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## PRESS RELEASE

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**DeKalb County, August 29, 2011** – Today the DeKalb Board of Education officially ratified the contract of superintendent finalist Cheryl L. H. Atkinson, Ed. D. According to the terms of the contract, Dr. Atkinson will begin her service as DeKalb County School District Superintendent on September 15, 2011.

“Dr. Atkinson is a highly respected and experienced educational leader with a proven record of lifting academic achievement. We are excited about our choice for superintendent and look forward to her developing and implementing a solid plan to improve student success in DeKalb County Schools,” said Thomas Bowen, chairman of the DeKalb Board of Education.” He added, “The board is pleased to have her serve the children of our district.”

Dr. Atkinson is currently superintendent of the Lorain, Ohio, school district, where she put in place “Success for All,” an academic reform model credited with raising Ohio Achievement Test scores in reading for all elementary and middle schools. She is also credited with effectively applying new technology to schools such as an electronic grade reporting system that gives parents digital access to their children’s grades and academic progress, as well as issuing E-books to some students in place of textbooks.

Dr. Atkinson has served school districts with enrollments ranging from 7,500 to 165,000 students as deputy superintendent in Kansas City, Mo.; associate and regional superintendent in Charlotte, N.C., and associate superintendent in Charleston, S.C. Dr. Atkinson holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Master of Education in Elementary Education from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a Doctor of Education in Educational Administration from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia.

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