

# GaDOE Updates

EducatingGeorgiasFuture.org

Summer 2016

## FROM SUPERINTENDENT WOODS



First and foremost, I want to wish Georgia's students, parents, and teachers a happy and restful summer! You have worked hard all year, and I hope you are enjoying every minute of your break. You deserve it!

I also want to briefly discuss summer learning and literacy. Reading during the summer is critically important for maintaining and growing reading abilities, so I strongly urge every Georgia student to read this summer. To support you in this endeavor, we've teamed up with several generous partners to get books in the hands of Georgia's kids this summer.

I'd be remiss if I didn't thank Change 4 Georgia, Scholastic, and Better World Books, who helped us donate more than 100,000 books to children in community centers, food banks, and libraries this summer. I also want to recognize the Georgia Public Library Service, which works all year to get books in the hands of children, and the partners of the Get Georgia Reading campaign, who came together to provide a wealth of summer reading resources for kids and families.

Check the column next to this one for a quick overview of the resources available for Georgia students this summer -- and don't forget to read, read, read!

*Richard Woods*

## SUMMER LEARNING

**Connect with resources for summer reading, meals**



Summer shouldn't mean that learning stops! Read on for summer resources available for Georgia families.

### Statewide summer reading resources

To log the books you read this summer (we'll recognize winning students, schools and districts):  
[summerreading.gadoe.org](http://summerreading.gadoe.org)

To find your local library and sign up for a card:  
[georgialibraries.org/directories/publiclibdir.php](http://georgialibraries.org/directories/publiclibdir.php)

To access free e-books all summer:  
[getgeorgiareading.org/myon2016](http://getgeorgiareading.org/myon2016)

For information on summer reading events hosted by the GaDOE and partners: [bit.ly/gadoeSR](http://bit.ly/gadoeSR)

### Statewide summer meal resources

Find a summer meal site:  
[fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks](http://fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks)

Find food resources for children year-round:  
[foodfinderga.org](http://foodfinderga.org)

*Photos courtesy of Bibb County Schools.*



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## AROUND THE DEPARTMENT

### 2015 School Climate Star Ratings released

School climate refers to the quality and character of school life -- the “culture” of a school. This month, we released the 2015 School Climate Star Ratings, based on survey results and data from the 2014-15 school year. Each school in Georgia received a 1-5 star rating, with five stars representing an excellent school climate and one star representing a school climate most in need of improvement. The ratings are an informational tool for schools, administrators and parents; they do not affect the school’s College & Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) score. View the School Climate Star Ratings at [bit.ly/gadoeclimate](http://bit.ly/gadoeclimate).

### SBOE approves social studies standards

At its June meeting, the State Board of Education approved the first Georgia Standards of Excellence (GSE) for social studies. The standards, which were developed based on public feedback from teachers, parents and families, students, post-secondary institutions, business and industry representatives, and community members, will be implemented during the 2017-18 school year after a year of teacher training. Learn more at [bit.ly/gadoesocialstudies](http://bit.ly/gadoesocialstudies).

## PHOTO OF THE MONTH



*The Superintendent’s Student Advisory Council, a group of 120 middle and high school students, helped coordinate the GaDOE’s summer reading events. Photo courtesy of Bibb County Schools.*

## GADOE STRATEGIC PLAN

### Initiative: Increase the graduation rate for students with disabilities

#### *Pillar: Guaranteed & Viable Standards*

The Georgia Department of Education is implementing **Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities** to improve graduation for all students -- including students with disabilities. The GaDOE aligned with regional technical assistance providers to support district leadership, and 50 districts are receiving intensive technical assistance. District teams use a problem-solving framework to develop or revise a district-wide plan for school-level implementation. National Dropout Prevention Center resources support selection of evidence-based practices. Georgia aims to increase the annual graduation rate for students with disabilities from 39.4% (FY 2014) to 65% (FY 2019). For more information, visit [bit.ly/georgiaSSIP](http://bit.ly/georgiaSSIP).

**Article:** Zephine Smith Dixon, GaDOE

## HONORS AND RECOGNITIONS

### Tippins honored with Superintendent’s Impact Award for SB 364



State Sen. Lindsey Tippins received the 2nd Superintendent’s Impact Award this month, in recognition of Sen. Tippins’ sponsorship of Senate Bill 364 (read here: [bit.ly/georgia364](http://bit.ly/georgia364)).

The award recognizes Georgians who are not educators, but make a positive impact on the lives of Georgia’s schools and students. “Senator Tippins’ bold leadership will have an impact on generations of Georgia’s students,” Superintendent Woods said.