

7.17.20

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION
DELAYS START OF SCHOOL AND MODIFIES ACADEMIC CALENDAR
School Starts Tuesday, September 8, 2020**

Athens, Georgia — The Clarke County Board of Education voted during a special called meeting on July 17, 2020, to delay the start of school and modify the 2020-21 academic calendar. These decisions were based on the district's recognition of the effects of COVID-19 and the commitment to the safety and wellness of students and staff.

The Clarke County School District will start the academic year on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

"Our number one goal is to have students in classrooms, face-to-face with their teachers," states Brannon Gaskins, Chief Academic Officer. "However, as we followed current COVID-19 trends and evaluated results from parent and staff surveys, we recommended a delayed start date. This additional time enables us to monitor the status of the virus, refine instructional models, and prepare our facilities for in-person learning."

On July 22, 2020, the district will release updated information on instruction models. Stakeholder meetings will be scheduled to solicit additional feedback from staff and parents.

"As I can attest, the health and safety of our staff and students is paramount," states Dr. Xernona Thomas, Interim Superintendent. Dr. Thomas recently shared she was diagnosed with COVID-19 and hospitalized. "My own experience has helped the team recognize the challenges that accompany the pandemic. We will continue to work together to provide the best instruction and support to our students, families, and staff."

Additional Resources

- [2020-21 Academic Calendar \(subject to change\)](#)
- [Presentation of Recommendations to BOE at Special Called Meeting - 7.16.20](#)
- [Special Called BOE Meeting - YouTube Video - 7.16.20](#)

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Media Contact

Beth Moore

Communications Manager

Clarke County School District • clarke.k12.ga.us

beth.moore@clarke.k12.ga.us • 706-546-7721, Ext. 20703