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,** 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
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—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

“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.

“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
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.

“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.”

“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.”

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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

Makalani Mack
3rd-Grade Teacher
KIPP Vision Primary School
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 health support to alumni. Lastly, our KIPP Forward team distributed 80 wellness care packages to current college students through a care package donation drive.

“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.”

“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.
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 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
Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation (CLSFF)
Charter School Growth Fund
Domont Family Foundation
Douglas J. Hertz Family Foundation
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The Sartain Lanier Family Foundation
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The Ward Foundation
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Organizations

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Atlanta Capital Management Co.
Atlanta Chapter of The Girl Friends, Incorporated®
Atlanta Falcons Football Club
Atlantic Capital Bank
Brightworth
Capital City Mechanical Services, Inc.
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Turner Enterprises, Inc.
William Blair & Company Charitable Matching Gift Fund
Winstead Group Inc.
Youth Service America
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John Alexander
Mary Claire and Douglas Allvine
Kristen Anderson
Anonymous
Joseph and Renee Arnold
Shaneka Jeffers Askew
Rodney Atreopersaud
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Meghan Breen
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Kyle and Amy Johns
Myss Johnson-Jelks
Brandom Jones
Carol Jones
Together: With Our Partners

**INDIVIDUALS (continued)**

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Dana Roberts  
Ovella Roberts  
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Peter and Margo Savitz  
Linda and William Schaeffer  
Steve and Cathy Schwartz  
RK and Sue Sehgal  
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Toriair Durden and C.C. Williams  
Heather and Jim Wininger  
Alan and Tracy Wise  
John Wymer

*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@kippmetroatlanta.org.*
KIPP Metro Atlanta

KIPP Metro Atlanta Schools

1445 Maynard Road NW • Atlanta, GA 30331
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.

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