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COGNIA NOTES IMPROVEMENT AS CCSD MOVES CLOSER TO FULL ACCREDITED STATUS

Monitoring Review Team Slated to Return in December

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(ATHENS, GA)- At the Board of Education's Work Session last night, the Clarke County School District (CCSD) released findings from the latest Cognia™ Monitoring Review Report which shows demonstrated improvement toward full Accredited Status. Although the district remains in *Accredited Under Review* status, the report showed that the district made gains in two of the three Board governance areas cited as deficient in its January 2020 review.

"We depend on our Board members to help keep us focused on student equity, achievement, and success," said Xernona Thomas, CCSD superintendent. "While I am encouraged by the progress Cognia has noted, the report also clearly outlines the steps needed in order to provide the type of school system our communities expect and our students deserve."

In its January 2020 report, Cognia downgraded CCSD's accreditation status citing deficiencies in three Leadership Capacity Standards:

- **Standard 1.4-** The governing authority establishes and ensures adherence to policies that are designed to support system effectiveness.
- **Standard 1.5-** The governing authority adheres to a code of ethics and functions within defined roles and responsibilities.
- **Standard 1.7-** Leaders implement operational processes and procedures to ensure organizational effectiveness in support of teaching and learning.

This latest Accreditation Review documented improvements. More specifically:

- **Standard 1.4-** Rating was upgraded from "Initiating" to "Improving".
- **Standard 1.5-** Rating was upgraded from "Insufficient" to "Initiating".
- **Standard 1.7-** Remained rated at "Initiating".

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“Our number one priority is to have the Clarke County School District restored to full Accredited Status,” said Dr. LaKeisha Gantt, Board president. “Although these findings show we are moving in the right direction, we recognize there remains important work to be done by our Board.”

The latest Accreditation Monitoring Review report commended CCSD and Board members for progress and commitment to continuous improvement on behalf of all learners. It also pointed out specific “next steps” to include: Ensuring that the Board fully implements effective Board governance best practices; documenting work and accomplishments related to each Cognia Performance Standard, and submitting a Progress Report to the agency prior to the next Monitoring Review to be conducted by December 2021.

The district received its most recent comprehensive Cognia review and accreditation in 2018-2019. The accreditation cycle is for a five (5)-year period, and as such, CCSD remains accredited through the 2022-2023 school year. The status of *Accredited Under Review* means the district must continue to address the leadership standards identified by the Cognia reviewers.

The complete Monitoring Review Report for CCSD, which provides its *Summary of Findings, Directives, and Recommendations*, is located on the CCSD website [HERE](#). The direct link to the report is found at: <https://www.clarke.k12.ga.us/domain/2326>

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