



6201 Powers Ferry Road
Atlanta, Georgia 30339



www.fultonschools.org

News Release

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For More Information Contact

Cierra Chuly Boyd or Amanda Howard, Communications
470-254-6830 or communications@fultonschools.org

Middle school students sign commitments for \$10,000 scholarships to graduate high school, attend college

Eight Fulton County 8th-graders took the first step toward reaching their dreams by signing commitments to graduate high school and accept a \$10,000 college scholarship funded by the REACH Georgia program. A signing ceremony was held recently at the school district's North Learning Center.

The event featured the honored students, as well as school board members, Fulton County Schools (FCS) Superintendent Dr. Jeff Rose, district leaders, principals, counselors and graduation coaches. The Fulton Education Foundation is a sponsor of the school system's REACH Georgia program and is contributing financially to the success of the students.

Dr. Rose praised the students' hard work and encouraged them to continue on the path to success. "I encourage you to remain focused; you've done amazingly well, but you're not done," he told the 8th-graders.

Launched in 2012, the REACH (Realizing Educational Achievement Can Happen) Georgia program is a needs-based scholarship designed to promote academic success and expand access to higher education, especially for students who are the first in their families to attend college. Hundreds of students across Georgia are signing contracts for the 2018-2019 school year, including these eight Fulton students:

- **Matthew Atiogbe**, Hopewell Middle School
- **Deaira LaShae Bryant**, Renaissance Middle School
- **Khamari Ahmad Bush**, Camp Creek Middle School
- **Ashley Raymundo Emilio**, Ridgeview Middle School
- **Allison Roxana Herrera**, Holcomb Bridge Middle School
- **Tai Delaney Hutchins**, Holcomb Bridge Middle School
- **Nyla Joy Price**, Ridgeview Middle School
- **Caren Jimena Quijada**, McNair Middle School

As part of the program, the students signed contracts to maintain a certain grade point average and remain crime, drug, and behavior-issue free, as well as meet with a volunteer mentor until they graduate from high school. Their parents or guardians also signed contracts to support the students through their education. When these scholars graduate from high school, they will receive a total of \$10,000 in scholarships – \$2,500 each year for up to four years – to be used at a Georgia Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally (HOPE) eligible

college. Many colleges are matching this scholarship and some are double matching the scholarship, providing scholars additional resources for their education.

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About the Fulton County School System. The Fulton County School System is the fourth largest school system in Georgia. More than 95,000 students attend 106 schools in the cities of Alpharetta, Chattahoochee Hills, College Park, East Point, Fairburn, Hapeville, Johns Creek, Milton, Mountain Park, Palmetto, Roswell, Sandy Springs, South Fulton and Union City.