

# Becoming The Next...

## Hollis Innovation Academy

A PK-8 EL Education Expeditionary STEM School



Hollis Innovation Academy  
225 James P. Brawley Drive NW • Atlanta, GA 30314  
404-802-8217  
[atlantapublicschools.us/HollisInnovation](http://atlantapublicschools.us/HollisInnovation)

Dr. Diamond Jack  
Principal



# Michael R. Hollis

Hollis Innovation Academy opened on August 3, 2016. The school began serving Pre-K through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in the Vine City/English Avenue Community, and will add a grade level each year until the school reaches 8<sup>th</sup> grade. The 2017-18 school year is the first year for the school to serve 6<sup>th</sup> grade students. Hollis opened as a newly formed school through an aggressive turnaround strategy to improve the academic performance of a closing nearby low performing school.

“Staff welcomes me as a parent and the environment makes me feel welcome and my daughter's teacher is wonderful. I feel nothing but good vibes from the school as a whole.”

Hollis Parent

## School Climate

8.7%  
increase

“Teachers treat me with respect.”

9.7%  
increase

“My school has clear rules for behavior.”

“Good behavior is noticed at my school.”

8.2%  
increase

“My school wants me to do well.”

4.2%  
increase

“I feel safe at my school.”

17.7%  
increase

Students were surveyed at the beginning of the 2016-17 school year, and asked to answer a series of questions related to the climate and culture of the school. They were asked to complete the same survey at the end of the 2016-17 school year.

“

I've had the unique opportunity of transitioning with our students from Bethune Elementary School to Hollis Innovation Academy. One year later, I hardly recognize our students. They know they belong here, they know they are safe here, they know they are held to a high standard when they walk in these doors, and most importantly, they know they can succeed here.

Erin Parks  
Hollis 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher

## Parents & Community

**Hollis Care Pantry**  
supplied by  
Atlanta Community Food Bank

1<sup>st</sup> Food Distribution

2,606  
pounds  
of food

October  
2017

58  
families

143  
children

66  
Hollis students

**CARE Center at Hollis**  
on-site health clinic

**On-Site Attorney**  
(Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation)  
free legal assistance to Hollis families

