the use of these products. We service each of our schools with a regular maintenance routine that replaced air filters monthly and services and cleans all HVAC systems on a regular basis. This improves overall air quality and health in our buildings. In addition, CSD uses 100% green cleaning products and 100% recycled bathroom tissue and paper towels throughout our buildings.

Transportation

Decatur is a unique city where all of our schools are in a four square mile area. This allows students to walk or ride bicycles to school each day. The City Schools of Decatur and the City of Decatur's Active Living program works in conjunction with the Safe Routes to School program to provide education and promotion for walking to and from school. The SRTS program goals are to have more students and adults active to help improve fitness levels, to reduce congestion around schools, and to improve air quality around schools. Decatur has had an active SRTS program since 2005. SRTS began in Decatur when Clairemont Elementary and Glennwood Academy were selected by Georgia DOT to participate in a pilot program. In 2007, SRTS expanded into Winnona Park and Oakhurst. This group meets on a monthly basis to review current issues, traffic patterns and any support needed from the city or the schools. This year Oakhurst Elementary School was selected as Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center's Partner of the Year for the Metro Atlanta Area. Winners of this award are chosen based on the progress of their SRTS programs during the past year in getting more students to walk and bike to school and increasing the awareness of SRTS within its community.

Each year we have a number of walk and ride events sponsored by the safe routes partnership. This year we participated in The International Walk and Roll Day where 52% of our middle school students walked or rode a bike and almost 73% of Oakhurst elementary students walked or rode a bike. Our second major event is the Georgia Walk and Roll Day. This year Glennwood Elementary had 66% of its students participate and Clariemont Elementary had 59% of its students participate. Citywide our students participate an average of 55% in these activities. In addition, each school has a designated walk to school day for each month of the school year. These days are sponsored by the local PTA organizations, City Schools of Decatur, Decatur Active Living, and CSD School Leadership Teams. As part of the curriculum in our schools we partner with Bicycle South to provide all of our 4th and 5th grade Elementary students a course on bike safety. This program is going on its sixth year and has taught over 2,500 students in our schools about bike safety.

The Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center has recognized outstanding partners with the Partner of the Year Award since 2011. This year Oakhurst Elementary School was selected as Georgia Safe Routes to School Resource Center's Partner of the Year for the Metro Atlanta Area. Winners of this award are chosen based on the progress of their



SRTS programs during the past year in getting more students to walk and bike to school and increasing the awareness of SRTS within its community. In 2014, Renfro Middle School was selected as Partner of the Year and Clairemont Elementary is also a past Partner of the Year. City Schools of Decatur also promotes a healthier environment with two schools and our bus fleet participating in a no-idling program.

Waste Management

In conjunction with the City of Decatur, CSD had worked to manage storm water throughout the city. All of our new construction has included underground detention and mitigation to limit storm water runoff that has become a citywide problem. For example, we installed underground detention vaults beneath the Decatur High School football stadium to capture. These tanks together with tanks installed at our other facilities, reduce the overall impact on local streams from excessive storm-water runoff in Decatur. This has reduced the environmental impact city-wide from damaging flooding and pollutants being washed directly into streams. In future projects we will continue this practice.

Through a private grant, the City Schools of Decatur has implemented a 1:1 iPad initiative in grades 4-8. This initiative has helped reduce the need for textbooks across half of the grades served in the district. Not only has this had a significant cost savings, it dramatically reduces the need to purchase and dispose of textbooks on a yearly basis. It also reduces the need for supplemental and consumable paper materials.

Each of the nine City Schools of Decatur schools participates in the Decatur city-wide recycling program. This program provides students and staff with separate recycling bins and waste bins. For example, Decatur High School recycles over 8 tons of material each school year through the DeKalb County Sanitation recycling program. In 2013 we made a commitment to use reusable lunch trays and silverware whenever possible to cut back on our carbon footprint. This has resulted in a reduction of over 500,000 trays being disposed of annually.

Pillar 2: Improve the health and wellness of students and staff

CSD works to improve the health and wellness of students, staff and facility. We believe this leads to an overall successful school district.

