

Transcript for “The Importance of Family-Friendly Schools”

3 minutes and 10 seconds

[The video begins with background music. On the screen are the Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Awards logo and the title, “The Importance of Family-Friendly Schools”. Paige Pushkin, Executive Director of the Georgia Foundation for Public Education appears.]

Georgia Foundation for Public Education was formed in 2010 to promote educational excellence for students across Georgia. And we see the Family Friendly partnership as a perfect partner in executing that vision and that mission of making sure that our students are receiving an excellent education.

[Transition to Dr. Sid Chapman, President, Georgia Association of Educators]

We believe that it is a very good program. And have been participating for a number of years. We believe that the first impression of every school is important to the families, to the students, and to the community.

[Transition back to Paige Pushkin]

Schools that are engaging their parents in a warm inviting way making sure that parents feel a part of their children’s education, are providing excellence.

[Transition back to Dr. Sid Chapman]

It does make a difference when you are greeted with a smile. And the first person you would come in contact with seems to be interested in why you are there.

[Transition to Richard Woods, State School Superintendent, Georgia Department of Education]

A friendly face and a friendly smile sets the tone of the day. The expectation is they are treated with a very personalized approach to education. It’s all about relationship building.

[Transition back to Dr. Sid Chapman]

It is very important as an employee to learn how to get along with people, learn how to respect people not only those coming in the door, but the ones you work with.

[Transition to Dr. Tamara Candis, Principal, Hopkins Elementary School, Gwinnett County Public Schools]

...How we treat each other internally then transfers to our kids and then transfers to our parents to help them to bridge that gap between home and school. And it creates this sense of family and a sense of comradery...

[Transition to Kirsten Miklethun, Parent Instructional Coordinator, Peachtree Elementary School, Gwinnett County Public Schools]

At this school that starts by welcoming our parents. That means welcoming their presence, welcoming their voice, their perspective, and their unique gifts.

[Transition to Sonja L. Coaxum, Principal, Fort Service Learning Magnet Academy, Muscogee County School District]

We need a partnership with our parents, our grandparents, our aunties, our uncles, everyone. To make certain that we are addressing all of the needs of our students.

[Transition to John LaMattina, Parent Coordinator, Norton Elementary School, Gwinnett County Schools]

I think we have a very good partnership among the three--the student, the parent, and the teacher. So there is a nice line of communication there.

[Transition back to Kirsten Miklethun]

Over and over again research shows that when a parent or family member is involved, it correlates to higher student achievement. Educators know that parent engagement pays off.

[Transition to Dr. Demetria L. Haddock, Principal, Woodward Elementary, DeKalb County School District]

Having an environment where the parents love to come into the school is really, really key.

[The Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Awards logo and the video subtitle, "Positive Outcomes" appear on the screen.]

[Transition back to Dr. Demetria L. Haddock]

Being family-friendly is very important to academic success.

[Transition to Denise Simpson, Assistant Principal, Buford Elementary School, Buford City Schools]

We have seen a large jump in our academic achievement. Our first graders take the math test. Our scores were in the 99 percentile last year.

[Transition back to Dr. Tamara Candis]

...And throughout time we have seen this one student who now who was a second language learner, who was in our ESOL program, who has now flourished to now being actually evaluated for our gifted program. And so we know that within every child there is hidden successes, within every family there is hidden successes. We know that creating that warm environment, and building capacity of our teachers to understand cultural diversity and welcoming our parents in and teaching them to help them to build capacity through that we can have increased collaboration, and increased student achievement in a greater community in which we live, and in which we serve, and in which we work, teaching every day.

[On the screen appears, "Presented in partnership by", and the logos for the following partners: The Georgia Association for Educators, the Georgia Foundation for Public Education, Georgia Department of Education, and The Ritz-Carlton Hotels. Music and video ends.]