The **Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership** is parents and professionals working together to improve outcomes for students with disabilities by enhancing communication and collaboration between families, educators, and the community.
GaPMP Facts

- An initiative of the GA Dept of Education, Division for Special Education Services & Supports
- Partially funded with IDEA funds to impact student achievement by increasing family engagement
- Piloted in 2002 with 5 parent mentors in 5 districts
- In 2014 -- 100 parent mentors in 90 school districts
Who are Parent Mentors?

• A parent of a child with a disability who is currently or has previously received special education related services through an IEP

• Employed by the local school district to engage and support families in bridging home, school and community
What do Parent Mentors do?

Build partnerships between home, school and community
What do Parent Mentors do?

• Provide support, resources, training/workshop to parents, teachers and administrators
• Participate on key stakeholder committees (school, district and state level as well as in the community)
What do Parent Mentors do?

PROVIDE SUPPORT TO FAMILIES
What do Parent Mentors do?
Provide support to families

– One-to-one mentoring/consulting
  • Individualized support via meeting, telephone, or e-mail,
  • Provide Shadowing opportunities through PTA Special Needs Committee

– Group mentoring/consulting
  • Parent Support Group Sessions
  • Informal Luncheon Sessions
  • Monthly Meetings
  • Panels participant, Workshops and Conferences
What do Parent Mentors do?

 Participate on key stakeholder committees

(school, district and state level as well as in the community)
Stakeholder Committees

- Active participant Stakeholder and CASE Committee
- Member of Superintendent Advisor Committee
- Attend OSPS Staff Meeting
- Work with Wrap Around Task Force
- Title 1 Advisory Meeting
- Therrell High School CTI Advisory Committee
Workshops

- P2P - Peace, Love, Harmony and IEP
- P2P - A Brief Overview of Assistive Technology
- P2P - Making IT Count - ... Get to Measurable Goals
- P2P - What A Great I.D.E.A.!
- P2P - Georgia Medicaid Workshop
- Program for Exceptional Children Parent Meeting
- Transition (Grade level break-out sessions)
- Open House
- Parent Café
- PTA Outreach at the Zoo
- PTA Leadership
- PTA Family of Learning
- PTA Discipline Conference
- 12 Steps to Effective Communication w/child
- Best Practices Academy “Parent/Teacher Communication”
- PEC Character Camp Fulton County
- Surrogate Parent Training
- Atlanta Public Schools Special Olympics
- District Wide Parent Workshop
- Babies Can’t Wait Transition to – Pre-K
  - Pre-K to Elementary
  - Elementary to Middle
  - Middle to High
  - High to Post-Secondary Outcomes
Authentic Inclusion

What about Special Needs?

- Response To Intervention (All levels)
- Gifted and Talented Program
- Math & Science
- Common Core
- Social Workers

- Post-Secondary Transition Committee Higher Education
- Title 1
- Counselor
- Effective Teacher in Every Classroom
What do Parent Mentors do?

Focus on increasing the parent satisfaction rate reported on the Special Education Parent Survey
APS Survey Trend

The APS Survey Trend chart shows the participation and satisfaction rates from 2010 to 2013. Participation increased from 8.2 in 2010 to 41.2 in 2011, and then decreased to 36 in 2012 and 36.6 in 2013. Satisfaction, represented by the red bars, increased from 24 in 2010 to 32 in 2012, and then decreased to 34 in 2013.
What do Parent Mentors do?

Report data driven accountability through a goal established in their Annual Plan that focuses on a performance indicator.
PTA Special Needs Committee

1. PTA Special Committee leader(s) functions as parent representative on school wide initiatives
   • address those individual needs/concerns/issues that are unique to parents of children with special needs within a school.
   • collaborate with district Parent Mentors in supporting district/region level initiatives.

2. Potential candidate for project Parent Mentor next years annual reports

Indicator #8  Improve the percentage of parents of children receiving special education services who report that schools encourage parent involvement to improve results for students with disabilities.
INDICATOR # (SPP 9 & 10) Decrease the disproportionate representation of students with disabilities due to inappropriate policies, procedures, and practices.
What is Family Engagement?

Family Engagement is any way that a child’s family (biological parents, foster parents, siblings, grandparents, etc.) effectively supports the child’s learning and healthy development.
GaDOE's Family Engagement Strategies

1. **IDENTIFY** Parent Leaders Among the Students Who Are Being Identified

2. **EMBED** Family Engagement into the work of Achievement

3. **COLLABORATE** School/Home/Community
PTA’s Standards
Our Partners

- Georgia Parent Leadership Coalition (PLC):
  - Babies Can’t Wait – Skilled Credentialed Early Interventionists
  - Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning
  - Center for Leadership in Disabilities at Georgia State University
  - Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
  - Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities
  - Georgia Department of Education, Division for Special Education Supports and Services; Parent Mentor Partnership
  - Georgia Family Connection Partnership
  - Institute on Human Development and Disability at the University of Georgia
  - Parent to Parent of GA – Georgia’s Parent Training Information Center (PTI)
Community Partnerships

- Fulton County Kinship Care
- Healthy Grandparent Project @ Georgia State University
- Morehouse School Medicine
- Fulton County Interagency Council
- Fulton County Babies Can’t Wait
- S.T.A.R.T
- Project GRAD
- West Side Alliance
- YoBoulevard
- Real Talk
- GaTech
Internal Partners

- Title I Family Engagement Specialists,
- Title I Local School Parent Liaisons,
- District Homeless Liaison,
- Counselor
- ESOL Regional Community Liaisons,
- Truancy Intervention Specialist,
- Atlanta Council PTA,
- District-wide Family Involvement Liaison
- Local School Council Liaison
How do districts apply to participate?

• Each spring, districts are provided with an Application for Participation that outlines the criteria for the position and the funds.

• The application is signed by both the Special Education Director and School Superintendent
Motivated to Make a difference
www.parentmentors.org
www.gaspdg.org
How can we be a resource to you?
Thank you!

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