



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

Thank You Letter to Georgia's Parents

By Richard Woods
State School Superintendent
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The Georgia Department of Education works hard to support high quality programs that improve teaching and learning across the state. All GaDOE sponsored programs share a common goal of offering Georgia's students an education that affords them the opportunity to move on to postsecondary education, the military, or directly into a meaningful career.

Research on parent engagement suggests that when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and ability levels achieve at the highest levels. The message to all of us in the research is clear; educational programs are more effective when parents are actively engaged in them. Engaged parents make successful students.

The importance of parent support for students is highlighted during November in Georgia by celebrating Parent Engagement Month. Schools across the state plan special events to honor the crucial role that parents play in students' education. In addition, November 19th is National Parent Involvement Day, a time for all parents to reflect on how they can get more involved in the education of their children.

To support you with best practices, the Georgia Department of Education has an array of *Get Involved* materials for Title I schools and parents. You can access brochures, tip sheets, calendars, videos, and other resources on the Parent Engagement Month web page at: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Parent-Month.aspx>. Also during November, follow the Parent Engagement Program on Twitter (@GaDOEParents) and Facebook (GaDOEParentEngagement) to view and like *You CAN Play a Role* video entries for the Parent Engagement Month video contest. These videos feature real parents sharing ways that they support their children at school.

On behalf of our schools and school systems, I want to personally thank all the parents and families who have taken on the demanding job of actively participating in their children's education. The importance of your support is immeasurable; schools simply cannot succeed without you.