

# TOGETHER



**KIPP** Metro Atlanta Schools  
**2021 ANNUAL REPORT**



# TOGETHER, A Future Without Limits

Last year, KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools and KIPP Public Schools proudly updated our new vision and mission. Every word in each statement, chosen with the greatest of care, reflects who we aspire to be each day for our students and alumni. Our mission begins with the word *together*, which serves as an anchor for the rest of our mission statement:

**TOGETHER** with families and communities, we create joyful, academically excellent schools that prepare students with the skills and confidence to pursue the paths they choose—college, career, and beyond—so they can lead fulfilling lives and build a more just world.



**TOGETHER**, we continually raise the bar for teaching and learning, ensuring success for all of our students. Together, we can build a future without limits, and it starts with our schools.

Throughout the 2020-21 school year, our KIPP Metro Atlanta community worked together in a multitude of ways so that we could uphold our mission and maintain our promise to our families, students, and alumni. Our top priority was the safety, health, and well-being of our community while still ensuring an academically excellent education, whether virtual or in person.

We are excited to highlight how our KIPP Metro Atlanta Team and Family worked hand in hand during the 2020-21 school year, a year like no other. In this year's annual report, we are highlighting some of the many different, powerful relationships within our KIPP community and how these partnerships allowed our students to thrive during an unprecedented year of learning.

## ABOUT KIPP METRO ATLANTA SCHOOLS



**11**  
Schools



**5,200+**  
Students



**7**  
Campuses



**900+**  
College-enrolled  
alumni

# A LETTER From Our Chief Executive Officer

Dear KIPP Friends,

*It is my distinct pleasure to write to you as KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools' new Chief Executive Officer. This is my 11th year with KIPP, an organization I joined because it is determined to prove the possible in schools across our country – schools my own two children run to each morning. This possibility continues to light a fire in my belly today.*

As we closed out the 2020-21 school year, and began planning anew, our team was energized and inspired to deliberately plot our course forward. We were guided by our vision that each and every one of our KIPPsters grow up free to create the future they want for themselves and their communities.

The challenges of the past year present us with a unique opportunity to redefine what teaching and learning can and must look like for our scholars. Our KIPPsters, alongside children around the globe, are carrying with them the realities of being away from a brick-and-mortar school experience for more than fifteen months. We have not a moment to waste.

As the first day of school approached, so did another spike in COVID-19 cases. While we had hoped to be operating this year in a post-COVID context, our reality was that we were, and are, continuing to operate in a COVID context. Despite the unique hurdles our reality presents, from quarantines to surveillance testing, each and every one of our leaders, teachers, scholars, and families continue to reimagine and redefine what is possible.

Our new national KIPP slogan – Together, A Future Without Limits – is incredibly fitting for this time. Our KIPPsters' futures will truly be without limits when we all lean into the future of education. A future that embraces the big AND. More specifically, the modern classroom must embrace equity, joy, love AND academic rigor, structure, and character excellence. This is not an either/or proposition. Instead, it is our radical responsibility to prove this new possible; prove that the AND is possible. Prove that a joyful, identity-affirming learning experience is a critical conduit for powerful academic outcomes.

Your shared relentless belief in our possibility enlivens me each day. You are a constant champion for our KIPPsters. On behalf of our entire KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools team and family – our scholars, families, and staff - thank you!

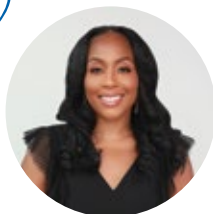
Better together,



**Mini'imah Shaheed**

Chief Executive Officer

KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools



# TOGETHER: With Families

Our relationships with our families are the cornerstone of our organization and the foundation of our students' success. Our families place their trust in us each day their student(s) walk into our schools. We know that student success—inside and outside the classroom—is dependent on the strong partnerships between our teachers, school principals, students, and families. We take pride in the close relationships fostered between our families and schools and the impact those bonds have on developing the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally. This past year, our family partnerships were more important than ever. Families relied on our teachers and school leaders to ensure that our students remained academically engaged and challenged virtually, while teachers partnered with families to ensure that learning continued successfully at home. Together, we were able to ensure that students did not miss out on a year of school, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

*"KIPP STRIVE Academy provided all of the technology and supplies that Adisa needed to be successful. Mr. Bray was a trooper and handled all of the questions and concerns with grace, whether it was his first time answering or the 12th. Even during uncertainty, I felt like I had a voice and that KIPP STRIVE Academy genuinely cared for the scholars like they were their own."*

