

GaDOE Updates

EducatingGeorgiasFuture.org

April 2016

FROM SUPERINTENDENT WOODS



A few months ago, I wrote to you about the beginning of the 2016 legislative session and the feedback from parents, students, and teachers that informed the recommendations I made to legislators this year.

I heard from countless individuals that over-testing and over-burdensome accountability were keeping students from learning and teachers from doing their jobs. I'm pleased to let you know those voices were heard, loud and clear.

Senate Bill 364, sponsored by Sen. Lindsey Tippins, passed both houses of the legislature this session. If signed into law, it will address many of the issues our students and teachers face.

SB 364 reduces testing. It reduces the impact of student test scores on teacher and leader evaluations. It requires that tests occur as close to the end of the school year or semester as possible, so instructional time is not compromised.

If it becomes law, this bill will have a strong and substantive impact on the education our students receive. It's not a solution to every challenge we face, but it's an excellent start.

I want to thank each and every individual who has taken the time to share their feedback. It truly makes a difference.

Richard Woods

GADOE STRATEGIC PLAN

Initiative: Increase the percentage of schools implementing PBIS with fidelity

Pillar: Safe and Healthy Environment

Each month, we'll share our progress on a specific initiative from the GaDOE Strategic Plan. View the full plan at bit.ly/gadoeplan.

Research shows a positive school climate is a critical component of student achievement, discipline and attendance, along with teacher retention. When students feel safe and secure in their schools and develop positive relationships with the adults who teach and care for them, they want to attend school and can better focus on learning.

The GaDOE promotes a research-validated, school-based framework for improving school climate, called Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS). PBIS creates and sustains school-wide, classroom and individual-level supports that promote appropriate behavior while helping to prevent inappropriate behavior. The primary goal of PBIS is to help schools design positive school climates that provide an environment to make effective teaching possible and student academic performance more likely.

To date, more than 400 schools across the state have begun to implement PBIS. Research in Georgia schools positively links improved school climate with increased attendance, decreased student misbehavior and improved student achievement. There are many examples of success; for example, two school districts that have implemented PBIS with fidelity – Griffin-Spalding and Murray County – have experienced reductions of more than 24 percent in out-of-school suspensions and graduation rate increases of 10 and 14 percent, respectively.

Article: Dr. Garry McGiboney, Associate Superintendent for External Affairs



facebook.com/gadoe



@gadoenews

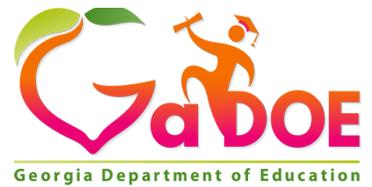


pinterest.com/georgiadowe



@georgiadeptofed

GaDOE Updates



GEORGIA STUDENTS

Honoring Georgia's military kids



April is recognized nationally as the Month of the Military Child. It's a time to honor the strength and sacrifices of our military families and kids.

We're asking Georgia's schools and districts to join us in recognizing these students. Choose a day or week to "purple up" in honor of military kids! Let's show that we recognize and honor the challenges they've faced and the sacrifices they've made for our benefit as a state and nation.

Share photos and updates from your Month of the Military Child recognition with the hashtag #monthofthemilitarychildGA, or send them to gadoemedia@gmail.com.

YOUR FEEDBACK

The State Board of Education has approved the first Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for science, following a 60-day public comment period that drew responses from 5,098 Georgians.

The standards will be implemented during the 2017-18 school year, following a year of teacher training. To view the new standards, visit bit.ly/gascience16.

Thank you to all who took the time to provide feedback on the new standards during the review process!

STATEWIDE NEWS

We just announced the 2016 Georgia Scholar honorees, a recognition earned by 151 graduating seniors in Georgia this year.



This program honors high school seniors who have achieved excellence in school and community life. For a full list of this year's Georgia Scholars, who represent 40 districts along with home school and private schools, visit bit.ly/georgiascholars.

GADOE TEACHER TAKEOVER



Each week, a different Georgia teacher "takes over" the GaDOE's Instagram account. We're looking for Georgia teachers to do the same during the 2016-17 school year.



To view posts from teachers who shared a glimpse into their classrooms this year, visit the hashtag #gadoeteachertakeover on Instagram. To apply to participate in 2016-17, visit bit.ly/gadoeinstagram.