



## **Bibb County School District**

**Department of Communications / Community & School Affairs**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **District Awarded Additional Federal Funding for YouthBuild**

June 16, 2021

(MACON, GA) – The Bibb County School District has been granted the maximum award of \$1.5 million to continue YouthBuild, a pre-apprenticeship construction program, which serves as an opportunity for youth ages 16-24 to develop educational and occupational skills. SOAR Academy was awarded the two-year grant for the first time in February 2019 and the District was one of only two grantees in Georgia to receive the grant from the U.S. Department of Labor.

“The YouthBuild grant has helped change the lives of some of our opportunity youth by providing them employability skills training, leadership development, and the opportunity to graduate with a high school diploma or obtain a GED,” Assistant Superintendent of District Effectiveness and Federal Programs Dr. Lori Rodgers said. “Receiving this award for another three years is an immeasurable opportunity for Dr. Julia Daniely, the District’s Director of Personalized Learning and Alternative Education, and her team to continue the work established from receiving the initial grant in 2019. In addition, this demonstrates our commitment for all Bibb County School District students to be enrolled in college, enlisted in the military, or employed upon graduation.”

Since the start of the program, over 62 participants have enrolled in the YouthBuild program. To date, several students have received their high school diplomas and are working toward securing job opportunities following their graduations. YouthBuild students were able to contribute to the construction of the new home through the District’s partnership with the Macon Area Habitat for Humanity. The home was dedicated on Thursday, May 25, and is located at 2070 Sycamore St., Macon, Georgia 31204.

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*Vision: Each student will demonstrate strength of character and will be college or career ready.*

*Mission: The Bibb County School District develops a highly trained staff and an engaged community dedicated to educating each student for a 21st century global society.*