*The partnership between school leaders, teachers, and families was extremely important, especially for Adisa's mental health. There was no downtime for my husband or myself at work and we also had a 1-year-old and a 4-year-old in the house. Our home life was hectic to say the least but KIPP STRIVE Academy was a constant for Adisa. It provided much-needed structure and consistency during a very uncertain time. The KIPP STRIVE Academy family was invaluable during virtual learning."*

**Rasheedah Luqman**  
Parent  
KIPP STRIVE Academy



*"With so much evolving material and new information, the partnership between school leaders, teachers, and families was a necessity. We needed for parents to plug into the communications, share feedback (affirmations and adjustments) as the opportunity presented itself, and lean into understanding our current shared reality while simultaneously working to re-imagine what it could be. On the other side, KIPP STRIVE Academy held the responsibility of leaning in to hear the feedback, centering ourselves in doing what's best for scholars (and designing at the margins to do so), as well as being as communicative and transparent as possible with our partners."*

*The Luqman family partnered with us to ensure Adisa was present, engaged, and able to maximize the [unfortunate] reality of virtual learning to create avenues for life opportunities into 6th grade and the foreseeable future beyond."*

**Micheal Bray**  
School Principal  
KIPP STRIVE Academy





# TOGETHER: With Communities

The communities where our schools are located are an integral part of the fabric of our schools. Located across the cities of Atlanta and East Point, our schools take great pride in the richness and history of the communities in which they belong.

Our schools thrive because of the strong community partnerships that have been cultivated since we opened our first middle schools in 2003. During the 2020-21 school year, our KIPP Team and Family showed up for our community and our community showed up for us. Our School Nutrition Team distributed nearly one million meals to KIPP and non-KIPP families in our communities, supporting the nutritional health and well-being of all students and families during virtual learning.

**970K+ MEALS DISTRIBUTED:** 🍳 337,921 Breakfasts 🍱 335,869 Lunches 🍎 296,864 Snacks



**Kerry Perkins**

Manager of Student Nutrition  
KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools

*"Keeping the health and nutrition value high at all times is my number one objective. Experiencing the challenging times of the 2020-21 school year and keeping our scholars and families as a nutritional priority, kept me pushing to make sure none of our partners went without the basic necessities, i.e. food and drink."*

*Good nutrition with balanced meals impacts good overall health and allows scholars to be able to concentrate on the task at hand. Our meals put everyone at ease and peace with feeding their family good meals throughout the entire day and every day."*



**Kerry Perkins and the KIPP WAYS  
Campus Nutrition Team**

Our community members continued to mentor our KIPP students and alumni despite the challenges of virtual learning and the COVID-19 pandemic. We are proud to highlight the mentorship between Kathe Brown, KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools board member, and her mentee Avé Reed, a Class of 2021 graduate of KIPP Atlanta Collegiate High School.

**TOGETHER, WITH OUR COMMUNITIES, WE ARE TRULY ABLE TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR COLLEGE, CAREER, AND BEYOND.**

*"During the 2020-21 school year, not being able to have a "KIPP hug" was my biggest issue. During the pandemic, we continued our communication through Facetime and other ways. In the spring of 2021, we were able to visit Kennesaw State University and Georgia State University. After reviewing deadlines for housing, financial aid, and course enrollment, she decided to go to Georgia Southern University."*

*When Avé graduated this past spring, I felt tears of joy because she was on her way to college! Avé has the work ethic, determination and the love of learning to be successful. With a network of support through KIPP Forward, her family, and a mentor - she will achieve her goals."*



**Kathe Brown**

Board Member  
KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools

*"My mentorship with Kathe Brown motivated me to complete high school and decide what I really wanted to do. This was very important to me because of the hardships that my family and I were facing. During the 2020-21 school year, we would meet outside at restaurants or before I went to clock in for work. Regardless of if we were able to meet in person, it still felt like she was there for me."*

*As I walked across the graduation stage, I felt very proud of myself for being able to push through my traumas and hardships and accomplish graduating. I was especially proud of the fact that I even managed to graduate a year early. These accomplishments would not have been possible without Mrs. Brown to help me turn my negative experiences to positive motivation."*

**Avé Reed**

KIPP Atlanta Collegiate High School, Class of 2021  
Freshman at Georgia South University

# TOGETHER: Creating Joyful, Academically Excellent Schools

Our entire organization continuously pivoted during the 2020-21 school year to meet the needs of our students, families, and schools. As a result, our teachers had to shift in extraordinary ways. The inspiring relationships between our teachers and students is one of the qualities that make our schools unique. Our teachers were challenged with transforming the joyful, academically excellent learning environment that exists in our classrooms into a virtual learning experience carried out via computers and tablets all across Atlanta. The innovations that emerged from our virtual classrooms was a testament to the commitment, passion, and excellence of our educators who rose to the occasion each and every day.

