

Towers Cluster Townhall Remaining Questions

What is a Horizon School?

Under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), states are required to identify schools in need of additional support. In Georgia, these designations are referred to as Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI), Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI), and Promise. In the DeKalb County School District, these schools are referred to as Horizon Schools.

Typically, schools are identified as CSI if they are among the lowest performing 5% of Title I schools in the state when ranked according to their College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) Content Mastery, Readiness, and Graduation Rate Component scores. A high school can also be identified as CSI if their four-year adjusted cohort graduation rate is less than or equal to 67%.

Schools are typically identified as Promise if their performance is between 5.01 to 10% of Title I schools in the state when ranked according to their CCRPI Content Mastery, Readiness, and Graduation Rate Component scores.

Schools are identified as TSI if they have at least one subgroup such as students with disabilities performing in the lowest 5% of all schools in at least 50% of CCRPI components.

[2022-2023 Horizon Schools and Principals \(12.13.22\) .pdf](#)

Has parent participation increased?

There is an ongoing effort to increase parent participation in the elementary, middle, and high school levels. One critical component of increasing parent participation is communication. This is a fundamental component of community engagement. Effective communication helps build trust, foster relationships, and ensure that all stakeholders are informed and involved in the decision-making process. It takes various forms in DCSD, including:

1. Hitting the Road Weekly Newsletter is a great way to stay abreast of happenings in the district. It can be found on the DCSD website and each school's website it is also sent by text message for those who have a correct telephone number in Infinite Campus

[Hitting the Road with Horton – DeKalb County School District \(dekalbschoolsga.org\)](http://dekalbschoolsga.org)

2. Because each school community is unique, the local schools have the option to use additional methods of communication through School Messenger, text, hard copy flyers, Dojo (elementary schools), and etc.
3. Stakeholders are encouraged to take advantage of the weekly ThoughtExchanges. It is an excellent way to provide ongoing feedback about various topics. The QR code and link can be found in the Superintendent's Weekly Newsletter and social media. The newsletter is sent by text, social media, and posted on the district's website. The data from the ThoughtExchange questions has been shared for all to view. This data will inform next steps for improvement.

[Thought Exchange – MIRACLES \(dekalbschoolsga.org\)](https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org)

4. DCSD's official social media platforms are listed below:

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/DeKalbSchoolsGA>

Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/dekalbschools/>

Twitter - <https://twitter.com/DeKalbSchools>

[DCSD FamilyEngagement | Facebook](#)

[DCSD Family Engagement](#)

5. DCSD makes every effort to uplift the voices of all stakeholders. The newly launch Superintendent Parent Advisory Councils provide a way to discuss issues/concerns and problem solve in a small group with Superintendent Horton. After each advisory meeting, next steps will be developed in order to address issues on a given topic. In addition, the Strategic Plan is currently under revision. You may be invited to serve on a committee as well as to respond to survey questions.

What is done on a district or regional level to inform and engage major corporations in supporting the MIRACLES Framework and new vision, for example: MARTA-Indian Creek Electric Owl Studios, local churches of all denominations?

We are enthusiastic about the potential for positive change through collaborative efforts, and we believe that forging strategic partnerships is essential to achieving our shared vision for community impact.

We recognize that there are numerous opportunities for synergy and collaboration between our organizations that are waiting to be explored. We want to ensure that contributions of each partnership align seamlessly with MIRACLES and the overall vision of DCSD, and we believe that by combining our strengths, we can create even more meaningful and sustainable outcomes for our community.

DeKalb Schools Foundation

The approval of the DeKalb Schools Foundation by the DeKalb County Board of Education opens up exciting possibilities for the district to enhance its initiatives through corporate and regional partnerships. The Foundation will launch January 2024.

Grants & Partnership Development – DeKalb County School District (dekalbschoolsga.org)

Our current partnerships are listed above. Please see a *sample* of the following groups where Superintendent Horton has been invited to share the MIRACLES Framework and the new vision:

MIRACLES website <https://www.dekalbschoolsga.org/miracles/>

Community meetings:

Superintendent Parent Advisory Council
Superintendent Bi-Lingual Parent Advisory Council
Superintendent Staff Advisory Council
Hitting the Road with Horton Roundtable Weekly Visits
Restore DeKalb, Decide DeKalb
Africa's Children Fund
Big Brothers, Big Sisters
DeKalb Pastor's Alliance
United Way
ShadowBox Studio
Education Workforce
Partners in Change

Georgia Piedmont College
Georgia State University
Middle Georgia State University
Emory University
Clayton State University
DeKalb Commissioners & CEO
DeKalb Municipal Association
Governor's Office of Student Achievement