



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 24, 2017**

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## **Gwinnett schools earn state STEM & STEAM certification**

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) has awarded **Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Certification** to **Lanier Middle School** and **Mason Elementary School**. The GaDOE also has issued **Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) Certification** to **Coleman Middle School**. Mason Elementary and Coleman Middle schools were awarded school certifications while Lanier's Teamwork With Innovative Skills and Technology (TWIST) program earned a program certification.

Gwinnett County Public Schools now has 7 schools that have earned STEM or STEAM Certification. Lanier High School's Center for Design and Technology (CDAT) program as well as Peachtree Ridge High School's STEM Program for Innovation, Rigor and Excellence (SPIRE) previously earned STEM Program Certification. GSMST and White Oak Elementary School previously earned STEM School Certification.

### **STEM Certification Highlights -**

- All STEM/STEAM certified schools partnered with the GCPS STEM Team and received professional learning/support through GCPS' Innovation Grant project which is funded by Governor's Office of Student Achievement.
- Coleman Middle School is the first certified STEAM Middle School in the state, and the second to earn STEAM School Certification.
- The Lanier Cluster is the first public school (non choice) cluster in the state with a vertical STEM articulation; this includes one school at all levels (elementary, middle, and high) having received STEM Certification designation (White Oak Elementary School; Lanier Middle School; Lanier High School).
- Jeff Mathews, the principal at Peachtree Ridge High School, is the first principal in the state to lead two schools through the STEM Certification process.

To earn STEM certification, schools must submit an application showing that they meet specific criteria, including evidence of teacher collaboration, business and industry partnerships, high levels of math and science instruction, and an integrated, project-based STEM curriculum. A team from the Georgia Department of Education visits each school to observe its program.

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*is to pursue excellence in academic knowledge, skills, and behavior for each student, resulting in measured improvement against local, national, and world-class standards.*

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