

# **“Parent Engagement: Bridging the Gap between School and Homeless Families”**

**9<sup>th</sup> Annual Title Programs Conference  
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- McKinney-Vento view of parent engagement
- Importance of parent engagement
- Barriers to parental involvement
- Roles and Responsibilities of Homeless Liaisons and Parent Involvement Coordinators
- Recommendations for collaboration
- Resources



# McKinney-Vento View

The McKinney- Vento Law, requires that:

- The parents or guardians of homeless children and youth are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in the education of their children Section (3)(6)(A)(iv).



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# McKinney-Vento View

State educational agency determines quality of application based on among other things:

- The involvement of parents or guardians of homeless children or youth in the education of their children (Sec. 723, (3)(C).



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# McKinney-Vento View

Local educational agencies (LEA) may use funds for activities that carry out the purpose of the McKinney-Vento law including:

- The provision of education and training to the parents of homeless children and youths about their rights of, and resources available to, such children and youths (Sec. 726 (d) (10).



# McKinney-Vento View

## Monitoring Requirement:

LEAs shall coordinate McKinney-Vento plan and Title I plan to serve homeless children and youth.

*(FY 11 McKinney-Vento Programs Monitoring Document, Section I-8)*

LEAs will collaborate with state, local, non-profit and social service agencies or programs to ensure that services are available for homeless children and youth.

*(FY 11 McKinney-Vento Programs Monitoring Document, Section II-4)*



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# McKinney-Vento View

**What is the link between homeless families and other hard to reach families?**



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# Importance of Parent Engagement

Parent Engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success



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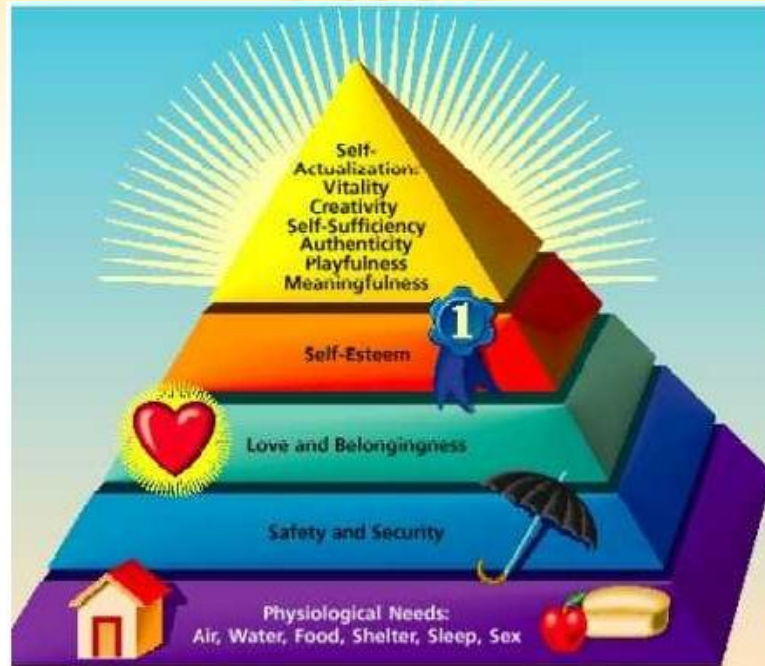
# Importance of Parent Engagement

- Research related to family, community, and school connections among low-income and minority populations identifies several broad findings:
  - In all races, cultures, ethnicities and income levels, most families have high aspirations for their children's success
  - Families from racial, ethnic, and cultural minorities are actively involved in their children's schooling



# Importance of Parent Engagement

## Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



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## Abraham Maslow

### Motivational levels

#### Level 1

##### PHYSIOLOGICAL

(food, sleep,  
stimulation, activity)

Housing  
Employment  
Hunger  
Lack of education  
Medical  
Social issues  
Alcoholism  
Drugs  
Abuse

## PTA National Family-School Partnerships

### Standards

#### Standard 3

##### SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS:

Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and health development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

## National Strengthening Families

### Protective Factors

#### Factor 1

##### PARENT RESILIENCE

*Parents Can "Bounce Back"*: The ability to cope and bounce back from all types of challenges.

