The Achievement Zone is a geographic area in South Fulton made up of Banneker High School and its feeder elementary and middle schools. The schools within this area experience high rates of mobility, poverty, crime risk, and a lack of intensive supports for struggling students. The Achievement Zone is designed to accelerate the school district’s efforts to improve academic outcomes for the students who attend schools within the Zone.

Schools

There are ten schools in the Achievement Zone: Banneker High School, McNair Middle School, Woodland Middle School, Bethune Elementary School, Brookview Elementary School, College Park Elementary School, Feldwood Elementary School, Heritage Elementary School, Asa G. Hilliard Elementary School, and Love T. Nolan Elementary School.

Mission

The mission of the Achievement Zone is to accelerate and concentrate research-based reform efforts, offering a wide range of supports and opportunities to remove obstacles to dramatic school improvement and provide access for all families with students in the Zone to receive a high quality education.

Goals

The Achievement Zone seeks to increase the graduation rate and students’ college and career readiness. In addition, the Zone will achieve the following:

- Increase the percentage of students meeting the Lexile score expectation.
- Increase the percentage of students scoring at or above benchmark on STAR math.
- Increase the percentage of eighth-graders who pass Algebra.
- Increase the percentage of students scoring proficient or higher on Georgia Milestones End of Course assessments.
- Increase the percentage of on-track ninth graders.
- Reduce the percentage of students who are absent six or more days.
- Decrease out-of-school suspension.
- Increase the percentage of students enrolled in and passing rigorous courses defined as advanced, accelerated, honors, Advanced Placement, Talented and Gifted, and High Potential.
- Increase the percentage of students completing Career, Technical and Agricultural Education pathways and earning certification or licensure.
The Achievement Zone has three strategic themes: Talent, Culture and Climate, and Learning and Teaching. Innovation and strategic partnerships are enabling factors that play a key role in the execution of the strategy of the Zone.

Immediate strategies implemented for the 2015-2016 school year to support schools in creating a culture of high expectations; recruiting, developing, and retaining high quality staff; and providing high quality learning and teaching for students include:

- The Junior Achievement-Magnet Business Academy (JA-MBA) at Banneker High School
- Expansion of AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) at McNair Middle School, Woodland Middle School, and Banneker High School
- Strategically staffing high performing teachers at Feldwood Elementary School, Heritage Elementary School, and McNair Middle School
- Recruitment incentives for new staff to Achievement Zone schools
- Teach for America K-3 literacy grant at Brookview Elementary School
- 8th and 9th grade academies at McNair Middle School, Woodland Middle School, Banneker High School, and McClarin High School
- Extensive professional development for staff
- District Readiness Assessment and strategic planning for school turnaround