* Get involved with the Maynard Jackson High School GO team.

Any community member who cares about Maynard Jackson High School is encouraged to participate. This includes parents, staff, and other community members. Here are some ways to participate:

* + Run for office! Elections are every Spring and terms are for two years. There are seats for staff, parents, and community members. Go Team candidate declarations are now open. [Learn more here.](http://apsstrongschools.com/go-team-home/)
	+ Attend Go Team meetings and participate in public comment. Meetings are generally monthly.
	+ Share your insights with your Go Team representatives.
	+ Serve on a committee.
	+ Volunteer for any calls to action.
	+ Nominate Go Team reps for election season and in between if there are any vacancies
* Did you know that Atlanta Public Schools is now a Charter System?

On September 25, 2015, the State Board of Education voted unanimously to approve the Atlanta Public Schools charter system application during its state board meeting. Atlanta Public Schools is the 33rd school system in Georgia to achieve Charter System status.

A charter system is a school district that operates under a performance-based contract between the local board and the state board of education. Under the Charter System operating model, Atlanta Public Schools gain freedom and flexibility from many state education laws and regulations in exchange for increased accountability for student achievement. Additionally, charter systems must distribute meaningful decision-making authority to individual schools by maximizing school-level governance through local school governance teams.

As a Charter System, Atlanta Public Schools agrees to a five-year contract with the State Board of Education to use the broad flexibility from almost all state education laws and regulations to innovate in exchange for increased accountability for student achievement. A key element to charter system is moving decision making closer to where learning takes place. That means leaving decisions to the school system and to the schools within the system. It also means involving more people in the decision-making process.

* How is the Charter System model different from a Charter School?

With a charter system, the district enters the contract with the state, and therefore the responsibilities for management and oversight remain with the elected system-level school board – the Atlanta Board of Education. Thus, the Atlanta Board of Education retains its legally granted authority for setting the vision and strategic plan for the district, hiring and holding the Superintendent accountable, maintaining district facilities, and a few other key responsibilities, while at the same time distributing a meaningful level of decision-making autonomy to the individual district schools.

A charter school, however, is a public school of choice that operates under the terms of a charter, or contract, with an authorizer, such as the state and/or local board of education. Charter schools can be operated by for- or non-profit educational management organizations, whereas charter system schools cannot and thus remain under the control of the local board of education

* What is a GO(vernance) Team?

GO Teams exist in each APS school. The GO Team works with school leadership and the community to help determine the long-term direction of the school, design innovative solutions to increase student achievement, and serve as school ambassadors to the local community. A GO Team in each school is the method APS will use to get the community, parents and teachers involved in decision making to maximize educational opportunities for our students.
[Learn more](http://apsstrongschools.com/about-go-teams/) about GO Teams. Your active engagement is welcomed and encouraged!

* Who is on Maynard Jackson High School’s GO Team?

GO Teams consist of 3 parents (elected by parents), 3 instructional staff (elected by staff members), 2 community members (nominated by principal), 1 swing seat (selected by GO Team), 1 student representative (nominated by principal), and 1 principal (non-voting member). Click [here](https://www.atlantapublicschools.us/site/default.aspx?DomainID=10722) for information about the GO Team members for Maynard Jackson High School for the 2018-2019 school year.

* When sound I contact my GO Team?

Contact a GO Team member if you have feedback, ideas, or questions about MJHS’s strategic direction, continuous improvement efforts, or ways of partnering with our stakeholders.  Do not contact the GO team if you have specific questions or concerns about a student, teacher, staff member, class, etc. In such a case, please go directly to a counselor or another staff member. Contact information for the GO team is found below.

* What is the protocol for public comments at MJHS GO team meetings?

Public comment will be available at a minimum of 4 meetings as noted in the agenda for the specific meeting, with the goal being to provide time for public comment at the maximum number of meetings possible during the school year.  Public comment is limited to 5 minutes per person with a maximum of 30 minutes public comment per meeting.

Last modified: February 15, 2019