

Cobb County Schools 101



THE BASICS FOR THOSE NEW TO OUR *COUNTY* AND
NEW TO OUR *COUNTRY*

Welcome!



YOUR HOSTS:

EAST COBB COUNTY COUNCIL PTA

&

COBB COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

What is “Cobb County Schools 101”?



WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

What is “Cobb County Schools 101”?



A newcomers guide to...

- **Cobb County School System**
- **Cobb County Schools**
- **PTA/PTSA**
- **Cultural norms for Cobb County Schools**

Lesson One: Cobb County School District



Lesson One: Cobb County School District



- District sets curriculum and policies for all 114 schools in Cobb County
- Second largest school system in Georgia
- 26th largest school system in the United States
- 7 elected board members assist the district
- www.cobbk12.org

Lesson One: Cobb County School District



CCSD Special Schools and Programs

- International Welcome Center
- Magnet Schools (Wheeler)
- Charter Schools (Sedalia Park)
- English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Early Intervention Program (EIP)
- Target
- After school program
- You have the right to have help to understand!

International Welcome Center



- Facilitate Home/School Communication
- Multi-lingual workshops - various topics of interest to schools - parents & community stakeholders
- Cultural diversity presentations to parents & school staff
- Translate School Related Documents
- Interpret School Related Meetings
 - *Student Evaluations*
 - *Parent Conferences*
 - *Special Education Meetings*
 - *Hearings*

Lesson Two: Cobb County Schools



Lesson Two: Cobb County Schools



Progression of Schools:

Elementary School (K-5)



Middle School (6 – 8)



High School (9-12)

Lesson Two: Cobb County Schools



What are “feeder patterns” and “clusters” ?

- **Terms for the pattern of schools students take as they progress through their education.**
- **Patterns determined by the location of the student’s residence and that location within the school boundary.**
- **Elementary Schools feed Middle Schools which feed High Schools.**

Lesson Two: Cobb County Schools



Wheeler Cluster :

Brumby Eastvalley Powers Ferry
Sedalia Park Sope Creek



East Cobb Middle



Wheeler High

Lesson Two: Cobb County Schools



Resources within the schools

- Principals and Assistant Principals
- Teachers
- Counselors
- ESOL teachers
- Parent Liaisons

Lesson Two: Cobb County Schools



Elementary schools

- Each class has at least one lead teacher
- Kindergarten paraprofessionals
- Standardized tests

Lesson Two: Cobb County Schools



East Cobb Middle School

- Changing classes vs. staying in one class
- Standardized tests
- Pinnacle

Lesson Two: Cobb County Schools



Wheeler High School

- **Block classes**
- **Standardized tests**
- **AP classes**
- **The SAT and ACT**
- **College applications & scholarships**

Lesson Three: PTA/PTSA



ECCC
PTA[™]
everychild.onevoice

Lesson Three: PTA/PTSA



What is PTA/PTSA?

- Parent Teacher Association/Parent Teacher Student Association
- Largest volunteer child advocacy association in the nation
- “Every child, one voice”

Lesson Three: PTA/PTSA



PTA Mission Statement

- **To support and speak on behalf of children and youth in the schools, in the community, and before governmental bodies and other organizations that make decisions affecting children**
- **To assist parents in the developing the skills they needed to raise and protect their children**
- **To encourage parent and public involvement in the public schools of the nation**

Lesson Three: PTA/PTSA



East Cobb County Council (ECCC) PTA

- Oversees school PTAs/PTSAs for 35 schools
- Co-presidents
- Motto: “Many Schools...One Vision”
- www.ecccpta.org

Lesson Three: PTA/PTSA



6 Standards for Family-School Partnerships

- Standard 1: Welcoming all families to the school community
- Standard 2: Communicating effectively
- Standard 3: Supporting Student Success
- Standard 4: Speaking up for every child
- Standard 5: Sharing Power
- Standard 6: Collaborating with community

Lesson Three: PTA/PTSA



What does the PTA do?

- **Advocates for children**
- **Experiential education**
- **Communication**
- **Teacher support**
- **Family fun events**
- **Fundraising**

Lesson Three: PTA/PTSA



How do I get involved in my PTA/PTSA?

- **Become a member!**
- **Attend PTA meetings**
- **Join a committee**
- **Volunteer to help**
- **Communicate your needs/concerns**

Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



Involvement at school

- **Parental participation is acceptable and encouraged**
- **Many programs depend on parental help, donations, and time**
- **It is okay to question teachers and administrators**

Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



Communicating with the school

- School news is communicated in a variety of methods
- You are encouraged to communicate with your teacher any time you have questions or concerns
- Make an appointment to meet with teachers or administrators
- Always respond when contacted even if you are declining participation

Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



Communicating with the school (cont.)

- Read all emails/fliers from teachers and school
- Always make your self accessible
- Written and signed notes are required for...
 - Excuses for absences
 - Transportation changes
 - ASP arrangements

Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



Schoolwork and homework

- Learning will involve more than memorization
- Check take home folders every day
- Parents are expected to supervise homework and help with special assignments
- Teachers and counselors can offer resources to help

Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



Health and Safety

- School nurses are available to help your child
- Sick kids must not come to school
- Approval must be given for children to have medicine at school
- Sharing food is not allowed

Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



Health and Safety (cont.)

- Contact the teacher if your child complains about classmates making him feel uncomfortable in any way
- It's okay to contact classmates for playdates
- It's NOT okay to take a child with you without express consent of the child's parent
- Never send your child to sell fundraising items without supervision

Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



General Cultural Tips

- Always be on time for appointments
- Class directories are provided to facilitate communication among parents
- Uniforms & guidelines for clothing
- PTA and school officials will not share your personal information
- Talk to your children/listen to what they say

Lesson Four: Cultural Norms for Cobb County Schools



General Cultural Tips (cont.)

- Saying no to a fundraising request is not a cause for offense
- Make suggestions for change if you see a need
- Offer to share your culture
- Connect with other newcomers for support and answers

Questions & Answers: “Cobb County Schools 101”



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Our volunteer experts:

- **Elementary Schools**
- **East Cobb Middle School**
- **Wheeler High School**
- **PTA/PTSA**
- **ESOL**
- **Counselors**

Thank you for coming!



**WELCOME
TO THE
COBB COUNTY SCHOOL COMMUNITY**