



**For Immediate Release**

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## **State Board of Education Approves Cobb Proposal To Become IE<sup>2</sup> District**

The State Board of Education has unanimously approved the Cobb County School District's final contract to become an Investing in Educational Excellence (IE<sup>2</sup>) system of flexibility. The school district continues to be a leader statewide and the first in Georgia to be approved by the full State BOE as an IE<sup>2</sup> district under a new state law requiring all districts to define a path of flexibility by July 2015.

"This is great news for the students of Cobb County," said Interim Superintendent Chris Ragsdale. "The IE<sup>2</sup> status will allow our schools the freedom to try new and innovative approaches to improve achievement, but in ways that best suit the individual schools. I want to thank the State Board of Education for recognizing the hard work that went into developing this contract, and for clearly seeing that the IE<sup>2</sup> model is the right fit for Cobb."

On December 11, 2014, representatives from the Cobb County School District presented the contract to the State BOE's District Flexibility and Charter Schools Committee. School Board Chair Kathleen Angelucci and Interim Superintendent Ragsdale were present, as was Chief Academic Officer Mary Elizabeth Davis who answered questions regarding the details of the contract and the plan for flexibility. Following the committee meeting, the full State Board voted to approve the proposed contract. The vote officially confirmed the Cobb County School District as an IE<sup>2</sup> district effective July 1, 2015, and capped a year-long process of gathering public input on the future of Cobb schools.

"The Cobb County School District continues to be a model by leading a culture of innovation," said Ms. Davis. "It really highlights the work we're doing in Cobb to facilitate the innovative capital of our community. IE<sup>2</sup> gives us the opportunity to customize the learning in our schools, to establish a 'made in Cobb' model that works and also serves as a strategy that other districts can follow."

Cobb County was recognized by the State Board as the first school system to pave this path for the state under the new law. State Board members were complimentary of the process Cobb County undertook to engage the community to envision the future of Cobb Schools.

More information about IE<sup>2</sup>, as well as the district contract, can be found at: <http://www.cobbk12.org/IE2>.

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