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**KENNESAW MOUNTAIN HIGH SCHOOL — ROAD TO QUADRANT D**  
KENNESAW, GEORGIA

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### **Executive Summary**

Kennesaw Mountain High School in Cobb County, Georgia, is a national model of how to hold high expectations for all students and meet individual student needs within a large comprehensive high school. Through multiple pathways, the high school is able to personalize instruction around students' interests, learning styles, and aptitudes. Among those pathways are an Academy of Mathematics, Science, and Technology; a National Academy of Finance; a Naval ROTC program; career and technical education programs in family and consumer sciences, travel and tourism, horticulture, and marketing; courses for gifted students; Advanced Placement courses; resource courses in reading enrichment, study and social skills; community service under Reading Is Succeeding Everyday (RISE) and other programs; and articulated programs with area colleges. The school operates on a four-period block schedule.

From administrators to classroom teachers to students, the concept of rigorous and relevant academic standards being set and achieved is deeply embraced. The curriculum and supportive instructional activities have been organized and the multiple pathways have been established to enable all students to achieve instructional goals. Students are held to high expectations that are supported in numerous ways. It is clear throughout the building that students are valued. This culture of respect is due in large part to highly visible and successful service learning and character education programs. The school culture is also one of expansive capacity building of all staff. The staff has a passion for meeting the needs of students and support from the administration to do so.

The overriding characteristic of the school is leadership. Multiple levels of leadership exist within the school. The principal created the culture, or environment, that demands high standards for all students. The commitment to high standards is carried out by the assistant principals, instructional leaders, classroom teachers, students, parents, and community members. As one student said, "It's cool to be smart." Based on observations, it is cool to be smart not only for "the smart kids" but also for all students.

The school makes an extraordinary commitment to and has great success in its special education program. Students with disabilities are held to high standards and are supported to get there. Numerous resource courses are available, either team taught in mainstream classrooms or delivered in self-contained classes. These classes include most of the core courses in the major academic disciplines that are offered to all students. In addition, resource course options include study and social skills, work-study, and reading enrichment.