

DeKalb County School System
21st Century Community Learning Center
Parent/Student Handbook
2026-2027
DeKalb County High School



Director of 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Mrs. Lesa Hayes

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Site Coordinators at each school

DeKalb County High School, Mrs. Gabby Robinson | gabbyrobinson@dekalbschools.net

DeKalb Middle School, Mrs. Kitty Thomas | kittythomas@dekalbschools.net

DeKalb West School, Mrs. Tonya Ellis | tonyaellis@dekalbschools.net

Please contact the Site Coordinator at each school regarding questions or concerns regarding the program or other aspects of the 21st Century Community Learning Center Grant.

Scan the code to register online.

**Paper registration forms
available in the front office.*



Program Purpose- The DeKalb County School System's 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) provide students with enriching, hands-on activities that support academic growth and personal development. Located at DeKalb County High School, DeKalb Middle School, and DeKalb West School, these centers offer free, high-quality after-school services such as; Academic enrichment (STEM, tutoring, homework help), Music, art, and cultural activities, Sports and recreation, and Guest speakers and community involvement. Our goal is to create a safe, engaging environment for students outside of regular school hours.

DeKalb County School System's 21st Century Community Learning Center grant supports extended learning programs in the following schools:

DeKalb County High School

DeKalb Middle School

DeKalb West School

Eligible Participants- Principals, Site Coordinators, Guidance Counselors, and Classroom Teachers will collaborate in determining at-risk students who meet the criteria for the program. Site Coordinators and Teachers will identify students with the greatest need, and those with the risk of failing or falling behind will be given priority to attend the program. Site Coordinators will establish a first and second-priority list at each school. Specific demographic groups will be identified at the school level; however, they will not be emphasized in any program.

Students in the program at each school must meet specific criteria, including:

- Qualify for free or reduced lunch.
- Be behind one year or not pass specific coursework.
- Not meeting specific requirements on the state assessment test.
- Be at risk of educational disadvantage and failure due to circumstances of low income, abuse, neglect, or disability.

The services offered to students will not discriminate based on race, ethnicity, religion, or gender.

Registration- 21st Century Community Learning Center is available at no charge to parents. Participation is based on attendance, a positive attitude, and good behavior. All sites operate under board-approved policies and procedures.

- A parent or legal guardian must register his/her child for after-school programs before the child attends the program. A completed and signed registration form returned to the school completes the registration process.
- Emergency and transportation information must be on file for each child enrolled.
- Each parent will receive a parent handbook indicating the requirements of the program.

Attendance Policy- The program implements an aggressive attendance policy to reduce absenteeism and to ensure students participate on a regular and consistent basis. The core service of the DeKalb County School System 21st Century Community Learning Center Program is academic achievement and enrichment activities. **All students must participate for a minimum of 45 hours (approximately 18 days).** Each site will identify and serve programming to only eligible students. All students must have regular weekly attendance to receive the full benefit of the program. Students are expected to attend the entire program each day. Selected students must attend a minimum of two days a week to remain in the program. Students attending less than two days a week will be removed, and the next student on the list will be allowed to attend.

Discipline and Behavior Management- To ensure a positive and productive environment for all students and staff, students and parents must agree to the following:

1. **Follow All Rules:** Students will adhere to the classroom rules, school policies, and instructions given by teachers and staff.
2. **Respect Others:** Students will treat my peers, teachers, and school property with respect at all times.
3. **Stay Engaged:** Students will actively participate in physical, academic, and enrichment activities without disruptions.
4. **Be Responsible:** Students understand that if they receive:
 - Strike 1: Student will have a conversation with teacher and reflect on behavior.
 - Strike 2: Parent/guardian will be contacted
 - Strike 3: Student will be dismissed from the program.

Safety- There shall be a staff member present at all times who has current CPR and first aid training. A first aid kit is on the premises as well as a first aid chart. There is an Emergency Management plan, a written plan to protect students in the event of disaster, such as fire, tornado, earthquake, flood, etc.

