

DeKalb County School System
21st Century Community Learning Center
Parent/Student Handbook
2025-2026

DeKalb County High School



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 30 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- After school, teachers are knowledgeable about developmentally appropriate adolescent behavior. Discipline shall be by the rules and policies adopted by the school for the regular school day. Objectives, student expectations, behavioral codes, and discipline procedures shall be followed. Good behavior shall be praised and encouraged. The safety of students is our number one priority. Good behavior is the key to providing quality programs. Students are expected to exhibit acceptable behavior and follow the student code of conduct/discipline plan provided at each school at the beginning of the year. **Students must follow all directions given by the adult in charge and must be respectful of all teachers, the site coordinator, and fellow students. Students who do not follow the rules and policies 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. 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 summer school orientation and family events).

Director of 21st Century Community Learning Centers

Mrs. Lesa Hayes

lesahayes@dekalbschools.net

Site Coordinators at each school

DeKalb County High School, Mrs. Gabby Robinson 615-597-4094

DeKalb Middle School, Mrs. Kitty Thomas 615-418-7439

DeKalb West School, Mrs. Tonya Ellis 615-536-5332

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

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

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 3:45 pm Zone Moves (Physical Activity)

3:45 pm to 4:45 pm Power Hour (Homework/Tutoring)

4:45 pm to 5:30 pm 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.

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.

**DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
21ST CCLC AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM**

2025-2026

REGISTRATION FORM (Both Sides Must Be Filled Out Completely)

Date: _____ School: _____

STUDENT INFORMATION

Name: _____

Date of Birth: _____ Grade: _____ Sex: __Male __Female

Address: _____ Telephone Number(s): _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Address: _____ Telephone Number(s): _____

PERMISSION TO RELEASE STUDENT TO THESE INDIVIDUALS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship to Student</u>	<u>Telephone Number(s)</u>
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EMERGENCY INFORMATION

Physician Name: _____

Address: _____ Telephone Number(s): _____

Please describe any medical conditions, including allergies, of the student that the after-school program may need to be aware of:

Name of person, other than parent/guardian, authorized to act for the parent/guardian in case of emergency:

DO NOT LEAVE BLANK

Name: _____ Telephone Number(s): _____

In the event of an emergency, I hereby give permission to the DeKalb County School System and anyone associated with its after-school programs to secure proper medical treatment for my child. If I cannot be reached, I hereby give permission for emergency personnel selected by the DeKalb County School System or anyone associated with its after-school program to order x-rays, routine tests, and treatment for the health of my child. I also give permission to emergency personnel selected by the DeKalb County School System or anyone associated with its after-school program to hospitalize, secure proper treatment, and order injection and/or surgery for my child.

I understand that my child's school information may be shared with the State Department of Education and other contracted entities to be used for evaluation of the extended learning program. ____ Yes ____ No

I have received, read, and understand the student handbook.

Signature of Parent/Guardian

Date

(Please detach and return)

DEKALB COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM
21ST CENTURY COMMUNITY LEARNING CENTERS
AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAM

TRANSPORTATION FORM

The 21st CCLC grant provides bus transportation home for any student enrolled in after-school programs. Buses begin picking up students at 5:15 p.m. at DCHS and DMS and at 5:20 p.m. at DWS. Delivery times vary based on the number of students riding each day.

Student Name: _____ School: _____

Complete Address: _____

Parent/Guardian Name(s): _____

Telephone Numbers(s): _____

_____ Student will ride the bus home after after-school programs. In the event of unforeseen circumstances, bus transportation may be limited or discontinued for an extended period.

_____ Student will be a car rider following after-school programs.

Individuals with permission to pick up students:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Relationship to Student</u>	<u>Telephone Number(s)</u>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

I understand that my child is REQUIRED to participate in person for a minimum of 2 days per week and a total of 30 days during the school year.

Signed:

Parent/Guardian Name

Date

(Please detach and return)

The Zone @ DCHS Behavior Agreement 2025-2026

I, _____, understand that participation in The Zone @ DCHS is a privilege that requires appropriate behavior. To ensure a positive and productive environment for all students and staff, I agree to the following:

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

I understand that my behavior impacts my ability to continue participating in The Zone @ DCHS. By signing this agreement, I commit to being a responsible and respectful participant.

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Date: _____

(Please detach and return)