



Georgia Department of Education

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports Connection

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students

November 2018

SUPPORTING THE WHOLE CHILD

Understanding the "Why"

GaDOE State Team



It is important for all of us to understand how our work supports the short- and long-term goals of Georgia's students. Whether we are implementing a new initiative, selecting an intervention, or engaging families, each of us plays a part in the overall success of every student we support.

Through Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students, our hope is to integrate our work cross-divisionally, support schools and districts, and effectively share the responsibility to reach the same objective: **meet the needs of all students.**

A tiered system of supports for students gives us an opportunity to step up and offer practices that have the most reliable, evidence-based probability of improving results for students who will become our future workforce.

Our monthly newsletter will serve as a resource tool to share Cohort 1 highlights, implementation news, and resources available for schools developing a tiered system of supports for students. It will also serve as a network, connecting families, educators, and other stakeholders who are working every day to help all of Georgia's children reach their fullest potential.

Karen Suddeth,

Program Manager

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DISTRICT SPOTLIGHT: GLYNN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Cohort One Leaders Are Aligning Teams to Strengthen Supports for Teachers & Students



The Glynn County School System is focused on improving student outcomes. Glynn County is one of ten districts participating in Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students Cohort 1.

Glynn County School District team



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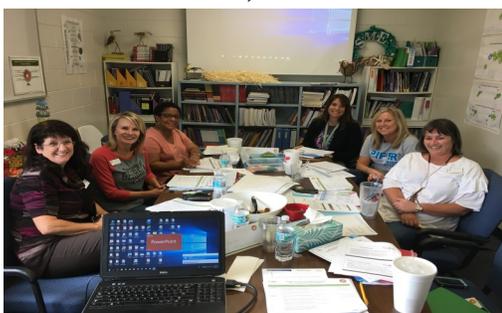
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GLYNN COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

"MTSS will give Glynn County administrators and teachers a framework for systematically identifying at-risk students who may need additional interventions, selecting appropriate research-based interventions, and collecting progress-monitoring data to determine their effectiveness," said intervention coordinator



Glynn County Schools MTSS Implementation Team Members

Amy
Yacobacci,
Ed.S.

Yacobacci's role is centered around prevention and includes organizing and streamlining student supports for PBIS, student support teams, and ensuring district and schools are Section 504 compliant.

"We have focused our efforts to ensure that Tier I Instruction is solid and being implemented with fidelity for all students," said Yacobacci. "It's critical for sustaining student growth and student achievement for all kids over time."

Glynn County leaders have instructional coaches at all schools and content coordinators at the district level. Content coordinators are providing job-embedded professional learning on best instructional practices in literacy, math, science, and social studies while providing additional professional learning opportunities with Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students. Regional coaches will also strengthen student supports.

Yacobbi said, "Four specially designed instructional coaches (ICs for Special Education) are engaged in high-quality professional learning and are working closely with school instructional coaches to promote and enhance the use of high-leverage practices through visible learning research for all teachers."

LEADERSHIP TEAM

- Dr. Virgil Cole, Superintendent
- Sung Hui Lewis, Assistant Superintendent of PreK-5 Instruction
- Dr. Valerie Whitehead, Executive Director of Strategy and Innovation
- Dr. Pam McKinnon, Director of Special Education
- Dr. Kim Gabriel, Director of Professional Learning
- Amy Yacobacci, Intervention Coordinator
- Tere Miller, Principal of Satilla Marsh

COACHES' CORNER



**Glynn County Regional Coach:
Claire Smith**

Claire Smith began her career in education more than 40 years ago as a middle school math teacher in Ware County, but her passion for helping children started when she was just a little girl.

"My aunt was a 2nd grade teacher, and I used to help my aunt grade papers when I was in the 4th and 5th grade," said Smith, the Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students Regional Coach based in Glynn County. She is driven to share information and resources regarding the tiered system of supports.



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COACHES' CORNER

"I loved the school atmosphere, and I truly believed my aunt was the best soul in the world. I wanted to be just like her. My aunt loved her students, and that love for her students translated into motivated students who knew their teacher believed in them," she said.