The School Nutrition Program for the City Schools of Decatur contributes to a successful academic experience and encourages a lifetime of healthy eating by serving Decatur students nutritious, appealing, high-quality, affordable meals every day. Both breakfast and lunch are available to students at all schools. We formed the UMC (Ultimate Menu Committee) in 2012 to work with parents and community to improve the quality of school meals. In 2013 with the



financial assistance of the UMC the system hired a nutrition consulting group to evaluate where our program was on the fresh local food, scratch cooking efforts and to help better direct future efforts to serve the least processed food within our financial constraints. Our nutrition staff uses the recommendations made by the City Schools of Decatur Ultimate Menu Committee and consultant Rick Hughes, to seek ways to make cafeteria foods more wholesome and locally sourced, and our kitchens more efficient.

We have eliminated many of the pre-made entrée items such as shrimp poppers and fish sticks in exchange for entrées made from scratch. Dried potatoes and sweet potato tots have been replaced by real mashed potatoes and other, less processed forms of sweet potatoes. We are incorporating the use of fresh, whole-grain breads which come frozen and ready to bake. We continue to make a conscious effort to choose ingredients and products that do not contain High Fructose Corn Syrup (HFCS). Examples of this change include replacing jelly with honey and pancake syrup that does not contain HFCS, and replacing pancake and muffin mixes with whole grain products. We rarely offer sugary desserts at meals, and if we do they are fruit-based desserts that are made from scratch like apple crisps or peach cobblers. We have also limited the availability of chocolate milk; it is no longer available at breakfast.

The City Schools of Decatur Nutrition Department has joined purchasing organization, ProVista Group, beginning with the 2014-15 school year. This enables us to lower costs and to search and order products that have cleaner labels. We have also opted to use USDA commodity dollars only for the purchase of fruits, vegetables, and low fat cheese, instead of mainly meat. Furthermore, a menu management program was purchased in order to give our menus a professional look, and we began scheduling monthly staff meetings with kitchen managers. We have also installed cafeteria signage to help students make better food choices. For the first time this year we partnered with The Common Market (a group of local farmers) and had them grow the produce of the month for us which provided fresh local produce to the kitchen weekly. We are currently participating in the DOD (Dept. of Defense) program that allows us to spend a portion of our USDA commodity money on fresh produce. We put 1/3 of our annual allotment into the purchase of produce this year.

As part of Decatur Farm to School efforts beginning during the 2010-11 school year, City Schools of Decatur's School Nutrition Department accomplished the following:

Received funding from the Great American Salad Bar Project for three new portable salad bars (valued at \$3000 each) for Decatur High School, Renfroe Middle School, and the new 4th/5th Academy at 5th Avenue. We also began serving 2 types of salad choices in the elementary schools every day. Our staff eliminated the "a la carte" line at the high school where nachos, fries and other less healthy items were previously sold. These lines were replaced with "fast and fresh"



options that include salads and fresh fruit. We spotlight one locally grown fresh fruit or vegetable each month on the menu at all schools. “Produce of the month” has included fresh, local watermelon, tomatoes, apples, greens, and butternut squash. School nutrition department follows Georgia Organic's harvest calendars much as possible for the Produce of the Month.

We prepared and served kale for the first district-wide taste test at every CSD school in 2014. Students planted and harvested the kale at their school gardens. All students were offered samples during lunch time, and they answered a few questions about kale, both before and after tasting it. Preliminary results show that most students tried the kale, and of those who tried it, the majority liked it. Since this test Kale appears on our menus regularly.

Over the last two years, the CSD nutrition department increased dollars spent on fresh produce by 48%, and increased dollars spent on locally grown produce by 99% as compared to the previous five school years. It is important to note that total food costs did not increase significantly over this period.

We participated in four hands-on cooking workshops for all school nutrition staff sponsored and led by Cook’s Warehouse, a local gourmet cooking store and school. Recipes focused on working with fresh produce and have been incorporated in the school lunch menu.

CSD presented a case study of Farm to School at Georgia Organics' annual conference in Savannah in March. School Nutrition Director Allison Goodman and the other Decatur Farm to School panelists spoke to a room packed with teachers, school administrators, parents, community advocates and others interested in bringing “farm to school” to their communities across the state.

Decatur Farm to School is a branch of the Wylde Center, a 501(c)3. This collaboration allows Farm to School's programming, fundraising, and communication to be supported by systems already in place at the Wylde Center. Wylde Center and DF2S are natural partners in educating our students, teachers, and the larger community about gardening, food sources, nutrition and environmental stewardship. Decatur Farm to School involves parents, teachers, school administrators, community members and organizations with the objectives of serving healthy meals in school cafeterias, improving student nutrition, providing health and nutrition education opportunities that will last a lifetime, and supporting local farmers. We also partner with the Wylde Center to host a Farm 2 School Committees Dine Out Fundraiser twice a year. Part of the proceeds buys equipment for our kitchens.



