



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

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

Accountability

1. Figure out how to measure true student growth and use it for accountability.
2. Simplify the CCRPI. It's not fair or clear.
3. While growth is important, include other factors in the system for a holistic view of performance.
4. Attendees do not think the current system accurately reflects their schools' performance.

Assessment

1. Use testing for formative purposes only
2. Test students more aligned with the age and development
3. Break up tests into two or three session that provide formative data
4. Reduce the length of state testing and use computers for elementary grades
5. Test results are not timely and are not designed to support instruction

Educator and Leader Development

1. Attendees identified a wide range of qualifications as important for teachers and principals beyond a degree.
2. Teacher should have additional promotion and career path opportunities.
3. Funding and teacher pay was identified as the primary barrier to students having equal access to effective teachers and principals.
4. Educators want to collaborate and see what other school systems are doing as part of their professional development.

Federal Programs to Support School Improvement

1. One size fits all hasn't worked. Attendees like that schools can develop their own improvement plans.
2. Additional support personnel, such as counselors and special education instructors are needed.
3. The community needs to get involved in school improvement.
4. Strong teacher and principal professional development should be a key part of improvement plans.

Education of the Whole Child

1. Engage students earlier to develop their passions and interests.
2. Provide more flexibility for courses selection and graduation requirements to match the student.
3. Have more mental health and other social services with quicker response/meeting times.