Smith has taught in 13 schools throughout her career and has played several roles in educating Georgia's children. Smith has worked for Okefenokee RESA as a youth apprenticeship coordinator, math program specialist, school improvement specialist, South Central GLRS – Graduate First Coach, SSIP area coach and now working with Glynn County Schools to implement the tiered systems framework.

"Even though it wasn't always easy, I loved my students and worked hard to help them achieve their goals. I like working with students, teachers, and school staff to improve opportunities for learning and that's why I'm so proud of the work we are doing in Glynn County. The work will make a big difference in the district and schools, and in the long run, I hope their students will remember how much we believed in them," said Smith.

INTEGRATING OUR WORK

Positive Behavioral Intervention System (PBIS) is Producing Positive Results in Georgia



Like Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students, PBIS focuses on prevention and data-based decision making with progress monitoring to ensure all students have access to quality Tier I behavioral instruction.

The PBIS mission is simple: "Provide schools supports that ensure adults and students have the best opportunities to be successful," said Tony Feldmann, GaDOE PBIS program specialist.

"A PBIS school focuses on the aspects which it has control of to improve the effectiveness, efficiency, and equity of the school while positively impacting outcomes for all students."

Feldmann is proof that a positive support system can influence a child's decisions. "One common theme which connects all the positive role models in my life is that they cared about me," he said.

"I give credit to the role models in my life who motivated me to pursue a career in education. Teachers, coaches, and my mom are some of the educators who I was fortunate enough to have in my life, challenging and supporting me to achieve more than I thought possible."

Data shows schools implementing PBIS with fidelity



have a higher average School Climate Star Rating score. There is also data demonstrating a direct correlation of

higher School Climate Star Rating with higher CCRPI scores.

According to Feldmann, "Many schools implementing the PBIS framework have seen decreases in behavior data and often credit this to setting clear expectations, teaching the expectations to mastery, and acknowledging demonstration of the expectations."



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IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

How House Bill 740 Affects You

Considering [House Bill 740](#) requires local school systems to use a Multi-Tiered System of Supports prior to expelling or assigning a student in pre-school through third grade to out-of-school suspension, the Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students team is dedicated to providing resources and guidance to help all districts and schools improve best teaching practices across the state.

For the latest implementation questions, tools updates, resources, and guidance, visit:

www.gadoe.org/tieredsystemofsupports.

PROFESSIONAL LEARNING

Evidence-Based Practices and High Leverage Practices Professional Learning

Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students hosted two workshops on HLPs and EBPs with national speaker Dr. Tessie Rose Bailey of American Institutes of Research. Dr. Bailey is an expert on implementing MTSS with fidelity.

Nearly 400 educators attended the sessions. Dr. Bailey shared tips and rubric to help attendees identify, evaluate, and select interventions and EBPs that can be used by all teachers and staff in their schools.

Dr. Bailey will be back in January to lead another workshop that will focus on another critical component of Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students: Progress Monitoring. We will announce registration details in the December newsletter and website.

RESOURCES

Professional Learning Modules Now Available!

In an effort to ensure Georgia's Tiered System of Supports for Students becomes a guiding framework for schools and districts to identify student needs, professional learning units of study will be available online each month.

Units 1 and 2 include: [Overview and Expectations](#) and [Needs Assessment](#).

High Leverage Practices Webinar Series

Georgia's High Leverage Practices team is hosting a virtual professional learning series on HLPs. To view previous sessions or register for the next webinar, visit: <http://cedar.education.ufl.edu/georgia-hlp-webinar-series/>.

NOVEMBER NEWS

November is Family Engagement Month!

To recognize the importance of families participation in a child's education, Governor Nathan Deal declared November Family Engagement Month in Georgia.

Family Engagement Month promotes awareness regarding the significant roles parents and family members have as partners in the education of each child, from Pre-K to the 12th grade and beyond.

For ideas on how you can get engaged, please visit the Information for Parents page on the GaDOE's website at [parent engagement programs](#).

The website gives access to an array of resources consisting of *How to Read Your Child's Student Growth Model* videos, assessment guides, school transitional information, and brochures in English and Spanish.