



# North Metro GNETS Program



A member of the Georgia Network for Educational and Therapeutic Support  
Serving Atlanta Public Schools, Buford City Schools, Fulton County Schools, and Gwinnett County Schools

August 1, 2021

## MEMORANDUM

To: North Metro GNETS Staff, Leadership, and Stakeholders  
From: Dr. Cassandra Allen Holifield, North Metro GNETS Director  
Subject: Welcome Back to School!

Welcome back to school North Metro GNETS staff, leadership, and stakeholders! I hope your summer was full of restorative rest, safe travels, and lots of self-care. Your hard work, tenacity, and resilience are commended. You demonstrated professionalism, high expectations of our students, and maintained positive school climates in academically challenging environments both face to face and virtually. This was a challenge, but you did it, our students thrived, and I thank you.

As you know, Covid-19 has changed the way our schools, communities, and our program operate as it relates to safety protocols. Many of the safety protocols established last year will continue in the 2021 - 2022 school year for our safety. As we adhere to those safety protocols, we will continue to provide quality academic, behavioral, and therapeutic support services to our students. Those therapeutic support services include Applied Behavioral Analysis (ABA), Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), Trauma Informed Care (TIC), Restorative Practices (RP), and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT) by trained, certified, and licensed therapeutic professionals. Academically, we will continue to provide evidenced-based instructional practices using assessments that identify our students' academic strengths and deficits while we continue to provide Standards-based instruction, implement High Leverage Practices, and Specially-Designed Instruction while also providing Culturally Responsive Teaching. We will continue providing engaging instruction using online tools such as multimedia, formative assessments, and collaboration which engage our students academically and socially so they can become more vested in their own learning and self-advocate for themselves and have a voice.

As we embrace change, let's continue to learn more, do more, be solution oriented, practice self-care, and continue to support the work of our GNETS Strategic Plan, which helps us keep the needs of our students and staff first. As a cohesive team, we can do anything. We've already proven that. Let's make our 2021-2022 school year the best school year ever.

*"Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us, We ask ourselves, Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous? Actually, who are you not to be? Your playing small does not serve the world." – Marianne Williamson*

Welcome Back to School!

Sincerely,

*Cassandra Allen Holifield, PhD*

Director, North Metro GNETS