Decatur received its 3rd Georgia Organics Golden Radish Award in 2015 for:

- Locally grown products were featured 105 times in school meals throughout the 2014-15 school year, and local produce was featured on the district's three salad bars and prepackaged salads at all of the elementary schools.
- All nine schools in the district have edible school gardens, which are utilized for teaching farm to school lessons and growing produce for taste tests.
- Over 60 standards-based farm to school lessons were taught to students in classrooms and school gardens through a partnership with the Wylde Center.
- Parents and community members supported the district's farm to school efforts by organizing fundraisers, helping to conduct district-wide taste tests, serving on the Decatur Farm to School Committee and School Nutrition Advisory Council, and volunteering in school gardens and classrooms.

The City Schools of Decatur provides counseling and social work services for all of our 9 schools. We have also added a district wide crisis intervention coordinator to the central office staff this year.

The CSD School Health Program provides seven registered nurses and one registered nurse coordinator for the district's eight schools and the Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC). ECLC and the K-3 schools are staffed with a half-time nurse (with a nurse on-call when not on site). The 4/5 Academy at Fifth Avenue, Renfroe Middle School, Oakhurst Elementary, and Decatur High School have a nurse on site every day.

The nurses, in collaboration with families and health care providers:

- provide nurse triage for health issues occurring during the school day
- provide and manage care for children with chronic conditions (asthma, diabetes, seizures) while at school
- assist families in linking with health care providers as needed
- provide health education for students and staff
- serve as health resource for staff
- coordinate health screenings (vision, hearing, scoliosis) and follow-up care
- serve as a health liaison between families, the school, and the health care provider
- provide preventative care services for students and staff (such as flu clinics)



In 2015 CSD created a full time athletic trainer position. This position is sponsored in a partnership with Emory Healthcare to provide a full time athletic trainer to work with all students throughout each of their athletic seasons. The trainer is available to any student at any time. Students can consult on injuries, workout routines, and any other sports related issue that may need professional training expertise.

Each of our schools is also staffed with at least one Physical Education teacher to provide our students with a minimum of 30-45 minutes per day of health and physical education. Our Elementary students also enjoy at least 15 minutes per day of unstructured break time on our playgrounds. All of our schools are currently implementing the Presidential Youth Fitness Program and administering the Fitnessgram assessment. This assessment helps our students understand how healthy living and exercise impact them directly. In the High School we redesigned our curriculum to include a true exercise and conditioning class for students. This class teaches our students about lifelong fitness and helps them build individual fitness routines that can be used beyond High School. We have also developed curriculum in our Physical Education classes that focuses on team sports and lifelong sports. The goal of this class is to engage our students in physical activities that promote a lifelong habit of exercise and social interaction. Over the past two years the enrollment of these classes has doubled compared to our previous generic Physical Education Classes.

Pillar 3: Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills and green career pathways.

City Schools of Decatur provides educational frameworks to support course work in STEM areas, as well as career preparation for the 21st century. Our curriculum also focuses on environmental stewardship and understanding of how we interact with the world around us. We accomplish this through the use of Expeditionary Learning and International baccalaureate curriculum and programs.

The Expeditionary Learning Curriculum provides City Schools of Decatur students in grades K-5 an opportunity to participate in interdisciplinary experiential education opportunities. Expeditionary Learning design principle number 8 provides all CSD students the framework to develop a direct and respectful relationship with the natural world refreshes the human spirit and teaches the important ideas of recurring cycles and cause and effect. Students learn to become stewards of the earth and of future generations.

Throughout the International Baccalaureate curriculum the City Schools of Decatur focuses on high levels of education in the areas of Science, Technology, Math, and Engineering. The International Baccalaureate curriculum is focused



on interdisciplinary studies that encourages students to make connections between what they are studying and the world around them.

The International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (Grades 6-10) sciences framework encourages students to investigate issues through research, observation and experimentation, working independently and collaboratively. The Science courses in the MYP Programme include interdisciplinary learning designed to explore concepts, skill and processes across disciplines. The Middle Years Programme also offers opportunities for students to take accelerated math options.