#### Factor 4

##### CONCRETE SUPPORT IN TIMES OF NEED

*(Parents Know Where They Can Turn for Help)*  
Knowledge of basic resources to ensure health and wellbeing, as well as financial security



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# Barriers to Parental Involvement

- The extent and types of involvement may be linked to poverty and economic stressors.
  - Stressors create barriers such as time constraints, child care needs, transportation problems, language differences, cultural beliefs about the role of families in their children's education
  - Inferiority, families lack of knowledge of the educational process and feelings of exclusion



# Responsibilities of Homeless Liaisons

LEA liaisons have the responsibility to ensure that:

- Families, children and youth experiencing homelessness receive educational service for which such families and youth are eligible;
- The parents/guardians of children and youth who are homeless are informed of the educational and related opportunities available to their children and are provided with meaningful opportunities to participate in their children's education;



# Responsibilities of Homeless Liaisons

- Enrollment disputes are mediated; and
- The parent or guardian of a homeless child or youth, and any unaccompanied youth, is fully informed of all transportation services, including transportation to the school of origin.

*M-V Section 722(g)(6)(A)*



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# Role and Responsibilities of Parent Involvement Coordinator



The Georgia Department of Education's Parent Involvement Coordinator (PIC) Program has a network of professionals whose focus is to advocate for parents in their school, link parents to resources in the community, and assist parents with navigating the school system so their child can obtain the resources required to help them achieve their maximum academic potential.



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# Role and Responsibilities of Parent Involvement Coordinator

- Serves as the liaison between school and parents
- Promotes parents as equal partners
- Advises and trains parents
- Serves as intermediate contact for concerns and comments
- Provides referrals
- Expands opportunities for volunteer service
- Develops community collaborations



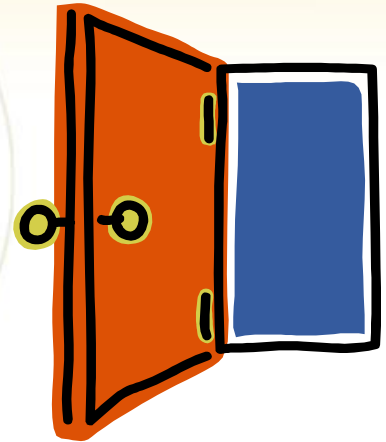
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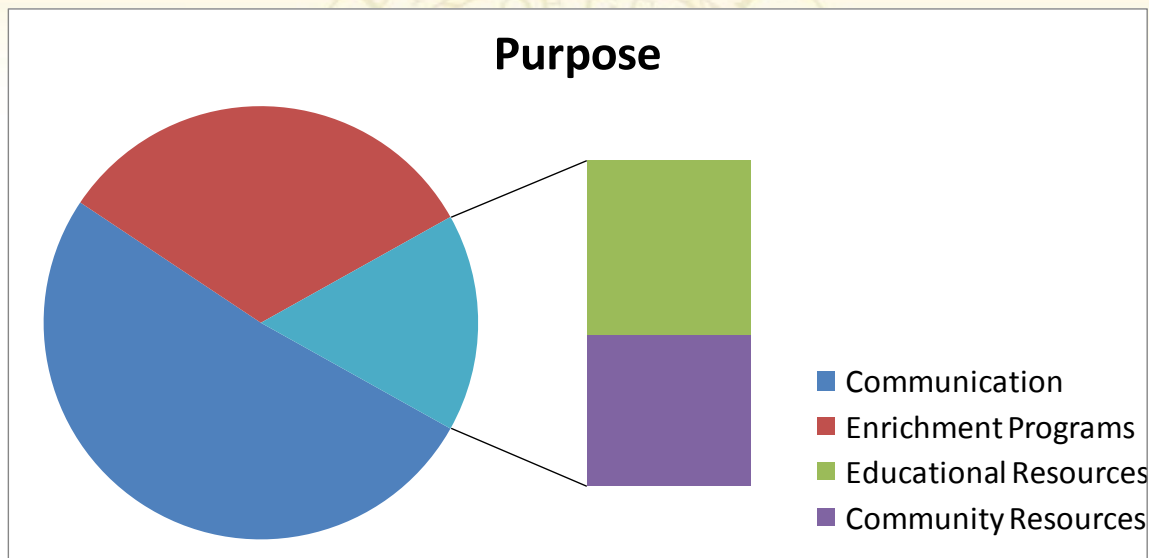
# Role and Responsibilities of Parent Involvement Coordinator