*"Mr. Mack would play games with us, like Kahoot! and charades, and that made learning fun.*

*I liked learning at home because I was relaxed and there was not a lot of noise."*

**Kairi Wilson**  
4th-Grade Student  
KIPP Vision Primary School

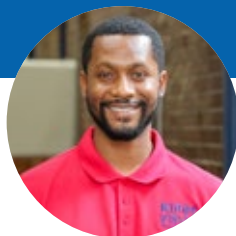


*"I have a background in theater so it's easy for me to turn on a certain level of energy when I need to so that scholars could reach me at a high level. I utilized the educational resources we had like Nearpod, Padlet, Kahoot!, and Google classrooms. I kept it simple and used things that I knew were also engaging.*

*As an educator, I learned that I was flexible and the level of optimism that I had inside of me. Our team worked together by trusting each other and trusting our different strengths.*

*Kairi is an excellent academic student. He was very willing to engage and learned a lot about being a team player during virtual learning. He's someone who wanted to show that he was working hard and was willing to do whatever it took."*

**Makalani Mack**  
3rd-Grade Teacher  
KIPP Vision Primary School



# TOGETHER: Supporting Alumni Through College, Career, And Beyond

Our KIPP Forward team (formerly KIPP Through College) stayed close to our alumni to ensure that they had access to resources as they navigated through the unpredictability of the 2020-21 school year. Nearly \$60,000 in COVID-19 funding allowed our KIPP Forward team to support alumni with technology to enable them to persist in online learning platforms, food provisions to assuage food insecurity, and rent assistance for those experiencing housing instability. Through KIPP's partnership with AYANA therapy, an organization dedicated to providing online mental therapy to marginalized and intersectional communities, the KIPP Forward team was also able to provide mental help support to alumni. Lastly, our KIPP Forward team distributed 80 wellness care packages to current college students through a care package donation drive.



**Garilyn Vause**

KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools Alumni  
Senior at Spelman College

*"KIPP Forward supported me during the 2020-21 school year by conducting several check ins and meetings as well as providing me with several scholarships through the KIPP Opportunity Scholarship Program. This has been extremely helpful in reducing the financial burden of continuing my education at Spelman College.*

*Ms. Gunter consistently reached out and ensured that I had all the resources necessary to continue thriving at Spelman College. I was always informed on the new opportunities and programs offered through KIPP. I am so grateful and fortunate to have such a supportive & cheerful KIPP College Persistence Advisor.*

*Without the continuous support and assistance that KIPP Forward provides, I probably wouldn't be at this current level in my academic career. I hope to promote additional social change within the KIPP Forward community."*



**LaChia Gunter**

College Persistence Advisor  
KIPP Forward

*"COVID-19 had varied effects on our alumni's education. From trying to participate in Zoom classes from their phones, to going to places that offered free and stable wi-fi, our alumni tried every innovative solution to keep them engaged in the learning process.*

*After the pandemic hit, Garilyn, who typically worked through school, found her babysitting hours non-existent. She reached out to KIPP Forward for assistance paying her rent in May of 2020 and again in July. We were able to cover those costs and keep her focus on school and pursuing the amazing internships she had lined up."*



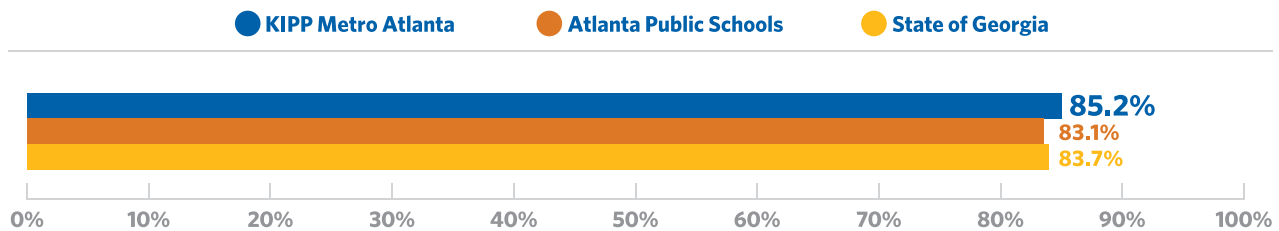
**OUR PROMISE TO OUR STUDENTS GOES BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL AND WE ARE DEDICATED TO SUPPORTING THEM ON THE PATHS THEY CHOOSE SO THAT THEY MAY LIVE THE LIFE OF THEIR DREAMS.**



