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**Media Contact**

Taylor Hudson  
taylor.hudson@glisi.org

## **GLISI AND SREB SELECT THREE DISTRICTS TO PARTICIPATE IN STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

**Burke, Emanuel, Jefferson County school districts to participate in networked improvement community**

ATLANTA, Ga. - Burke County Public Schools, Emanuel County Schools, and Jefferson County Schools joined Teams Transforming Teaching Together (4T) as district partners.

Created in partnership by The Georgia Leadership Institute for School Improvement (GLISI) and the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB), 4T unites teams from three rural school districts in a networked improvement community to harness the power of cross-district collaboration and improvement science to address each district's self-identified need.

"It's our job to draw out the highest potential in every student," said Molly Howard, Superintendent of Jefferson County Schools. "We look forward to this partnership with Burke and Emanuel County. We strive to learn from our neighbors, share insights, and improve our practice as a team."

4T creates an opportunity for districts to address systemic barriers to student achievement. During the selection process, all three districts exhibited steady leadership, strong culture, and a commitment to creating more excellent and equitable schools. The network serves 11,228 students, the majority of whom are students of color (66%) and qualify for free and reduced lunch (96%).

In addition to serving similar student populations, the selected districts also navigate similar challenges operating within small, rural communities. 4T allows teams of both leaders and teachers from Burke, Emanuel, and Jefferson County to merge talent, while simultaneously driving change within their own schools.

"This is a much-needed partnership for our high school and middle school leaders," said Rudy Falana, Burke County Superintendent. "There are benefits to being a small system but it does mean fewer people to collaborate with on problems of practice."

"Our principals are thrilled about the chance to network with other principals and engage in a network that draws out the best from our teacher leaders," added Emanuel County Superintendent Kevin Judy. "Teacher voice matters in Emanuel County and this creates even more space for teachers to meaningfully contribute and for leaders to grow."

4T partners will frequently convene to define problems of practice, implement and evaluate changes in short cycles, and scale accordingly. Coaching, technical assistance and just-in-time training will be provided by GLISI and SREB. The first convening is slated for August 2019. The partnership will continue through the summer of 2021.

For more information on GLISI, please visit [www.glisi.org](http://www.glisi.org). For more information on SREB, please visit [www.sreb.org](http://www.sreb.org).

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<sup>1</sup> Data from the Governor's Office of Student Achievement K-12 Report Card, 2017-2018 School Year.  
<https://gosa.georgia.gov/report-card>