

CTO UPDATES – October 2018

Assistant Principal Training

As a part of the Turnaround Office's leadership focus, assistant principals from partner schools convened in Macon on Monday, October 29th. The focus of the training centered on the change process and leveraging data to drive climate and culture improvements. The next convening for APs will be in December, with a focus on instructional leadership.

Character Education to Promote Soft Skills

In partnership with the House of Representatives' Rural Development Council, the CTO is providing character education programming to rural partner schools. Along with enhancing the overall climate and culture of a school, this focus is earmarked as an investment to increase the employability of students in rural Georgia. This emphasis aligns to pervasive research that stresses how employers are having a difficult time finding job candidates with essential "soft skills" to be successful in the workplace.

Critical Issues Forum (Sponsored by the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education)

The GPEE will be sponsoring a *critical issues* forum on November 7th at the Georgia Pacific Center Auditorium (Atlanta). The focus of the forum is to explore the design and progress of the state's turnaround efforts. Dr. Thomas will be a panel member, along with Dr. Tangelo Madge, Superintendent of Randolph County Schools.

Local Boards of Education Convening

Board members from CTO partner districts met in Macon on October 25th. The focus of the engagement was to 1) clarify the CTO's role, 2) explore the role of the school board, and 3) provide an overview of the CCRPI and how data can be used to monitor academic progress. Dr. Sam King, from the Georgia School Boards Association (GSBA), provided a research-based perspective on what effective school boards do. This focus aligned to the broader district conditions that are needed to promote school-level turnaround.

Rural Teaching & Learning Focus

The CTO office has launched a targeted teaching & learning focus with its rural district partners. Districts have confirmed resource and bandwidth gaps related to curriculum resources, instructional support, and formative assessment practices. These components make up the instructional infrastructure – the teaching and learning conditions that districts should be providing.

Superintendents at State Board of Education Retreat

Superintendents from CTO partner districts attended the State Board of Education's annual retreat on October 22. Superintendents engaged in several activities to discuss their role and reflections on transformation efforts in their district. During a panel discussion, many superintendents highlighted how talent management (recruitment and retention of effective teachers) was a huge challenge. The Chief Turnaround Office is exploring this challenge to determine how to support districts.