# Results *AND* Financials

## OUR 2020-21 ACADEMIC RESULTS

At KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools, over 2/3 of all students remained virtual for the entirety of the 2020-21 school year. Students who were learning virtually were not expected to sit for Georgia Milestones and approximately 12% of all Georgia Milestones tests were taken by qualifying students. Therefore, we do not believe the results from the spring 2021 Georgia Milestones can be used to understand representative trends of proficiency or academic progress for the 2020-21 school year. In addition, the Georgia Department of Education will not calculate a 2021 College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) summary score for the state, school districts, or schools. We are, however, excited to share the graduation results from our Class of 2021 below.



## CLASS OF 2021 COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

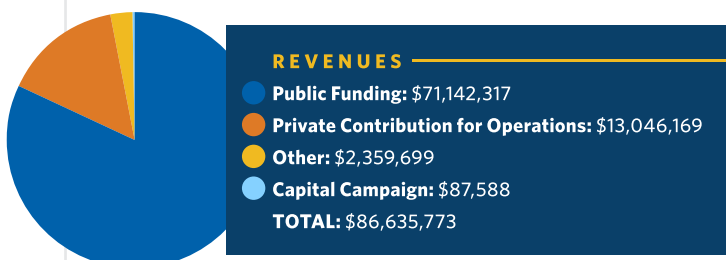
Our KIPP Atlanta Collegiate High School and KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools middle school alumni from the Class of 2021 were accepted into a number of competitive colleges and universities across the country. Below are some of the colleges and universities our Class of 2021 high school graduates were accepted into and/or are attending the 2021-22 school year:

Alabama State University  
 Albany State University  
 Atlanta Metropolitan State College  
 Atlanta Technical College  
 Benedict College  
 Berry College  
 Caldwell University  
 Central Georgia Technical College  
 Clark Atlanta University  
 Colgate University  
 Columbus State University  
 Elizabeth City State University  
 Emory University  
 Florida A&M University  
 Fort Valley State University  
 Georgia Southern University  
 Georgia State University

Grinnell College  
 Howard University  
 Independence Community College  
 Jacksonville State University  
 Kennesaw State University  
 LIM College  
 Loyola University-New Orleans  
 Mississippi State University  
 Morehouse College  
 New York University  
 Oakwood University  
 Ohio State University  
 Saint Louis University-Main Campus  
 Savannah State University  
 Smith College  
 Spelman College  
 SUNY College at Cortland

Syracuse University  
 Tallahassee Community College  
 Tennessee State University  
 Texas Wesleyan University  
 Tufts University  
 Tuskegee University  
 University of Georgia  
 University of Miami  
 University of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 University of West Georgia  
 University of Southern California  
 Valdosta State University  
 Wesleyan College  
 Xavier University of Louisiana

## FINANCIALS: FISCAL YEAR 2021



**For the 2020-21 fiscal year, Private Contributions for Operations also includes contributions for our \$16,000,000 capital campaign**



# TOGETHER: With Our Partners

We are incredibly grateful for the continued generous support of our partners during the 2020-21 school year. Your commitment to the success of our students, alumni, and schools helps us weather the ongoing storms of the COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you for sharing our belief that great education transforms lives and our commitment to creating a world where every child grows up free to create the future they want for themselves and their communities.

