**Thank You Letter to Georgia’s Families**

By Richard Woods

*State School Superintendent*

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November marks another opportunity to celebrate the powerful contributions of parents and family members for Family Engagement Month in the state of Georgia! The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) is committed to educating the whole child. To create the best learning experiences for students, GaDOE recognizes the skills, ideas, and knowledge that families provide. Active family engagement is essential for the success of our students, the success of our schools, and the success of our communities.

Please join our school districts across the state as they plan special events and recognitions throughout November to express gratitude to you—our parents and volunteers. I invite you to follow the GaDOE’s Family-School Partnership Program on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/GaDOEPartnerships) and [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3gAmski7tYsNKr79ATfb3w/featured) to access their Facebook Live recordings of select schools and school districts highlighting their Family Engagement Month activities. We will also celebrate National Parent Involvement Day on November 21, a time reserved, as a nation, for all parents to reflect on ways they can get more involved in the education of their children.

For ideas on how you can engage in your child’s learning, please visit the Statewide Longitudinal Data System (SLDS) Training Center for Parents at [slds.gadoe.org/Parent](https://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/Enterprise-Systems-and-Applications/SLDS/Documents/Parent/Parent.htm). SLDS offers parents a historical view of their child’s attendance, test scores, and other information over several years. Most school districts in Georgia have chosen to link to the SLDS Parent Portal where parents can support their child’s education. For example, the SLDS Parent Portal has a Resources tab where a parent can use online activities with their child at home and are able to see how these activities are aligned with the Georgia Standards of Excellence. For middle and high school students, parents can view their child’s career plan. To download the SLDS Parent Portal user guides and watch brief videos, visit [slds.gadoe.org/parent](https://www.gadoe.org/Technology-Services/Enterprise-Systems-and-Applications/SLDS/Documents/Parent/Parent.htm).

On behalf of our schools and school districts, I want to personally thank all parents and families who have taken on the significant role of engaging in their children’s education. We appreciate everything you do to help your children learn and grow. Together, we are educating Georgia’s future.