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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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STATEMENT FROM SUPERINTENDENT DR. BEVERLY L. HALL

It has been an honor to serve as superintendent of the Atlanta Public Schools for the last 11 years. Because of the hard work of APS teachers, principals, administrators, board members and others, as well as the community at large, we have made significant progress.

I will be taking on new educational challenges when my contract expires in June 2011, but I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those whose dedication and hard work have helped lift the educational achievements of APS students.

When I arrived in 1999, APS was at a critical crossroads. The school system was losing students and veteran educators to other school systems. Five superintendents had served in just 10 years. Student performance was at a low point.

Today, student achievement has risen significantly. The 2010 CRCT test results demonstrate that we have made significant progress since 1999, and APS students have scored record gains on the National Assessment of Educational Progress.

These accomplishments are the work of many people in our school system and in our community. From parents, community, religious and civic leaders to captains of industry and educational institutions that invested their time and resources, I offer my thanks for your support and your unwavering belief in our students and our school system.

We face significant challenges over the next several months, including a visit by SACS and resolution of the state investigation into possible test tampering in some APS schools. My goal over the coming months is to resolve our pressing issues and position the school system for a generation of new leadership.

Again, I extend my thanks to all who have invested their time and resources into making APS one of the best urban school systems in the nation.

Sincerely,

Superintendent Dr. Beverly L. Hall

Atlanta Public Schools