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**Hayes Cooper students return to Delta State on Monday, August 5**

**CLEVELAND, Miss. —** The Hayes Cooper Center, a K-6 magnet school within the Cleveland School District, is preparing to begin the 2024-2025 school year on the campus of Delta State University. The Center’s campus in Merigold was extensively damaged by fire on April 11, and the school relocated to DSU to finish the academic year. The decision was made for Hayes Cooper to remain on campus for the upcoming year as they await the resolution of the ongoing investigation by the State Fire Marshall’s office.

DSU President Dr. Daniel J. Ennis said, “We are so glad to be able to provide a home for the Hayes Cooper Center in this time of need and we look forward to the opportunities that this partnership will foster.”

As preparations for the start of the school year continue, DSU’s Kethley Hall is being converted for use exclusively by Hayes Cooper. Classrooms and offices have been set up to accommodate staff and students. Traffic patterns on campus are being reconfigured to allow for car rider pickup-drop off lanes along the east side of the Quad and for bus pickup-drop off in the parking lot on the east side of Kethley Hall. For additional information regarding traffic flow, please visit the DSU website at: [www.deltastate.edu/about-dsu/campus-map/](http://www.deltastate.edu/about-dsu/campus-map/). The Hayes Cooper traffic flow map is included online below the DSU campus map.

Cleveland School District Superintendent Dr. Lisa Bramuchi said that she was extremely pleased with how the school year ended after Hayes Cooper relocated to DSU in April. “I thought it was fabulous,” she said. “Anything we said that we needed, Delta State took care of it. I think of Dr. Ennis now as a family member. We were welcomed with open arms.”

To prepare for the upcoming year, Bramuchi and her staff have been meeting with DSU personnel to ensure that the campus is ready for the return of students on Monday, August 5. Bramuchi and Ennis traveled to Starkville this summer to learn more about the Partnership Middle School, located on the campus of Mississippi State University. The Partnership Middle School is a collaboration between MSU and the Starkville-Oktibbeha School District. Bramuchi said that Hayes Cooper Center and DSU will be able to replicate many aspects of that school while tailoring programs and policies to fit the situation in Cleveland.

Bramuchi is a five-time graduate of DSU. “I am very proud of my alma mater,” she said. “We are all in this together. DSU has been such a great partner with the Cleveland School District.”

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**About Delta State University:**Delta State University is a four-year public institution whose nearly 2,700 students come from most U.S. states and more than 35 countries. Acknowledging its beginning as a teacher’s college, the University sustains excellence in teacher education while continuing to expand offerings in traditional as well as unique fields of study. Programs such as those available through the Delta Music Institute, the Commercial Aviation Department, and the Center for Interdisciplinary Geospatial Information highlight the University’s commitment to meeting the evolving needs of the students it serves with world-leading, industry-acclaimed programs. Situated in the heart of the Mississippi Delta, Delta State offers top-notch academic programs in business, arts, sciences, nursing, education, and more. DSU Athletics has won 14 national championships, 70 conference championships, and 37 regional titles.