

Georgia PLC Network Region 5



Get the *facts*...get *connected*...GET *INVOLVED*!

March 31, 2010

"We will lead the nation in improving student achievement."

What Is...

A Good Parent
A Good Advocate
A Good Teacher
A Good School
A Good Community



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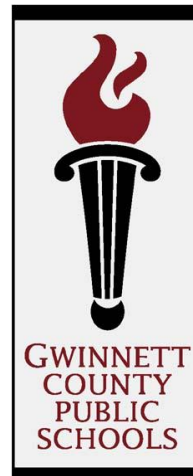
You have the opportunity to make your “What Is” vision a reality!



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Learning From Each Other: Gwinnett County PIC Presentation



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Networking Conversation Activity

- Middle and High School Family Engagement
- Communication Strategies
- Workshops
- Professional Development for school staff, teachers, and administrators



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Georgia Department of Education

Learning Your Child's School System: The Key to Success

Lakeita Servance,
Parent Engagement Specialist

Michelle Tarbutton,
Parent Engagement Program Manager

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Objectives

- BELIEVE that parent and family involvement is the first step to helping your child succeed
- BELIEVE that knowledge is power!

Ask Questions • Listen • Observe • Understand

- KNOW the personnel you need to talk to about pertinent issues
- KNOW that all schools have been *developed* to educate your child in a way that he/she may flourish

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What Would You Do If...

- You wanted to learn how to become a parent volunteer?
- Your child started displaying academic challenges?
- Your child needed to learn about career choices?
- You experienced problems with your child's teacher?
- You found out your child has been "cutting" school ?
- Your child has a problem with speech?
- Your child's school did not meet AYP?
- Your child started having behavioral difficulties?
- You had a special needs preschooler?

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Organize Me!

Where do I begin and end?

STANDARD PUBLIC SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Principal

Governor

Local Board of Education

Superintendent

Teacher

State Board of Education

Area Superintendent

State Superintendent

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Correct Order

STANDARD PUBLIC SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Governor

State Superintendent

State Board of Education

Local Board of Education

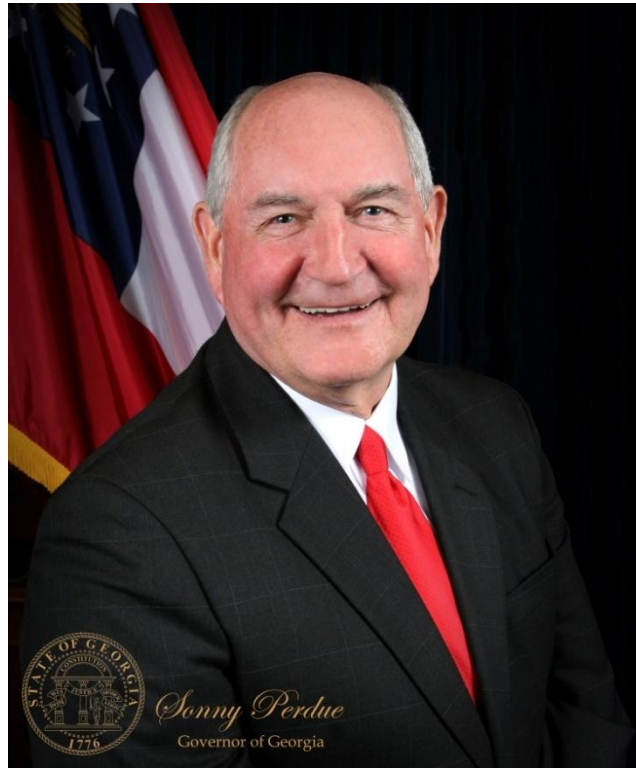
Superintendent

Area Superintendent

Principal

Teacher

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Sonny Perdue

Governor – responsible for managing the state budget; proposing new programs and state laws, signing or vetoing legislation, and appointing members of various state boards.

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Brad Bryant

State Superintendent of Schools-directs the Georgia Department of Education in executing the policies set by the State Board of Education. He's also the chief spokesperson for public schools, providing education policy and direction to local school districts.

