



Dr. Devon Q. Horton, *Superintendent*

Mr. Dijon DaCosta, Sr., *Board Chair*
Mrs. Deirdre P. Pierce, *Vice Chair*
Mrs. Anna Hill
Ms. Whitney McGinniss
Ms. Allyson Gevertz
Mrs. Vickie B. Turner
Dr. Joyce Morley

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 15, 2023

Contact:

Donald Porter, *Ed.D.* 678-481-4110
Carla Parker 404-734-1717

It's Official: DCSD Launches IGNITE DeKalb Teacher Residency Program to Cultivate the Next Generation of Transformative Educators

Applicants for the Initial Cohort of 50 Now Being Accepted

(STONE MOUNTAIN, GA) -Today, the DeKalb County School District (*DCSD*) announces the official launch of its IGNITE DeKalb Teacher Residency Program, which is a signature initiative of Superintendent Dr. Devon Q. Horton to address the critical need for qualified educators in the district.

The IGNITE (*Inspiring Greatness and Normalizing Innovation in Teacher Education*) DeKalb Teacher Residency Program is a transformational approach, providing an alternate and highly effective route to teacher certification. Aimed at preparing a new wave of high-quality, dedicated educators, IGNITE creates an achievable path to the classroom for passionate individuals seeking to shape the future of education. It also demonstrates DCSD's commitment to innovative strategies that address critical educational challenges by developing the next generation of exceptional teachers.

The newly launched website, available at <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/ignite/>, has already garnered significant attention. During the program's unadvertised soft launch this weekend, over 400 individuals expressed interest.

Only 50 slots will be available in the initial cohort set to begin in January 2024. Candidates will be chosen through a competitive selection process. A new cohort is set to commence every six months starting in June 2024.

Prospective IGNITE candidates must hold a bachelor's degree in a non-education field with a minimum 2.5 GPA from an accredited college. Upon program completion, cohort graduates commit to teaching in DCSD for five years. Some of the key benefits of IGNITE include:

- **Education and Training:** Candidates receive a free master's degree and extensive training with no out-of-pocket expenses.
- **Financial Support:** A \$30,000 living stipend is provided during the training year.
- **Job Security:** Successful candidates are guaranteed a teaching job in DCSD with a starting salary of at least \$57,000.

For IGNITE program details and to apply, visit: <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/ignite/>

See Dr. Horton's vision for the IGNITE program at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4ukD0BCqxc>

XXX