

GaDOE Updates

EducatingGeorgiasFuture.org

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FROM SUPERINTENDENT WOODS



Georgia is lucky to have many excellent leaders, at both the local and national level.

Five National Principals of the Year call Georgia their home.

So does the National Superintendent of the Year, the National FBLA President, the National FFA President, three National School Counselors of the Year, the National Assistant Principal of the Year and the National Blended & Online Learning Teacher of the Year.

And recently, when the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) announced its national Excellence Awards, three of the seven winners were from Georgia's schools.

Good leadership is essential, because it sets the tone in our schools and districts and makes the difference for students. I'm grateful for the incredible leaders serving our students each day.

Richard Woods

AROUND THE STATE

These Georgia educators were named winners of the Association for Career and Technical Education's Excellence Awards, which promote excellence in career and technical education.

Teacher of the Year: Cindy Quinlan, Teacher & WBL Coordinator, Brookwood High (Gwinnett)

Career Guidance Award: Sheryl Neely, School Counselor, Frederick Douglass High (APS)

Administrator of the Year: Cassandra Miller-Washington, CTAE Director, Bibb County

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Gwinnett grad launches 'Food Finder GA'

As a student in Gwinnett County, Jack Griffin saw a news story about a twelve-year-old girl and her brother in Orlando, Fla. Medical bills for the children's mother had led to bankruptcy and intense financial struggle.

That segment led Griffin, now a Peachtree Ridge High School graduate and University of Michigan student, to launch Food Finder GA -- a web app that uses geo-targeting to direct users to the free food resource closest to their home, school, or current location.

The segment "made me think about what I was worried about when I was ten or twelve, and finding a meal was not one of my worries," Griffin said.



Built initially for Gwinnett County students, Food Finder GA expanded in the fall of 2015 to serve

all food-insecure students in the state of Georgia, through a network of more than 1,000 resource providers.

Asked what advice he'd offer to other Georgia students interested in using their creative skills to address a social issue, Griffin had this to say:

"I would tell them to use their creativity and try to see things from different perspectives. Similar to what you would expect from an entrepreneurial standpoint, I would want them not to try and come up with some unrealistic or arbitrary solution to a massive problem like poverty, but rather to identify a specific, local issue that is being overlooked."

Access Food Finder GA at foodfinderga.org. Read a full Q&A with Jack Griffin at educatinggeorgiasfuture.org.



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AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

Georgia Milestones results released

To view district- and school-level scores from the 2014-15 administration of the Georgia Milestones, visit bit.ly/milestones15scores. Schools are now distributing individual student score reports to parents.

Graduation rate increases

Georgia's 2015 high school graduation rate rose from 72.5 percent in 2014 to 78.5 percent in 2015. This is the first class not required to take the Georgia High School Graduation Test in order to receive a regular diploma, as Georgia moves away from a focus on testing and a one-size-fits-all approach to graduation.

53,000+ teachers complete survey

We asked teachers to share their thoughts on the reasons for heavy teacher turnover, and more than 53,000 -- nearly half of all teachers in Georgia's public schools -- responded. Results are currently being compiled.

FROM THE STATE SCHOOLS



Fourth graders at the Atlanta Area School for the Deaf (AASD) visited the construction site for AASD's

new Accessible Materials Project studio. The students, who are studying construction and architecture, toured the construction site and were invited to participate in a planning meeting as full members.

GaDOE oversees three state schools: the Georgia Academy for the Blind, Georgia School for the Deaf and Atlanta Area School for the Deaf.

AROUND THE DISTRICTS

6 named to AP District Honor Roll

Six Georgia school districts are included on the sixth annual AP District Honor Roll, a list of districts honored by the College Board for increasing access to Advanced Placement (AP) coursework while simultaneously increasing the percentage earning scores of 3 or higher on AP exams. Those Georgia districts are: Cherokee County, Douglas County, Fayette County, Floyd County, Forsyth County, and Oconee County.

SOCIAL MEDIA VOICES



"Lake Forest ES visits the High Museum for arts enrichment." -GaDOE Virtual Fine Arts Specialist Jessica Booth (@JesBooth)

"Go Ravens! Just presented w/ our STEM banner by @GaDOENews! Proud of our school and students!" -Amanda Fox (@AmandaFoxSTEM)

"What are you doing to celebrate National Parent Involvement Day? #GAParentmonth" -@GaDOEParents

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