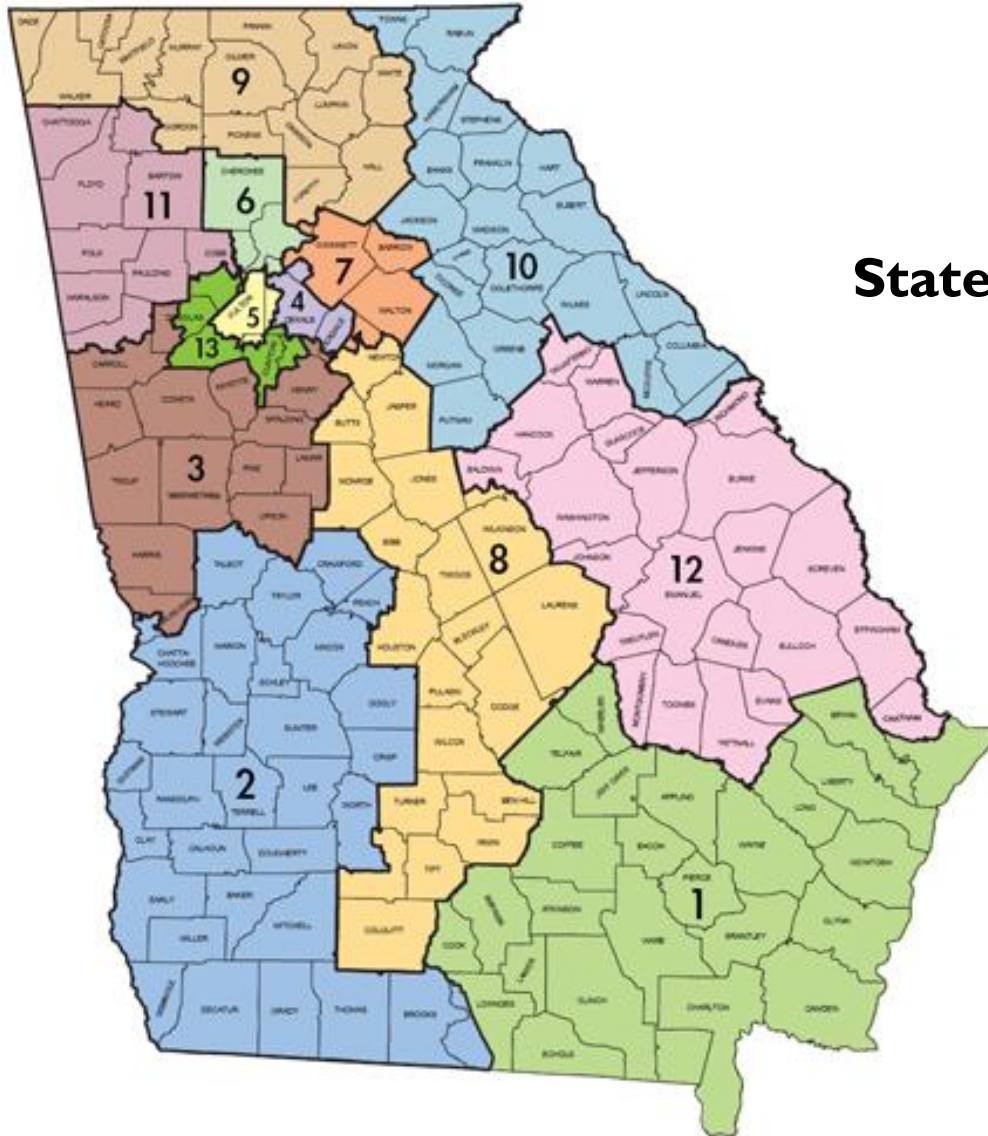
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State Board of Education Chair Wanda Barrs

The State Board of Education focuses on policy making, planning, monitoring, and evaluation to support Georgia's local school districts.

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State Board Members and Districts

- 1- Linda Zechmann**
- 2- Elizabeth Ragsdale**
- 3- Vacant**
- 4- William Bradley Bryant**
- 5- James Bostic, Jr.**
- 6- Robert Law**
- 7- Jose Perez**
- 8- Wanda Barrs, Chair**
- 9- Larry Winter**
- 10- Brian Burdette**
- 11- Albert Hodge**
- 12- Allen Rice**
- 13- Mary Sue Murray**

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Local Board of Education



Local Board of Education- each board member is elected by the people. Meetings are normally held monthly and members of the community are encouraged to attend so they can know what's going on in their schools and district.

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STANDARD PUBLIC SCHOOL STRUCTURE

Governor

State Superintendent

State Board of Education

Local Board of Education

Superintendent

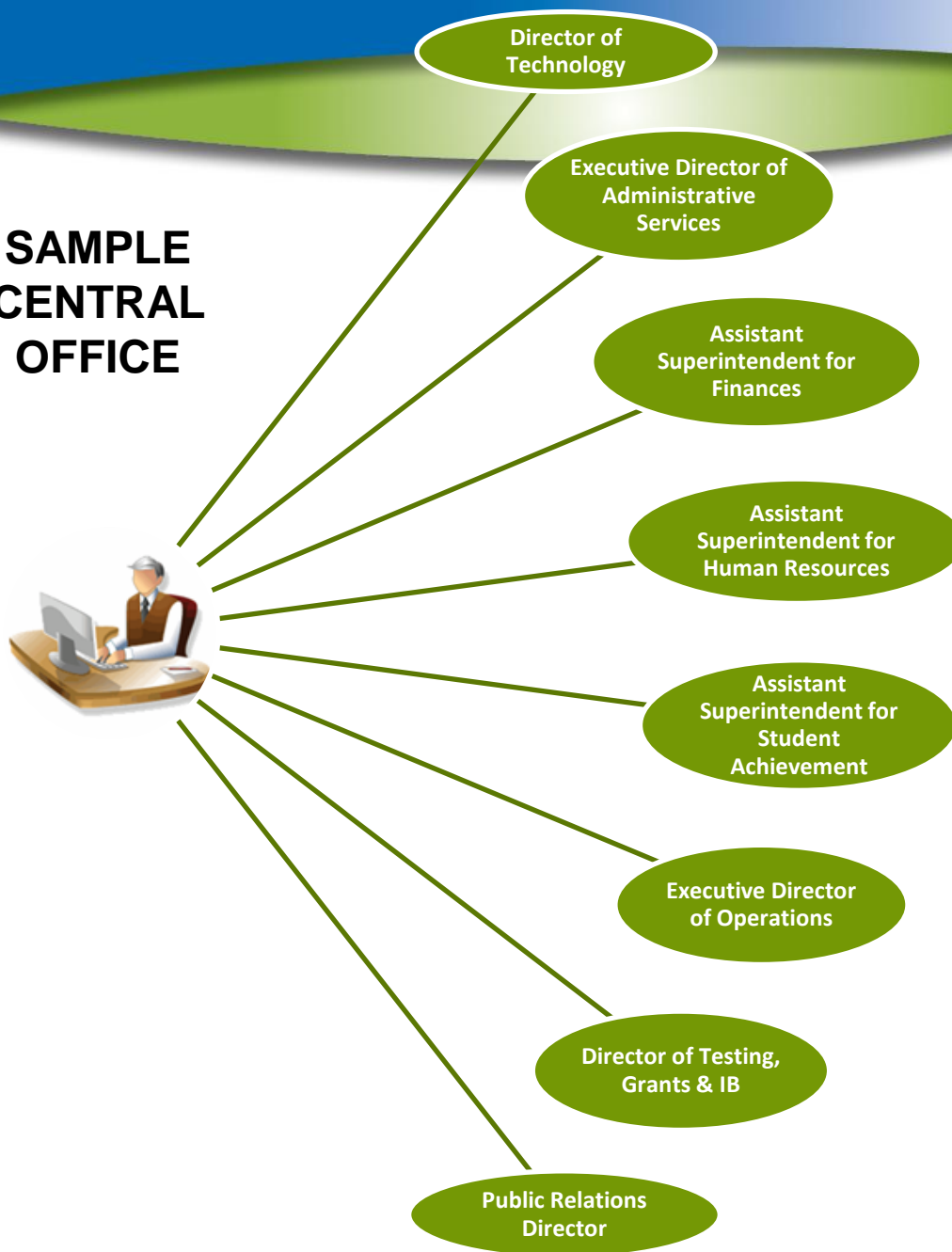
Area Superintendent

Principal

Teacher

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SAMPLE CENTRAL OFFICE



Public



**Board of
Education**



Superintendent



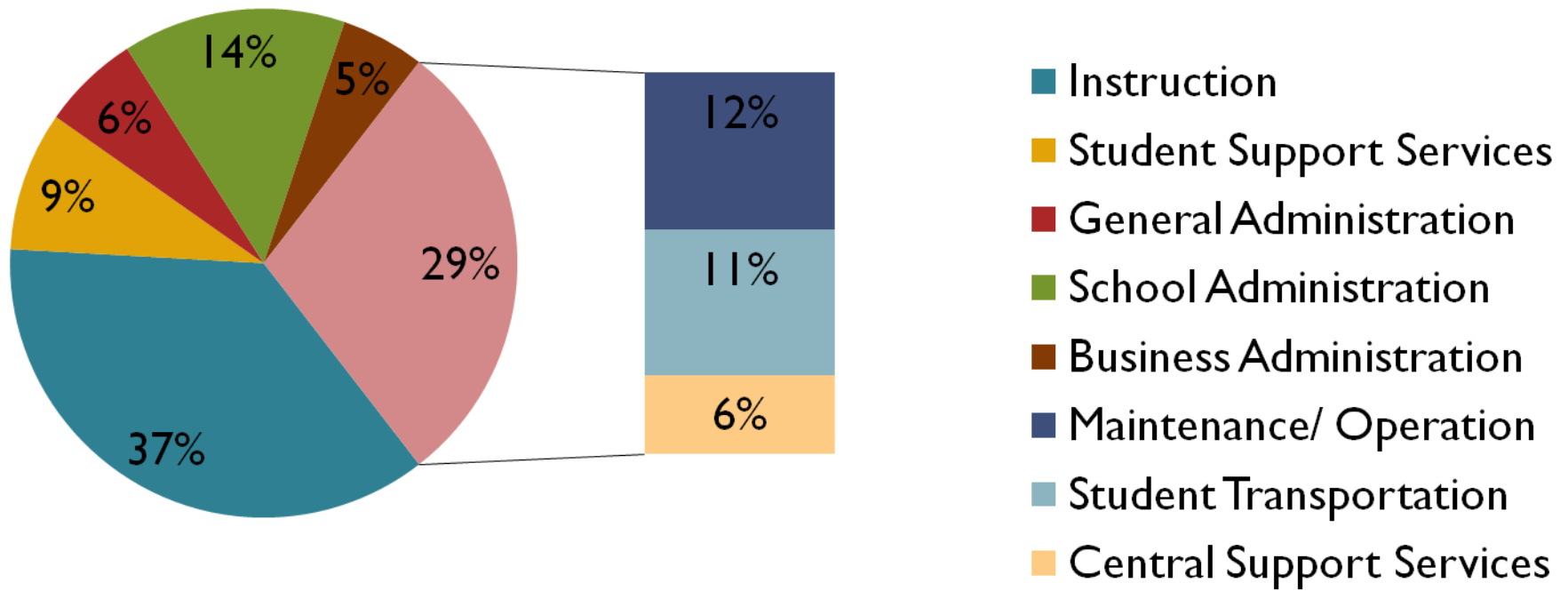
Area Superintendent



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Sample Budget

Total Estimated Revenue: \$124,368,200.00



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Sample Budget Cont'd.



Funding Sources

- Local Taxes- \$79,780,700.00
- Other Local Funds-\$1,112,00.00
- State Funds-\$43,190,000.00
- Federal Funds-\$285,500.00

Total: \$124,368,200.00



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Funding School Personnel



- Social workers, counselors, school psychologist and assistant principals are determined by *enrollment*
- Speech, interpreters, and other special services are determined by *need*
- Support staff, paraprofessionals, and nurses are determined by *budget*

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Principal – deals mainly with facilities, safety, discipline and the school budget. They are the school’s leader. You should feel very comfortable and confident about talking with your principal.

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Remember...

- Every school's staff members are in place to assist with the needs of the parents, but you have to know where to go to obtain your requests.
- You must *communicate* your needs.
- Knowing who to report to makes life easier.

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Public School Staff & Responsibilities

- **School Counselor-** assists students with making decisions that affect their personal and academic development ; they often meet with students individually or in groups to provide counseling sessions.
- **Graduation Coach-** identifies at-risk students and helps them succeed in school by keeping them on track academically before they consider dropping out
- **Social Worker-** serve as a link between students' families and the school, working with parents, guardians, teachers, and other school officials to ensure that students reach their academic and personal potential; they also handle truancy issues



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Cont'd.

Public School Staff & Responsibilities

- **Parent Mentor (Special Needs)**-hired by local school systems to work with special education directors, parents, school teams, teachers, and the community; they also schedule and record IEP meetings and connect you to the services and resources you need
- **Academic Coach**- oversees the curriculum, observes classrooms to determine instructional strategies, assists in implementing school reforms, professional development, and mentors



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Cont'd.

Public School Staff & Responsibilities



- **Lead Teacher**-an experienced teacher within a school system who is chosen to provide support, guidance and resources for new teachers or those dealing with a challenging population of students
- **Assistant Principal**- assists the principal; deals with facilities, safety, discipline and the budget
- **Paraprofessional**-assists, supports, and works closely with teachers, administrators, and other team members in providing educational benefit for students

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Cont'd.

Public School Staff & Responsibilities



Teacher- responsible for organizing and implementing an instructional program that will result in students achieving academic success



Parent Involvement Coordinator- parent advocate who offers workshops, links parents to resources, aims to increase parental involvement and helps parents navigate the school

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STANDARD PUBLIC SCHOOL STRUCTURE

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State Superintendent

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Principal

Teacher

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Benefits of Having Involved Parents:

- Fewer behavior problems
- Better academic performance
- More likely to complete secondary school
- Increased teacher support
- Potential problems are identified early

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How can I become a Very Involved Parent? (V.I.P.)

- PTA/PTO
- PTSA
- Booster Clubs
- Parent Portal
- Local School Council
- Parent Liaison
- School Website
- Newsletter
- Parent/Teacher Conferences



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FACT I:

Teachers of students with highly involved parents tend to give greater attention to those students, and they are more likely to identify problems that might hinder student learning at earlier stages.

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FACT 2:



Parents, schools, families, and communities working together can create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains across the board in student achievement.

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FACT 3:

Accountability and communication are the keys to helping parents help their children. Knowing these entities exist helps you to play an active role in becoming an advocate for your child.

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Commonly Used Acronyms

- **AYP**- Adequate Yearly Progress- an annual report that indicates the progress individual schools are making toward achieving state academic standards
- **ELL**- English Language Learners- students whose native language is not English
- **SES**- Supplemental Education Services- tutoring service available to students from low income families who are attending failing schools
- **LEA**- Local Education Agency- public board of education or other public authority legally constituted within a state for either administrative control or direction of public elementary or secondary schools
- **GHS GT**- Georgia High School Graduation Test-all students seeking a Georgia high school diploma must pass this test in four content areas as well as the writing assessment.

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Cont'd.

Commonly Used Acronyms

- **CRCT**- Criterion Reference Competency Test- a standardized test that measures student performance related to academic objectives
- **IEP** – Individualized Education Plan- an intervention strategy used mostly for special needs children
- **ESEA**- Elementary and Secondary Education Act-(formerly known as NCLB) federal law that provides guidance and money to assist schools in an effort to help *all* children succeed
- **PAC**- a group of parents from across the state that meets to discuss education in Georgia and focus on how to increase parent and family engagement to ensure student success
- **GPS**- Georgia Performance Standards- performance standards that provide clear expectations for instruction, assessment, and student work

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Commonly Used School Terms

- **Learning Disability**- a condition that makes it hard for a student to learn
- **Academic Performance Standards**- benchmarks that measure a student's academic success
- **Learning Styles**- a way of learning how individuals learn
- **Gifted & Talented Program**- a program designed for identified high achieving students

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POP QUIZ!!! (True or False)

- Accountability and principles are the keys to helping parents help their children.
- Only select school staff, such as the principal, can help me obtain the things I need for my child.
- Teachers of students with involved parents tend to give greater attention to those students.
- If you complain enough to the teacher, it's okay to assume it will be taken care of.
- Parent and family involvement is the second step to helping your child succeed.

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OPEN FOR QUESTIONS



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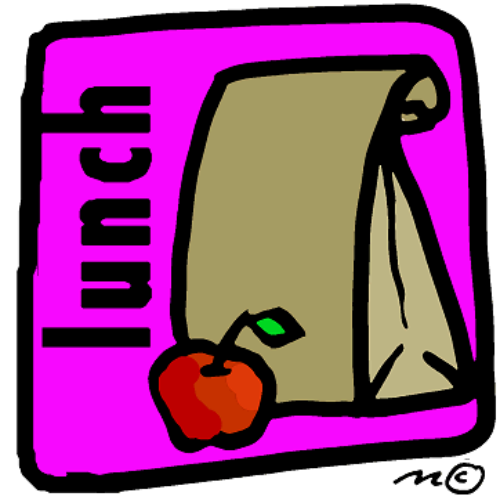
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Working Lunch

After picking up your lunch, please review the sample State Family Engagement Policies in your folders. Have a discussion in small groups about **What Is Important For You To See In A Georgia Family Engagement Policy** and write your answers on the provided index cards.



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Networking Conversation Activity



- What are your strengths for
 - What are your challenges for
- these into your schools or districts?

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Establishing Title I Parent Resource Centers

Lakeita Servance,
Parent Engagement Specialist

Michelle Tarbutton,
Parent Engagement Program Manager

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TITLE I PARENT SURVEYS

Title I parent surveys are used to identify barriers that have prevented participation and solicit input from Title I parents on how parent involvement funds should be spent so new strategies can be developed and implemented to increase parental involvement based on survey data.

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INITIAL SET-UP ESSENTIALS

- Family Engagement Team
 - ✓ Discuss Budget
 - ✓ Establish Goals
 - ✓ Develop Mission Statement
 - ✓ Identify Resources
 - ✓ Determine Hours of Operation



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LOCATION

The parent center should be in a convenient location where parents, staff members and administrators can easily access these resources.

- School Center- near the main entrance
- District Center- in a centralized location

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Sample of Resources



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A photograph of a row of children's dictionaries and thesauruses on a wooden shelf. The books are colorful and have titles like 'Macmillan Dictionary for Children', 'The Oxford Picture Dictionary', and 'Scholastic First Dictionary'. The books are arranged in a slightly overlapping manner, showing their spines. The background is a dark wooden surface.

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Sample of Resources



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MULTILINGUAL SECTION

Translate parent information for to the population of parents whose native language isn't English.

- Translators
- Assess Literacy Levels
- Communication Needs

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Sample of Amenities



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“OPINION BOX”

Parents and staff can provide feedback and make suggestions for ways to improve the resource center.

- Evaluation Forms
- Anonymous Notes



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TRAINING PARENT LEADERS

- As Leaders
 - Advocacy Skills
 - Volunteering
- Understanding Data
- Accountability
- Parental Rights



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SCHOOL STAFF & COMMUNITY MEMBERS

- Understanding and explaining data
- Creating opportunities to involve parents
- Role clarification
- Effectively communicating with *all* parents



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UNDERSTANDING CHILD DEVELOPMENT

“What Children Need to Succeed”

- Frequent Parenting Workshops

- Elementary

- Middle

- High

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PARENT WORKSHOP IDEAS

“Elementary School”

- *Preparing for Kindergarten*

A parent workshop centered on helping parents and children overcome anxieties over entering an unfamiliar environment with new teachers



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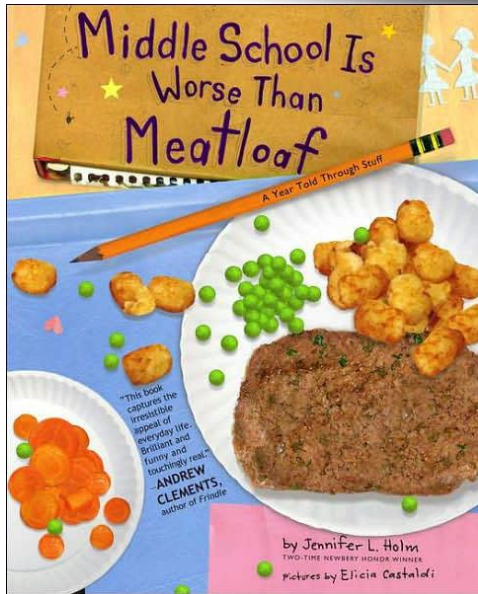
PARENT WORKSHOP IDEAS

“Middle School”

- *Middle School Transition*

A parent workshop centered on helping parents and children transition from elementary school by addressing emotional issues and new academic requirements

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PARENT WORKSHOP IDEAS

“High School”

- *Setting Reachable Goals in High School*

A workshop centered on helping parents address goal-setting, decision-making and helping their child avoid distracting influences. Parents could also be educated about the required tests for graduation or graduation requirements

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PARENT WORKSHOP IDEAS

“Special Needs”

- *Advocate: Making Each Step Count*

A workshop designed to provide assistance and create a collaborative community of parents to increase student achievement, particularly for students with disabilities

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TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

- Computer Basics 101
- Parents' Portal
- E-mail Accounts
- Resource Search
 - Scholarships
 - Tutoring Services
 - Enrichment Programs
- DVD and VCR Operation



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EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE

- Job Search
- Résumé Writing Workshops
- Accessibility to:
 - Computer
 - Fax Machine
 - Copier
 - Telephone



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RESOURCE INFORMATION

- Academics
- Resolving Familial Issues
 - Brochures
 - Videos
- Consultation



Social Worker • Psychologist • School Counselor

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REFERRAL PROGRAM

- Food Vouchers
- Clothing Vouchers
- Dental Assistance
- Medicaid
- Mental Health Services



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QUESTIONS?



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BUILDING YOUR PARENT RESOURCE CENTER

Working in small groups you will now develop your own parent resource center based on a scenario and then share your design with the entire group!



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