Nutritional Program- Good nutrition and physical activity are important components of a healthy learning environment. Students will receive nutritious snacks according to the guidelines of the Federal Child Nutrition Program provided by the DeKalb County School System Nutrition Department. Menus will be posted weekly.

Transportation- Transportation home from the regular after-school program and transportation to and from school during intercession and summer school will be provided. Site Coordinators are responsible for providing the transportation department with the names of children who are enrolled in each program three days before enrollment. Parents will complete a form indicating the need for transportation and the person(s) to whom the child may be released. A log will be utilized to record the loading and unloading of each student. Children not riding the bus may be released to parents or other previously authorized persons upon showing identification, signing a log, and upon time of departure. Students will not be permitted to walk home from any 21st CCLC program or activity. Students who drive themselves to a 21st CCLC program may transport only their siblings and may not transport other students. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, bus transportation may be limited or discontinued for an extended period.

Parental Involvement- Parents are very important in a child's education and are encouraged to participate in parent meetings, read all the material provided concerning the program, and complete surveys. Parents are requested to follow security procedures to ensure the safety and protection of all children. Parents should keep the Site Coordinator informed of any changes in their child's emergency information or other factors concerning the welfare of their child. Four parent meetings will be held each year (including orientation and family events).

The Zone @ DCHS

Extended Learning Programs for Every Tiger

The Zone @ DCHS is our 21st Century Community Learning Center program designed to give students safe, supportive spaces to learn, grow, and succeed beyond the regular school day.

Whether students need academic support, enrichment, extra time, or a fresh start, there's a Zone for them.

MorningZone — Before the Bell

Monday-Thursday 7:00-7:30 am | DCHS Cafeteria

MorningZone gives students a calm, welcoming space before school to prepare for the day ahead. Students can eat breakfast, connect with friends and staff, complete homework, and participate in light activities that help them feel ready to learn.

Focus areas include:

- Homework help & tutoring
- Quiet work time
- Social connection

- Morning routines
 - Positive start to the day
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AfterZone — More Than After School

Monday-Thursday 3:00-5:30 pm

AfterZone combines academic support with fun, hands-on enrichment to create a place students want to be. Each day includes tutoring, activities, movement, and relationship-building in a safe and structured environment.

Everyday Schedule:

2:45 pm Students meet in Mrs. Robinson's room to check in

3:00 pm- 3:15 pm Snack time

3:15 pm to 4:15 pm Power Hour (Homework/Tutoring)

4:15 pm to 5:30 pm Zone Moves (Physical Activity)/ Zone Labs (STEM, arts, life skills, etc.)

5:30 pm Loading Buses (by the cafeteria) and Cars (in front of the school)

ResetZone — Your Next Step Starts Here

Offered as needed. 3:00-5:30 pm | Alternative School

ResetZone serves students who are assigned to the DCHS Alternative School setting and provides a structured, supportive environment focused on reflection, growth, and academic progress.

While placement may come through disciplinary or behavioral processes, the purpose of ResetZone is not punishment — it's progress. Students receive additional guidance, mentoring, and personalized support to help them rebuild skills, reset habits, and successfully transition forward.

Focus areas include:

- Academic recovery and credit support
 - Smaller class sizes and individualized attention
 - Goal setting and mentoring
 - Social-emotional skill building
 - Structured routines and positive behavior coaching
 - Every day is an opportunity for students to take their next step toward success.
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SummerZone — Your Summer. Your Success.

Dates TBD at the end of the school year

SummerZone is designed primarily to help students recover credits and meet graduation requirements in a focused summer learning environment.

The program provides targeted academic support and structured instruction to help students strengthen skills, complete coursework, and prepare confidently for the next school year.

Students participate in:

- Credit recovery courses
- Skill-building instruction
- Small-group academic support
- Tutoring and progress monitoring
- Structured enrichment and wellness activities

SummerZone helps students use the summer productively so they can return to school on pace and prepared.

Our Mission

Every Zone is built around the same goal:

Helping DCHS students feel supported, connected, and successful — academically, socially, and personally.