



NEWS RELEASE

For release: July 18, 2005 **Contact:** Communication and Media Relations, 770-822-6508

Gwinnett readies for first day of school, Aug. 8

Back-to-school activities planned for returning students

During the week of Aug. 1-5, returning students will have the opportunity to meet their new teachers, visit classrooms, and receive information about the coming school year. Local schools will share details on back-to-school activities with families. Parents also may call their local school for the date and times of planned activities. These activities may include picking up schedules and acquiring lockers and parking spaces, meeting teachers, paying for school lunches, joining the PTA, and checking out school spirit wear.

New students should register at their new school

Newcomers who are registering with Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) for the first time should call their local schools for details regarding registration hours, testing for placement, and procedures. Parents unsure which school their child will attend should call the GCPS Department of Planning at (770) 822-6510. Note: Current GCPS students who are moving from one grade level to another-- for instance, a rising 6th grader or a rising 9th grader-- do not need to re-register at their new middle or high school.

Documents needed for registration:

An official document showing proof of birth date-- Examples include an official birth certificate, a notification of birth registration, an official passport or other Immigration and Naturalization document, or other state/federal forms with date of birth. (*Required for kindergarten and first grade students only.*)

A Georgia certificate of immunization— State-required shots include Hepatitis B, DPT, Polio, HIB, two MMR shots, and Chicken Pox vaccine/proof of illness. A valid Georgia Form 3231—available from licensed Georgia physicians or the Health Department-- must be marked in the appropriate box with either “Complete for School Attendance” or “Date of Expiration.” By state law, a valid immunization form or exemption (for medical or religious reasons) is required for enrollment.

Evidence of vision, hearing, and dental exams obtained in the past year—This information must be on Georgia Form #3300, completed by the health department or your physician and dentist. Letters from appropriate healthcare professionals and out-of-state certificates are acceptable, if completed within the previous 12 months and stapled to the state form.

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*is to pursue excellence
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Registration

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Proof of residency in the attendance zone—Examples include a non-contingent sales contract, lease, or deed. A lease or deed must be accompanied by at least one utility bill (gas, water, electricity) with the same address. A contingency contract is not acceptable. Parents should call their local school if they live with a friend or family member, and need information about verifying their residency.

Proof of custody or guardianship, if not the birth parent-- A Letter of Guardianship is required for registration. Contact Gwinnett County Probate Court to obtain guardianship information. The number is 770-822-8250. (Note: A photo ID may be requested for the adult enrolling the child.)

The child's social security number-- At the time of initial enrollment, school officials will request a social security number for each student, in accordance with Georgia law. However, social security numbers are not required for enrollment and no student will be denied enrollment for declining to provide his or her social security number. Parents may choose not to provide the number by signing a written waiver. A form is available from the school, or parents may provide a written objection with their signature.