



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Note takers and participants recorded extensive stakeholder feedback during the Chatham County ESSA meeting. This document highlights the high-level summary and common themes from the meeting.

### ***Accountability Common Themes***

1. Stakeholders were critical of the CCRPI, noting that it needs to be stabilized and consistent, it should measure things that educators can control and only measure what is essential.
2. Stakeholders do want information about student performance, participation rates, growth and achievement.
3. The current accountability system is not accurate, is difficult for parents and others to understand and scores do not necessarily correlate to what people are seeing at school.

### ***Assessment Common Themes***

1. We are assessing the cognitive aspect of the child. Need to monitor the mental health, citizenship, contributions to the learning community. Bring in assessments for social emotional learning.
2. Stakeholders want assessment to be more diagnostic with specific information about student performance tied to standards. Modifications need to be made for special needs children.

### ***Educator and Leader Development Common Themes***

1. Educators and leaders should have content knowledge, understand best practice and recent research, have an opportunity to co-teach and be mentored and get leadership training.
2. Teachers in the IN4 program need a lot more support than those coming in through a traditional pathway.
3. State education leaders should address salary caps and inequities and provide incentives for educators and leaders working in struggling schools.

### ***Federal Programs to Support School Improvement Common Themes***

1. Inconsistency in support for struggling schools (what the parameters are) makes it tough for schools to make a plan.
2. Investing in media specialists/centers would support school improvement as a whole. State needs to clarify that this funding is allowable through ESSA.
3. Funding given during school improvement process and then taken away makes it difficult for schools to sustain improvement.

### ***Education of the Whole Child Common Themes***

1. Stakeholders want more technology but appropriate to student needs and the curriculum. Media specialists should be engaged to help students use technology to engage their passions and open up curiosity.
2. Students should have lots of opportunities to explore through field trips, hands-on learning, project-based learning and community connections.
3. Students should have access to mental health services and experts.