## Location

- Parent Resource Center
  - Elementary
  - Middle
  - High
- District
  - Central Office (Title I Division)



# Role and Responsibilities of Parent Involvement Coordinator



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# Role and Responsibilities of Parent Involvement Coordinator

- Parent Involvement Resources
- Program Evaluation
- Compliance
- Program Coordination and Collaboration
- Professional Development



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# Recommendations for Collaboration

## Building Relationships

- Prioritize *outreach* efforts; take extra steps to make it possible for families to get involved at school, as well as at home
  - School Collaboration
- Help low-income families obtain the support and services they need to keep themselves safe, healthy, and well fed
  - Community Collaboration



# Small Group Exercise

- How can Parent Involvement Coordinators and Homeless Liaisons collaborate and work together?
- What are the main objectives for this collaboration?
- What are some potential barriers to this collaboration?
- How can those barriers be broken?



# Strategies for Effective Collaboration



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# Resources

## Website

www.gadoe.org

**HOT TOPICS**

- About the GaDOE
  - Georgia's Race to the Top (RT3)
  - Superintendent Dr. John D. Barge
  - Strategic Plan
  - GaDOESource Newsletter
  - AskDOE
  - Stimulus Funding
  - Proposed Rulemakings
- Careers
  - Working at GaDOE
  - Teaching in Georgia
  - Troops to Teachers
- Testing
  - CRCT
  - Graduation Tests (GHS GT)
  - GHS GT Waivers and Variances
  - GHS GT Online Test Prep
  - Writing Tests
  - SAT/AP/ACT
  - End of Course Tests
- School Health and Safety
  - Georgia Sex Offender Registry
  - Flu Information
  - Bullying Prevention
  - Safe and Drug-Free Schools
- Special Programs
  - IE2 Partnership Contracts
  - Georgia Special Needs Scholarship
  - Tax Credit Program
  - Residential Treatment

**<< FEATURE >>**

**2010 AYP** Adequate Yearly Progress  
**Final 2010 AYP Reports Now Available**  
Learn how your school performed in 2009-2010  
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**STATE SUPERINTENDENT**

**Dr. John D. Barge**  
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**View Strategic Mission and Goals**

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# Resources

## Website

### DIVISIONS

- School Improvement
- Education Support

### CONTACT INFORMATION

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### RESOURCES

- Elementary and Secondary Education Act
- Title I, Part A-Parent Involvement
- US DOE - Parent Involvement - For Administrators
- US DOE - Parent Involvement - For Parents

### EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Georgia PIRG
- Bright From the Start
- Georgia Parent Mentors
- Georgia Department of Human Services
- Georgia PTA
- Georgia Family Connection Partnership

[» More](#)

### Parent Engagement Program

Parent Engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success.

The research is clear that when schools and families support each other, students of all backgrounds and various abilities achieve at higher levels. As a part of Title I, the Parent Engagement Program at the Georgia Department of Education is focused on working with our partners in local school districts and the community to provide parents with the best opportunity and resources to help their child succeed in school. The goal of the Parent Engagement Program is to increase student achievement by engaging and empowering parents, and other stakeholders, to become actively involved in their children's education across all grade levels. To achieve this goal, the Parent Engagement Program:

1. Develops and delivers communications to parents and families on the factors that influence student success.

### FEATURE

Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership School Initiative

### PARENT MONTH!

- Governor's Proclamation
- Parent Engagement Resolution
- Get Involved Handout
- Get Involved Brochure
- Get Involved Poster
- Best GET INVOLVED Parent Videos
- Best GET INVOLVED Moment
- 2010 Parent Involvement Day Letter

### PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

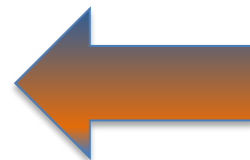
- Parent Advisory Council
- P.A.C. Minutes 1-5-2011
- P.A.C. Minutes 10-6-2010
- P.A.C. Minutes 5-6-2010
- P.A.C. Minutes 2-25-2010

[» More](#)

### FOR PARENTS

- GaDOE Parent Website
- Parent Engagement Resolution
- Winter 2010 Newsletter (English)
- Winter 2010 Newsletter

## Parent Engagement Program



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# Have Questions?

## Please Contact:

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