

2020 VISION

Provide infrastructure and supports for leaders, teachers, and families to meet the whole child needs of each student and improve student outcomes and school climate resulting in increased quality of life and a workforce ready future.

Above & Beyond

Teacher Appreciation Month 2019

A LETTER TO TEACHERS FROM STATE SCHOOL
SUPERINTENDENT RICHARD WOODS



This Teacher Appreciation Month, what I most want you to know is that every moment you go above and beyond – all the time and heart and, sometimes, heartbreak you invest in your students' lives – is seen and valued. That time is not "less than" because it can't be presented at a conference or checked off on an evaluation. It is the core of our profession.

Let me be clear: this focus on relationships is not code for "doing more with less." I know that's what you've often been asked to do – perform more and more tasks with fewer resources – but as far as I'm concerned, that's not an acceptable status quo.

Teaching is both an art and a calling. It requires both serious commitment and a passion for the work. Very often, you are called upon to make sacrifices no one will ever see.

So for all those unsung moments – the "above and beyond" moments and the priceless relationships you've built – I want to say thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Happy Teacher Appreciation Month!

Supporting the Whole Child

Be Prepared to Respond



Getting trained as a Mental Health First Aider is a first step in being able to spot signs of depression or respond in a mental health crisis.

[Mental Health First Aid USA](#) is an 8-hour course that helps teachers identify, understand, and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses. Mental Health First Aid is listed on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices (NREPP).

To find a course in your area, visit [Mental Health](#).

Mental Health First Aid

Mental Health Awareness Training

The National Alliance on Mental Illness is providing a summer courses to give educators practice exercise to help address behavioral health conditions and addictive diseases that most often result in law enforcement interaction and intervention.

The next course, Introduction To Behavioral Health And Addictive Diseases (IBHAD), will be held in June. To register for the class, visit [NAMIGA](#).

SMART Summer Planning

New MTSS Course Accessible Through SLDS



The Georgia Department of Education is launching its first online Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) learning module. The MTSS course entitled “Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students: An Overview” provides an introduction to MTSS in Georgia and gives an overview of the essential components of MTSS. The content can be accessed through the

SLDS platform using [these steps](#).

Georgia’s Tiered System of Supports for Students is a preventive framework to improve performance outcomes for all learners. The essential components of Georgia’s framework are aligned with the nationally vetted Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS).

More MTSS courses will be released throughout the year. Visit www.gadoe.org/MTSS for details.

Self-Determined Student Highlights

2019 Student Success Award Recipients



Bleckley County Schools

Saraina Purnell has a 98.19 GPA and plans to attend Roosevelt Warm Springs after graduation.



Carrollton City Schools

Ethan Morrison is a member of the school’s National Honor Society and plans to pursue Welding at West Georgia Technical College.



Decatur County Schools

Zhakire Howard served as a Student Council Representative and plans to enroll in Ogeechee Technical College to study Mortuary Science.



Georgia Academy for the Blind

Austin Rogers interned at Navicent Health Medical Center and is excited to start a career in customer service field after graduation.

Teacher Tools & Resources



Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency (GVRA)

Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency counselors can help students with disabilities find and maintain employment. If you have students who would like to find meaningful employment or help with setting long-term goals, contact a vocational rehab counselor today. Use this [link to find your local office](#).

Newsletter Sign-up

The Teacher Tools newsletter was designed to support Georgia teachers and help them thrive in the classroom. Please visit: [Teacher Tools](#) to subscribe.

Share Your Feedback

Please share your suggestions for additional resources, strategies, and tips that you would like to learn more about by leaving your feedback, [here](#).