



SUCCESS FOR ALL STUDENTS PROJECT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

State Superintendent Kathy Cox To Join Launch Of *Success For All Students* Program

*Grant-Funded Program To Provide Unique Mental Health Services For
Cobb Students*

Georgia Superintendent of Schools Kathy Cox will join a host of other state and community leaders to officially launch the Cobb County School District's **Success for All Students** program Wednesday, Oct. 28! Success for All Students is a school-based mental health support program providing free intervention and mentoring services for students at 35 Cobb County schools in Acworth, Kennesaw and Powder Springs. The kickoff event will offer the public an opportunity to learn how the program will positively impact Cobb County students and their families. The Harrison High School orchestra and string quartet will provide entertainment and the ROTC from North Cobb and Kennesaw Mountain high schools also will participate. The event will take place from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Cobb County Safety Village, located at 1220 Al Bishop Drive in Marietta.

Earlier this year, Cobb County schools received an unprecedented \$8.5 million in grant funds from the federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students Program, the fourth-largest grant in the nation and history of the Safe Schools Initiative. Funding was initially received in July, but this is the first full year of the project's operation.

"Although we hit the ground running, it took several months to hire, fully staff the project, and bring the 35 schools in the service areas on board," reports Project Manager Matt Yancey. The project will span four years and potentially impact 37,390 students within 20 elementary, 9 middle and 6 high schools in Acworth, Kennesaw and Powder Springs, approximately 35 percent of the entire enrollment for CCSD. Cobb County is among few national trendsetters creating systemic change by providing school-based mental health for students with a focus on strategies to reduce the risk factors that come between children and their ability to learn.

The goals for the Success for All Students program are to decrease discipline incidents and improve attendance, academic achievement and, ultimately, graduation rates. Dr. Paulette Herbert, Cobb County School Social Work Supervisor and Project Director, said, "Providing mental health and other support services to both students and their families will ultimately give teachers more time to teach and allow students to succeed academically." School mental health professionals report only 10 percent of all school districts in the U.S. currently have established, school-based mental health programs that go beyond what school counseling and social work staff can provide.

Core partners for the project include the Cobb Community Services Board, Cobb County Juvenile Court, and the Cobb County Sheriff's Office. Georgia State University won the bid to provide evaluation services. Project leaders also anticipate strengthening partnerships with Cobb Public Health and DFCS. Staff members have begun an unprecedented collaboration with numerous other local organizations including, Crossover Mentoring, Girls, Inc., the Cobb Community Collaborative, Prevention Intervention, Culture Connect, Cobb Alcohol Task Force, Cobb Safety Village, Communities in Schools, Cobb Family Resources, United Way, Must Ministries, Northstar Church and other local faith-based organizations, along with business associations in West Cobb, Powder Springs, Acworth and Kennesaw.

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