The International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and Career Related Programme (Grades 11-12) focuses on specializing in STEM areas. All 11th and 12th grade students will take IB standard level or high level biology as a two year class. This allows all of our students to go beyond a foundational education in sciences. The Diploma Programme also offers classes to students in Advanced Physics, High Level Math, and World Studies. Students may also take Career Related Programme classes in Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science to expand interests in STEM areas.

City Schools of Decatur supports sustainability of native plants and trees through the implementation of a Pollinator garden at Decatur High School. This garden was planted in conjunction with trees Atlanta to support the continuation of indigenous species of trees and plants in and around Decatur. This garden is maintained by students, teachers and parents. It is also used in conjunction with the International Baccalaureate curriculum for Biology classes. We also host student gardens at all of our elementary schools and middle school. Each of these gardens are tied into the curriculum and daily learning. In 2011 we were honored with a visit from the deputy secretary of Agriculture for our efforts in Farm 2 School and school gardens at Renfroe Middle School.

Renfroe Middle school and Decatur High School has created a symposium day for all of called "Water Wise". The Water Wise symposium is an educational opportunity for all 8th and 9th grade students enrolled in City Schools of Decatur to explore global water issues surrounding access to potable water through multiple perspectives. The symposium offered a menu of break-out sessions. These sessions were interactive and discussion-based sessions on global water issues.



Four years in a row, Decatur Farm to School offered a six-week, paid summer internship to three Decatur High School students. The DF2S summer program serves two purposes: first to offer students a hands-on opportunity to partner with gardeners, farmers and chefs in the hard work of cultivating fresh local foods, and preparing these foods for consumers; and second, to encourage students to share their ideas about how to increase meaningful DF2S activity with high school-aged students. The selected interns worked at farms, gardens and local restaurants to experience the entire farm-to-table process.

Renfroe Middle School International Perspectives students continuously sustain an eight bed raised bed organic garden. To complement the 8th grade curriculum, they are planting a Native American three-sisters demonstration garden which includes corn, beans, and squash. Beans will climb corn trellises, adding needed nitrogen naturally while tethering the top-heavy plant. The squash acts as a natural mulch preventing erosion, evaporation, and weed-growth. A PTA grant was used to purchase some tools and materials, as well as programming from the Wylde Center to build compost systems so that RMS students can create their own compost. The garden will continue to grow as more and more teachers use it. Five RMS teachers are applying to a School Master Gardener Certification program this summer through the Cooperative Extension Service.

Our Vision

CSD will be one of the top ten community school districts in the nation.

Our Mission

CSD challenges every student to succeed by providing a rigorous, engaging and authentic learning experience delivered by highly qualified, caring adults in safe and inviting schools.

City Schools of Decatur is an independent public school district that serves all of the children and youth within the four square mile area of Decatur, Georgia. An urban town of approximately 20,000 residents, the City of Decatur is a historic city of homes, schools and places of worship with a thriving business community located 15 minutes east of downtown Atlanta. Decatur offers a traditional small-town atmosphere--and the sophistication and excitement of a college town--along with all the benefits of living in a major metropolitan area.

City Schools of Decatur has a total enrollment of approximately 5,600 students and operates a total of nine schools--one Early Childhood Learning Center, five K-3 primary schools, one 4th/5th grade Academy, one middle school, and one high school. The Early Childhood Learning Center, opened in August 2005, offers programs for Decatur children ages



infants through Pre-K. The primary schools are small schools serving grades K-3 and are nestled within residential neighborhoods throughout Decatur. The 4/5 Academy at Fifth Avenue serves all students in grades 4-5, Renfroe Middle School serves all students grades 6-8, and Decatur High School serves all students in grades 9-12.

Our teachers are among the finest professionals in the field. Over 70% of our teachers hold advanced degrees, most have multiple years of classroom experience, and a number of them hold multiple certifications. The average years of experience among teachers across our district is 13 years.

Community Partners include:

- Bicycle South
- Decatur Active Living
- City of Decatur
- DeKalb County
- The Wylde Center
- Whole Foods
- Trees Atlanta
- Georgia Power
- AHA Consulting
- Ascension Program Management
- Turner Construction
- Breedlove Land Planning
- The Decatur Education Foundation
- Decatur Farm to School
- The Decatur Business Association
- Emory Healthcare
- Funk Global Awareness Foundation