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PRESS RELEASE

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Two Houston County School District Students Named to State Student Advisory Council




HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Two students from the Houston County School District were selected for the State School Superintendent's 2026-2027 Student Advisory Council. Rushi Patel, a sophomore from Houston County High School and Sophia Planells, a junior from Veterans High School, were among the 84 students chosen across the state. More than 1,400 students applied to serve on the Council.

Throughout the school year, Patel and Planells will meet with Superintendent Richard Woods to provide feedback on the impact of state policies in the classroom. Members of the Student Advisory Council will also discuss other education-related issues, serve as the Superintendent's ambassadors to their respective schools, and participate in service projects to benefit their school and communities. By working on and completing the service project, the students have the opportunity to put their ideas into action, develop leadership skills, and address needs they see around them.

"Students can tell us firsthand how the decisions we make affect their learning and their plans for the future," Superintendent Woods said. "Their feedback helps us understand where we are making progress and where we need to do more. I look forward to getting to know this year's council members, hearing their ideas, and working together to strengthen educational opportunities across Georgia"

Each year, any student in grades 10-12 attending a Georgia public school may fill out an application to be considered for the Student Advisory Council. This year, students selected for the Council wrote essays addressing challenges in education, share experiences that shaped their perspectives, identify issues they would like to discuss with Superintendent Woods, and propose a service project.

To learn more about the Student Advisory Council and to see the full list of students, click here.

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