

# Hapeville Charter Middle School – FAQ's



***Q: Will the school close at the end of this year, or the end of school year 2021-2022?***

A: As a result of not pursuing a charter renewal, Hapeville Charter Middle School will continue to operate through its current approved charter date, which is June 30, 2022. As of August 2022 (School Year 2022-2023 and beyond), Hapeville Charter Schools (HCS) will only serve students in grades 9 through 12.

***Q: Why was the community left out of the decision, or the ability to have our voices heard?***

A: The proactive decision to seek charter renewal for HCCA only (grades 9 - 12) was a decision that would enable HCS to focus all resources on capitalizing on core opportunities for our High School students and community.

***Q: The lottery deadline has passed, what do I do now for my child(ren)?***

A: Hapeville Charter Middle School will continue to operate through its current approved charter date, which is June 30, 2022. As we approach the lottery and application submission(s) for SY 2022-2023, HCS will collaborate and partner with the other area/local Charter and Private schools, providing families the opportunity to meet with representatives of these schools and make the decision best suited for their child(ren).

***Q: What arrangements or plans are in place to assist families to transition to other schools?***

A: HCS administration will be supported and assisted by the leaders of the other area Charter and Private schools, along with support from Fulton County Schools. HCS will facilitate and expedite the transfer of students to their zoned schools, or other FCSS or State public charter schools or magnet schools.

***Q: Was this a financial decision? Was this about the cost of running the school?***

A: While finances played a (albeit small) part in this decision, it was several factors that led to the decision. The conclusion was the most prudent decision moving forward based on the opportunities for increased focus, coupled with the challenges identified below:

- The likely increased competition for enrollment as a result from FCS K-8 realignments in the area
- Continued increases in building/facility expenses and size constraints for the aging MS location
- Consequent decreases in funding (conceivable enrollment decreases) would no longer adequately support and sustain a dual school structure

***Q: The reason our family chose to come to Hapeville Charter Middle School was to remain in a community school we could call our own; now what?***

A: HCS administration will be supported and assisted by the leaders of the other area Charter and Private schools, along with support from Fulton County Schools. HCS will facilitate and expedite the transfer of students to their zoned schools, or other FCSS or State public charter schools or magnet schools.

***Q: What is in planning (or in place) to help with transitioning my child(ren) to a different school?***

A: HCS administration will be supported and assisted by the leaders of the other area Charter and Private schools, along with support from Fulton County Schools. HCS will facilitate and expedite the transfer of students to their zoned schools, or other FCSS or State public charter schools or magnet schools.

***Q: Will families get assistance with identifying potential schools we could enroll our student(s)?***

A: With the support and collaboration of our partners in education (Rise, Main Street, Kipp South, Amana, to name a few), we will plan and host several townhall events to meet with the leadership and administrators of the various schools, giving parents/families the opportunity to meet with representatives of these schools so that you/families have the information necessary to make informed decisions.

***Q: Will the staff and faculty receive severance pay?***

A: Unfortunately, our fiscal structure cannot support this option. All opportunities otherwise will be available to support and assist the HCMS staff and faculty during this transitional time.

***Q: Will the staff and faculty still receive the Governor's approved \$1,000.00 "stipend"?***

A: Yes; the funds allocated by the state will be made available to all eligible staff and faculty (as per State/DoE guidance) once received by FCS.

***Q: Will the HCS Board/Administration match that \$1,000.00 "stipend"?***

A: Unfortunately, our fiscal structure cannot support this option.

***Q: Will HCS payout for unused personal/sick leave?***

A: No, HCS is unable to payout for unused personal/sick leave. However, any unused personal/sick leave can be transferred a Georgia public school district if the HCMS staff or faculty member is able to secure employment, or unused personal/sick leave can be transferred to Teachers Retirement for service credit.

***Q: What information will be provided to staff and faculty regarding the end of employment?***

A: In February of 2022, HCS HR will begin sending important information regarding the end of employment process including the end or transfer of medical benefits, options with Teachers Retirement, and more. HR will also host multiple informational meetings regarding the end of employment.

***Q: What kind of transition assistance could the staff and faculty anticipate?***

A: With the support and collaboration of our partners in education (Rise, Main Street, Kipp South, Amana, to name a few), we will plan and host several townhall events to meet with the leadership and administrators of the various schools, giving staff and faculty the opportunity to meet with academic leaders from other schools who will be hiring for the 2022-2023 school year. Information regarding Education specific job fairs will be sent to all HCMS staff and faculty when dates are available. Additionally, HCS will ensure HCMS staff and faculty will have the time to attend interviews, Education specific job fairs, and other similar networking events.

***Q: What if enrollment drops, can teachers be terminated in the middle of the year?***

A: Our hope and expectation is that we will be able to meet enrollment to satisfy our budget for the year. We understand there may be some uncertainty, please know our primary budgetary goal will be to maintain our teachers and staff for the 2021-2022 year.

***Q: Will I have to withdraw my student at the end of the 2021-2022 school year?***

A: Yes, rising 6th and 7th grade students will have to be withdrawn at the of the 2021-2022 and enrolled into a new school for the 2022-2023 school year.