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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Students Named to State Student Advisory Council



HOUSTON COUNTY, GA – Two students from the Houston County School District have been selected for State School Superintendent Richard Woods' 2020-2021 Student Advisory Council. Congratulations to the following students who have been selected for this honor:

- ★ Sejal Patel ~ Houston County High School, 11<sup>th</sup> grade (pictured left); and
- ★ Brenley Fouse ~ Perry High School, 12<sup>th</sup> grade.



"Now more than ever, it is essential that I receive feedback directly from students on their educational experience," said Superintendent Woods. "My Student Advisory Council has been an invaluable part of my decision-making process for the last six years, and I am looking forward to meeting with the 2020-21 Council soon."

The State School Superintendent's Student Advisory Council is a group of students in grades 9-12 who discuss how decisions made at the state level affect students throughout Georgia. Members meet throughout the school year with State Superintendent Woods and act as liaisons between the Department of Education and the students of Georgia. They discuss the impact of state policies in the classroom and other issues related to education. Members also serve as the Superintendent's ambassadors to their respective schools and participate in service projects to benefit schools and students.

The council includes representation from every Regional Educational Service Agency (RESA) district in Georgia. Members were selected from a pool of more than 1,400 applicants. Students were chosen based on the strength of their essay answers, which focused on their ideas for public education. Members are chosen by a committee of Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) representatives based on the applicant's responses to questions. Students may apply for the

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advisory council at the beginning of each school year by obtaining an application from their school or GaDOE [website](#).

The first Student Advisory Council meeting will be held virtually on Nov. 5, 2020. If in-person meetings are held in the spring, they will take place in Atlanta at GaDOE's headquarters or in Covington at the FFA/FCCLA Camp. For Student Advisory Council members who live 50+ miles from any in-person location selected, overnight lodging will be provided.

Houston County High is located at 920 Highway 96 in Warner Robins. Dr. Douglas Rizer serves as principal. Perry High is located at 1307 North Avenue, Perry; Wesley "Del" Martin serves as principal.

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