



Muscogee County School District

P.O. Box 2427 • Columbus, Georgia 31902

For Immediate Release

Valerie Fuller, Director of Communications

Telephone: (706) 748-2034

www.mcsdga.net

Date: June 7, 2011

NEWS RELEASE

TAP Center to Close

(Columbus, GA)-After careful consideration, review of recommendations, evaluations, and discussion, the Muscogee County School District will close the Teenage Parenting Center (TAP) and add two instructional days back to the calendar for approximately 32,000 students and add two days of salary for approximately 6,000 employees for the 2011-2012 school year. The Teenage Parenting Center concept was developed to provide parenting skills and child care opportunities to teen-age mothers in an effort to decrease the drop-out rate for this group of students.

“It’s a difficult decision, but when we found that we had a \$10.7 million dollar reduction to our budget, we knew that we could not continue business as usual,” said Dr. Susan Andrews. “A major part of the recommendation for approval to close the TAP Center is so that we can serve all students by adding two instructional days back to the calendar.”

The district used approximately \$11 million of its fund balance last year.

“We carefully reviewed all the alternative/choice programs and proposed alternatives and determined that the TAP is the most expensive program where we are serving the least amount of students with the smallest number of student to teacher ratio,” added Andrews.

Over the last three years, the district has continuously reduced its staff at the central office and/or district level and at schools through attrition, retirements, resignations by not filling some vacant positions, closing an at least one elementary school (2010) and one alternative evening school program (2010), not filled over a hundred teacher positions, and increased class sizes.

-Continued-

The district anticipated a \$4 million reduction. However, once the 2010 midterm allotment sheet was received the district received a \$10.7 million reduction, which equated to more than a \$5 million reduction in equalization, which could not be predicted.

The TAP program currently employs:

1	Principal	17	Teachers
1	Counselor	19	Child Care Aides or Paraprofessionals
1	Secretary	3	Custodians
4	Food Service Employees	1	Special Education Paraprofessional

Current Costs:

Salaries	\$2,026,475
Transportation	235,962
Utilities	183,974
Supplies (Custodial)	6,188
<u>(Instructional)</u>	<u>11,961</u>

Total: \$2,464,560

Historic Record of Child Care Revenues received for qualifying students:

FY 07	FY08	FY09	FY 10	FY11
\$95,366	\$72,355	\$45,605	\$35,643	\$17,259

Enrollment at the end of May (2011):

<u>8th</u>	<u>9th</u>	<u>10th</u>	<u>11th</u>	<u>12th</u>	
3	12	22	24	41*	(Students)

*26 completed all graduation requirements (63%).

In tough economic times, it is difficult to justify an expenditure of \$2,464,560 for

-Continued-

approximately 100 students when instructional days are being reduced for all students and resulting in reduced salaries for all employees. The district plans to absorb the certified teachers who currently work at TAP to fill vacant teaching positions throughout the district. The district is also working with approximately 19 TAP Center (daycare) employees who may be able to fill other vacant positions in the district.

The Department of Guidance Services, including a designated Transition Liaison, social workers, and counselors will continue to work with currently enrolled TAP students as they transition from an alternative setting to an integrative setting and ensure continuity in support services, guidance in academics, and school attendance.

For more information, please contact communications@muscogee.k12.ga.us, (706) 748-2034.

###