**Dress for Success Closet**  
free professional clothing for Hollis families

**Communities in Schools  
Shoe Drive**  
free shoes for Hollis students

**CHRIS 180 Counseling Services**  
on-site counseling services for students

**Job & Resource Fair**  
quarterly

1<sup>st</sup> Event

80  
parents

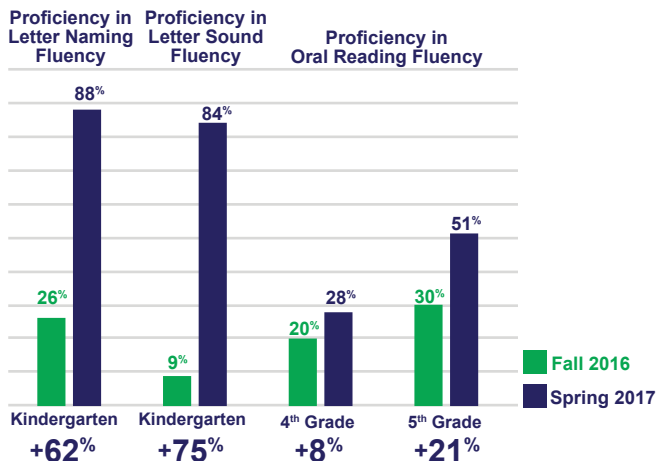
September  
2017

4  
job offers

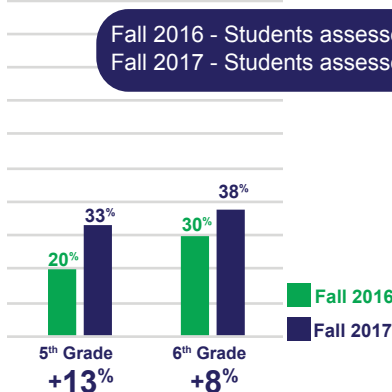
2  
family  
evictions  
avoided

# Innovation Academy

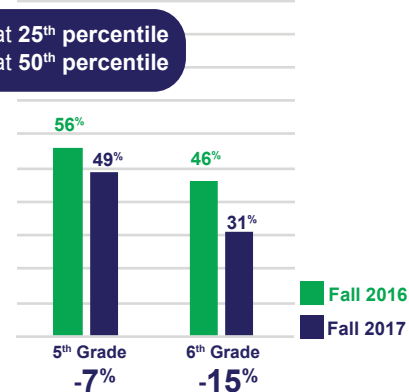
## Literacy



Students at Proficiency



Students at Beginner Level



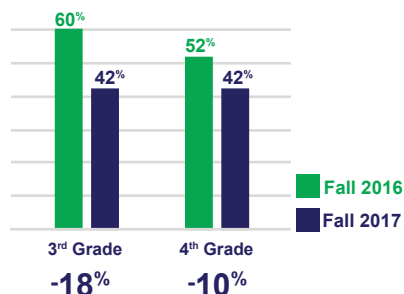
Fall 2016 - Students assessed at 25<sup>th</sup> percentile  
 Fall 2017 - Students assessed at 50<sup>th</sup> percentile

“ Hollis students have been given a unique opportunity to delve into the EL Education curriculum and have become critical thinkers, problem solvers, and ethical people who can use their learning to help the world to become a better place.

Sheryl Spikes  
 Literacy Instructional Coach



Decrease in percentage of students performing at Beginning level



## Mathematics

In 2016, 60% of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students were performing at the Beginning level. In this same cohort of students, as 4<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2017, there was an 18% decrease in students performing at the Beginning level.

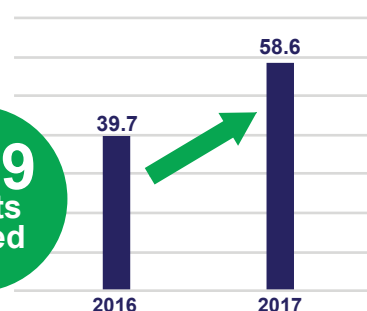
In 2016, 52% of 4<sup>th</sup> grade students were performing at the Beginning level. In this same cohort of students, as 5<sup>th</sup> grade students in 2017, there was a 10% decrease in students performing at the Beginning level.

## College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)



CCRPI is the statewide education accountability system that measures schools and districts on a 100-point scale based largely on the Georgia Milestones assessment through a combination of three main components: 1) achievement (50 points); 2) progress (40 points); and 3) closing the achievement gap (10 points), with the possibility of 10 additional challenge points.

18.9 points gained



# Partnerships

In addition to partnerships and volunteer endeavors that enhance Hollis and the community it serves, Hollis benefits greatly from the \$16.4 million commitment from Westside Future Fund and its supporters.

This collective effort provides Wrap Around Support Services (behavior/emotional assistance) and ensures a low student-to-teacher ratio, increasing student achievement.



**66** students received free eyeglasses from **Vision To Learn**.

Through **Laureus Foundation USA** grant, “Girls on the Run” and “Soccer in the Streets” programs are offered to Hollis students.

“ Thank You, Hollis Academy, and ALL of the organizations that are working with you for bringing our community back to life. Thank you so much!!!

Mary Kennebrew Blackmon  
Hollis Grandparent

Hollis Heroes incentive program is fully funded by partner donations. **180 students** enjoy free field trips to Atlanta landmarks.

More than **60 partner volunteers** served at Hollis during the first **3 months** of the 2017-18 school year.

**Breakthrough Atlanta, Horizons Atlanta at Georgia Tech, and Georgia Tech Summer Bridge** programs offer free summer camps to Hollis students.

**75 students** received free laptop computers from **PowerMyLearning**.

**Spelman College** offers after school tutorial services, mentor support, and student enrichment programs to Hollis students: Math Masters, Girl Power, Fun Lab, and Girls Leadership Institute.

**CARE Center at Hollis** opened in November 2017, in partnership with **HEALing Community Center** and **CHRIS 180**, all made possible by **Chick-fil-A Foundation** and **R. Howard Dobbs, Jr. Foundation**.

All Houses of Hollis have been adopted by:  
**The Atlanta Chapter of The Links, Inc.**  
**Peachtree Road United Methodist Church**  
**NCR Corporation**  
**Mercedes-Benz USA**

On-site attorney of **Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation** provides free legal assistance to families.

Through **Georgia Tech Center for Education Integrating Science, Mathematics & Computing (CEISMIC)**, **4 Innovators-in-Residence** provide STEM support in Hollis classrooms.