GraduateFIRST: Yesterday, Today, and Beyond

Consortia Webinar
September 9, 2015
GraduateFIRST

- Nationally recognized initiative
- Funded by GA’s State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)
- Grant from Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)
Yesterday
GraduateFIRST

• GraduateFIRST focused on building the capacity of schools.

• For the last 3 years, GraduateFIRST supported 72-130 elementary, middle, and high schools.

• In 2014-2015 school year, GraduateFIRST schools supported 3171 students.

• GraduateFIRST schools identified a target group of students and focused on attendance, behavior, and course performance (ABCs) to improve graduation for struggling students.

• GraduateFIRST schools also worked at building strong relationships with students, families, and communities.
OSEP has revised its accountability system to shift the balance from a system focused primarily on compliance to one that puts more emphasis on results.
State Systemic Improvement Plan

2014-2015

SSIP submitted April 2015

1) Data Analysis
2) Analysis of State Infrastructure to Support Improvement and Build Capacity
3) State-identified Measureable Result(s) (SIMR) for Children with Disabilities
4) Selection of Coherent Improvement Strategies; and
5) Theory of Action
Georgia’s Coherent Intervention

- Georgia has committed to selecting Coherent Improvement Strategies that are **process-oriented**.

- **Data and infrastructure analyses** support a need for systems change.

- **Supporting leaders** to engage the right stakeholders and solve their own problems will yield positive outcomes.

- **Data analysis, authentic stakeholder engagement and systemic problem solving process will be implemented with fidelity and yield success on every level.**
Barriers Identified

Access to the General Curriculum for All Students
  • Effective Instruction with Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
  • Interventions and Supports

• Access to Positive School Climate for All Students
  • Learning environments that nurture the whole child

• Access to Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Disabilities
  • Appropriate services and supports
Implementation Science: Exploration Stage

The result of the Exploration Stage is a clear implementation plan with tasks and time lines to facilitate the installation and initial implementation of the program.

Exploration Stage include:

- Identify Needs and Options - Statewide data analysis/ infrastructure analysis
- Create Readiness - professional learning
- Identify Usable Intervention - coherent strategy
- Develop Team Structures
- Develop Communication Plan
Lessons Learned

• Build capacity of districts to support schools.
• Develop better protocols for data reporting.
• Promote communication across all levels and with all stakeholders.
• Allow flexibility with professional learning and meetings.
• Continue the regional networking with other schools and districts.
Today
Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities

• GA’s State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is **Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities**.

• Focuses on building the capacity of **districts** to implement evidence-based practices that benefit students to improve student outcomes including graduation rates.

• Includes the GraduateFIRST framework for work with schools.

• Provides both universal and intensive support for districts.
Implementation Science: Installation Stage

A new practice or innovation requires the completion of tasks that need to be accomplished before the change in practice actually begins.

• **Key functions at SEA, Region and LEA include:**
  • Develop Training Plan
  • Train First Cohort of Staff
  • Develop Coaching Plan
  • Establish Readiness of Data Systems
  • Establish Communication Protocols
Differentiated and Embedded Technical Assistance (TA) Model

- Universal TA and Capacity Efforts for ALL Districts
- Intensive TA and Capacity Efforts for 50 Districts
- Fluid Alignment of PL for Districts
Support for GraduateFIRST Schools

**Professional Development**
- Web-based Consortia
- 2 Regional Team Leader Meetings (Fall/Spring)

**Data Collection & Reporting**
- Student Level ABC Data from Student Record
- Fall/Spring Implementation Scales
- Professional Development Surveys
Student Success Resources

Student Success Webpage
http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/SSIP-.aspx

The Georgia Story Video Student Success Webpage
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhAT2M8KtTQ&feature=youtu.be

Student Success Video
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdA8EfCJSCc&feature=youtu.be
All of GA’s districts and schools are part of Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities.