



Family-Friendly

PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS

2023-2025 Overview



HISTORY

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) launched the Family-Friendly Partnership School (FFSP) Initiative in the summer of 2010 to assist Title I schools, families, and communities in working together to create welcoming environments that lead to increased student achievement. The FFSP Initiative highlights the first standard of the National Parent Teacher Association (PTA) Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which the Georgia State Board of Education (SBE) endorsed in 2010 —Welcoming All Families. This standard also aligns with the Family and Community Engagement System within Georgia’s Systems of Continuous Improvement model.

The Family-Friendly Partnership Initiative was initially an annual award program, sponsored in partnership with the Georgia Foundation for Public Education (GFPE), The Ritz-Carlton Hotels of Georgia, and the Georgia Association of Educators (GAE). However, beginning in the 2017-2018 school year, the FFPS initiative discontinued the awards program and transitioned to the current framework of supporting schools that voluntarily invest their time and resources toward improving their welcoming environments as they plan their improvement efforts. Each school selected for participation, joins a two-year cohort.

ELIGIBILITY

All Title I school wide schools are invited to submit an online application to join this professional development opportunity. Note that winning schools, from the 2012-2019 FFPS initiative and participating schools in 2017 – 2023 cohorts, are not eligible to re-apply. The GaDOE used the recognition process from previous years to create the professional development model for the cohort of selected Title I schools. We also continue to reach out to award-winning schools to partner with and mentor new cohort schools. In addition to the award-winning schools, partners from the GAE, the State Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council (PAC), the Georgia Statewide Afterschool Network, and the Georgia Family Connection Partnership are invited to continue their roles as application readers, site judges, or as professional development specialist for each new cohort season.

Applications are processed through a review by a panel of representatives who then select up to five schools based on criteria such as: geographical location in Georgia, location of available site judges, representation of small, medium, and large school systems, and other factors. Each school team’s application must identify two S.M.A.R.T. goals on which to focus its improvement efforts related to Welcoming All Families and the Community standard within Georgia’s Systems of Continuous Improvement.



TWO-YEAR COHORT OF SCHOOLS

Participants this year will have several opportunities for professional development and support:

1. Welcoming Environments online course – professional learning opportunity for school teams. This self-paced course will be required for the identified five FFPS school team members.
2. Unannounced Site Visit from the FFPS Support Team – team members will conduct a walk-through of the school and evaluate its current family-friendliness using the FFPS rubric and interviews; the state team will then debrief with the school FFPS team; during the debrief the school will receive feedback and recommendations on its FFPS SMART goals.
3. Participation of up to five school team members in a day long PL day focusing on a welcoming business model.
4. A second unannounced, follow-up visit by the state FFPS team to complete a final walk-through and interviews to determine the school’s family-friendly growth with a final debrief.
5. A final site visit and school presentation, to include the State School Superintendent, as his schedule allows, for a FFPS recognition celebration and school tour.

EXPENSES

There is no cost to apply or register for this initiative. All applicable travel expenses, staff time, and/or materials are the responsibility of the school or school system. Federal Title I-A funds may be used in alignment to the district’s Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP), School Improvement Plan, and approval of the school system’s Federal Programs Director. The travel costs for state site visitors will be covered by the Georgia Foundation for Public Education.

TIMELINE

| Date | Activity |
|-----------|---|
| May 2023 | 2023-2025 Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership Schools (FFPS) Application Packet is Available. |
| June 2023 | Deadline for Application Packet to be Received by the GaDOE. |
| July 2023 | Cohort of Schools Selected by Partner Application Readers and GaDOE Team. Invited to participate will be comprised of the GaDOE |



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| | Consolidated LEA Improvement Plan (CLIP) Teams, Federal Programs, School and District Effectiveness, Special Education, and Other Agency Partners; Principals Notified by the GaDOE. |
| August 2023 | Cohort of Schools will conduct the required Welcoming Schools FFPS Training. Course module 1 is due October 2023. |
| Fall 2023 | Surprise School Site Visits by Partners including Former Family-Friendly Partnership School Participants; Feedback Provided to School Team by Partners to Develop Improvement Goals; GaDOE Team Given Copy of Feedback. |
| January 2024 | Schools Begin Working on Improvement Goals related to its Welcoming Environment. Course module 2 is due. |
| April 2024 | Schools Provides Updates; Course module 3 is due/ final assessment. |
| August 2024 | GaDOE Team Follows up with Schools on their Improvement Goals/ Virtual Professional Development Opportunity. |
| October 2024 | Cohort of Schools Participate in a Professional Development Day Focused on Improvement Goals. |
| November 2024 – May 2025 | Schools Continue to Enhance Its Welcoming Environment Based on its Improvement Goals. Virtual check-ins are conducted as needed. |
| Spring 2025 | Surprise School Site Visits by Same Partners; Feedback Provided to School Team to Highlight Growth in Improvement Goals; GaDOE Team Given Copy of Feedback. |
| Spring 2025 | As Scheduling Allows, State School Superintendent visits schools and schools submit their final PowerPoint presentations. |

Note: Dates are tentative and subject to change.