## FOUNDATIONS

Charles & Esther Lee Kimerling Charitable Foundation	Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation	The Kendeda Fund
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation (CLSFF)	KIPP Foundation	The Marcus Foundation
Charter School Growth Fund	Mary Alice and Bennett Brown Foundation	The Mary Fleming W Riley Charitable Gift Fund
Domont Family Foundation	Network For Good	The Patterson Family Foundation
Douglas J. Hertz Family Foundation	Peil Charitable Trust	The Sara Giles Moore Foundation
ECMC Foundation	Shearon and Taylor Glover Family Fund	The Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
Edus H. and Harriet Warren Charitable Fund	The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation	The Walton Family Foundation
Foundation for a Better World, Inc.	The Fraser-Parker Foundation	The Ward Foundation
Great Community Charitable Fund	The Gause Foundation	The Zeist Foundation, Inc.
Hayden Hurst Family Foundation Inc.	The Goizueta Foundation	Thunder Bay Fund Children Charities
J. B. Fuqua Foundation, Inc.	The James M. Cox Foundation	Wilds L. Pierce II Charitable Foundation

## ORGANIZATIONS

Achieve Atlanta	Fulcrum Equity Partners	North Point Ministries Foundation, Inc.
ASD   Sky	GENYOUth	Novelis
Atlanta Capital Management Co.	Georgia Pacific	Peace of Culture
Atlanta Chapter of The Girl Friends, Incorporated®	Georgia Power	Pfizer Foundation
Atlanta Falcons Football Club	IBM Corporation	Radiant Extensionz LLC
Atlantic Capital Bank	Insurance Services 3, Inc	Renasant Bank
Brightworth	Investors Asset Management of Georgia, Inc.	Roark Capital Group
Capital City Mechanical Services, Inc.	Jones Day	The Coca-Cola Company
CERM Legacy Foundation, Inc.	Keefe, Bruyette & Woods, Inc. A Stifel Company	The Impact Movement
CIBC Private Wealth Management	KIPP Metro Atlanta Alumni Association	Thompson Hine
Cox Enterprises	Krevolin & Horst	Truist
Custom Crafts by Caleb	Legacy Advancement	Turner Enterprises, Inc.
DaVita	Metro City Bank	William Blair & Company Charitable Matching Gift Fund
Durr Consulting, LLC	Nail'd by Nya LLC	Winstead Group Inc.
First Student		Youth Service America
Fuel Up to Play 60		Zaza's Kitchen

# TOGETHER: With Our Partners

## INDIVIDUALS

Thomas J Adams III  
William Adams  
Doug and Kathy Alexander  
John Alexander  
Mary Claire and Douglas Allvine  
Kristen Anderson  
Anonymous  
Joseph and Renee Arnold  
Shaneka Jeffers Askew  
Rodney Atreopersaud  
Thomas and Deborah Avery  
Christine and John Bakalar  
Kerri and Patrick Baldwin  
Jim and Julie Balloun  
Ibraz R. Bandukwala and Claire Parker  
David Barger  
Peter and Nancy Bauer  
James and Cynthia Beasley  
Caleb Beazer  
Ron and Carol Beerman  
Candace and Jeffrey Bell  
Courtney Bell  
Anne Bennett  
Barry and Martha Berlin  
Salim and Yasmin Bhatia  
Alisha Birtha  
Edward Bonapfel  
Angela Bond  
Jim and Edith Bostic  
Scot and Connie Brands  
Meghan Breen  
Margaret Breslin  
Kathe and Morris Brown  
Amy Bryson  
Fianko Buckle  
Brad and Nicole Buie  
Rita Burnat  
Gayle Burnett  
Marcus Butler  
Kyla Byas-Smith  
Steve and Mary Byrom  
Peter Canfield  
Grace and David Cass

Lorenzo Castillo  
Kevin and Melissa Center  
Kathryn Cesari  
Marianita Chambers  
Hwang-mei and Chiu-shan Chang  
Amelia Chappell  
Sidney and Don Childress  
John and Lesley Christian  
Trisha and Chris Coad  
David and Robyn Cole  
Cynthia Coles  
Benjamin Cox  
Tracey Crooks  
Nikki Crutchfield  
Cynthia Culpepper  
Bradley Currey, Jr.  
Asha Curry  
Yvonne Daniel  
Bruce Daniels  
Ebony Daniels  
Andrea Davis  
Caitlyn Davis  
Rick Deane  
Timothy DeBruyne  
Jalia Dennis  
Elaine and Charles Dinos  
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Neal and Mary Dobberke  
Tom and Ashley Dobberke  
John and Susannah Dryman  
Barbara Edelin  
Duncan & Jessica Edwards  
Shannon Edwards  
Jeffrey Ellman  
Laura Ellsworth  
Ilene Engel  
Michael and Rachel Ertischeck  
Randy and Vicki Evans  
Justin and Annie Everett  
Joe and Laura Feuer  
Anke and Christian Fischer  
Adam Fitzsimmons  
Jenny Fleischman

