



3770 NORTH DECATUR ROAD  
DECATUR, GEORGIA 30032-1099  
678-676-1200 · WWW.DEKALB.K12.GA.US

CRAWFORD LEWIS, Ph.D.  
SUPERINTENDENT

THOMAS E. BOWEN, CHAIR  
ZEPORA W. ROBERTS, VICE CHAIR  
SARAH COPELIN-WOOD  
JESSE 'JAY' CUNNINGHAM, JR.  
DONALD E. McCHESNEY  
JAMES M. 'JIM' REDOVIAN  
DR. PAMELA A. SPEAKS  
DR. EUGENE P. 'GENE' WALKER  
H. PAUL WOMACK, JR.  
BOARD OF EDUCATION MEMBERS

August 26, 2009

Ms. Shirley R. Holmes  
5916 Giles Road  
Lithonia, Georgia 30058

Dear Ms. Holmes:

Thank you for your letter. We have read your correspondence concerning Leanne Holmes. We reiterate the following: the selection process for enrollment to Kittredge and the subsequent feeder pattern is presented fully in the School Choice Brochure eligibility requirements. Kittredge is a rigorous academic environment, and DCSS adheres to strict admissions requirements. Furthermore, due to the limited seat availability and high demand, eligible students must win placement into Kittredge through a lottery process. As stated in the School Choice Programs Brochure, Kittredge requires applicants to achieve 2008-2009 Iowa Tests of Basic Skills ("ITBS") scores in the 75th percentile or higher for the total reading score, the 75th percentile or higher for the total math with computation score, and the 85th percentile or higher for the complete composite score. As you are aware, your daughter's ITBS scores were: Reading 91, Math 64, and Composite 78. Leanne's math and composite scores simply do not meet the requirements. The District cannot make an exception for one child, to the detriment of other students who actually met the eligibility requirements.

Your correspondence alleges that DCSS deprived Leanne of her constitutional due process and equal protection rights. The District, however, has not violated any laws, rules, or the GPS Code of Ethics. Contrary to your allegations, there is no formal appeal process for the denial of entry into a magnet program or an International Baccalaureate program. Your assertion that education is "considered property under the 14th amendment" is incorrect. It has been settled by the United States Supreme Court that education is not a fundamental right. San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez, 411 U.S. 1 (1973). Similarly, there is no property interest in an education under either the United States Constitution or the Georgia Constitution to trigger due process requirements. Thus, Leanne is not entitled to an appeal regarding her denial of eligibility for Kittredge Magnet School, Henderson Middle School, and the Shamrock Middle School International Baccalaureate Program.

The Office of Student Assignment has offered Leanne a seat at Chapel Hill Middle School or Sequoyah Middle School. We join your family in encouraging Leanne's love of the violin. We have notified Mr. Don Roberts, Coordinator of Instrumental Music, of Leanne's talents. Both of the aforementioned schools have thriving instrumental music programs. We look forward to Leanne's enrollment in DeKalb County School System.

Sincerely,

Felicia M. Mitchell, Ed.D.  
Associate Superintendent for Support Services

"THE SCHOOL CANNOT LIVE APART FROM THE COMMUNITY"