Alicia Fontnette  
Glenn and Ra'Chel Ford  
Rebecca Fouche  
Nicole Franklin  
Team Fraser  
Jesika French  
Michael and Sally Gaburo  
David and Whitney Gerkin  
Kevin and Stefani Glass  
Frank and Nancy Glover  
Marion and Gail Glover  
Amy Gonglefski  
Teashia Goodwin  
Dawn B. Griffin  
Nancy Gidwitz and Jeffrey Grossman  
Jamila Hall  
Deedee and Marc Hamburger  
Larry and Vickie Hampton  
Sidney and Mary Harris  
Aache Harrison  
Aanise Harrison  
Carita Harvey  
Jeffrey and Helen Herbert  
Philip and Reedy Hickey  
Nicholas and Kenan Hill  
Jo and Kevin Hodges  
Amanda Holt  
Dave and Emily Howland  
Lois Howland  
Peter Howland  
Pamela Hubby  
Callie and Ryan Hudak  
David and Connie Huelsbeck  
Gerry Hull  
Charisse Huston-Arnold  
Brittney and David Ikeh  
Joel and Mary Stuart Iverson  
Chris Jarrett  
David Jernigan  
Kyle and Amy Johns  
Myss Johnson-Jelks  
Brandom Jones  
Carol Jones

# TOGETHER: With Our Partners

## INDIVIDUALS (continued)

Colin Jones	Mary Alexander Myers	Adam and Jodie Skorecki
Craig and Mary Coleman Jones	Horace and Patricia Nalle	Betty Slater
Elena Kaplan	Martin and Kimberly Neary	Lisa Sloane
Steve and Britney Karasick	Martha Nedderman	Frank and Deborah Slover
Jody Kitchen	Rebecca Nocharli	Joel Smilow
Ann and John Lally	Kendra Oates	John Smith
Carol Larner	Thomas and Theresa O'Donnell	Chad Spader
Sonjoy and Shilpi Laskar	C. Kendi and Ashani O'Mard	Cadence Spearman
Puja and Brian Lea	Bernadette Overby	Scott and Megan Springer
James and Janet Letson	John Owings	Logan and Laura Stevens
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Leslie Locks	Kristal Peterson	Todd and Isabel Summe
Bert and Mara Loftman	Hunter and Leslie Pierson	Lance and Kyra Templeton
Dennis Love	Stephanie Plessy	Autumn Thompson
Chris and Melissa Lowe	Victoria Powell	Bob and Dede Thompson
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Adrian Mair	John Rajeski	Mary Anne Valdecanas
Omy Mair	Allison Ratajczak	Stephen and Trena Valrie
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Spence and Caroline McClelland	Mark Riley	Howard and Joan Weinstein
Connie and Ken McDaniel	Nicole Chipi and Sabrina Rishmague	Malcolm Wells and Erika Wilson
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Toby McChesney and Brian McGuire	Dana Roberts	Steven and Melinda Wertheim
Catherine and Bill Mealor	Ovella Roberts	Mark and Randelle Wesley
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Steven and Vicki Morris	RK and Sue Sehgal	Amirah Williams
Sparkle Morton	Rebeca Shackelford	Torarie Durden and C.C. Williams
Thomas and Clair Muller	Isa Shaheed	Heather and Jim Wininger
Matthew Leftwich and Rohini	Randy and Marc Hyman Shapiro	Alan and Tracy Wise
Muralidharan	Ian and Kelly Shields	John Wymer
Richard Murray	Deatra Singletary	

*\*All gifts listed were received during the 2020-21 school year (July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021). Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If you find an error or would like to be removed from future listings, please accept our apologies and reach out to Dana Nichols at (404) 309-6144 or [dnichols@kipppmetroatlanta.org](mailto:dnichols@kipppmetroatlanta.org).*



# KIPP Metro Atlanta **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Not-For-Profit and Government Banking Division  
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Retired Managing Director  
Raymond James & Associates

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Green Park International, Inc.

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Community Volunteer

**Gayle Burnett**

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**Hector Calzada**

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*\*Denotes Honorary Director*



# KIPP

Metro Atlanta Schools

1445 Maynard Road NW • Atlanta, GA 30331  
[kippmetroatlanta.org](http://kippmetroatlanta.org)

KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools is part of KIPP Public Schools, a national network of public charter schools that prepares students with the skills and confidence to create the future they want for themselves, their communities, and us all. There are currently 270 KIPP schools nationally, with nearly 10,000 educators and more than 160,000 students and alumni.