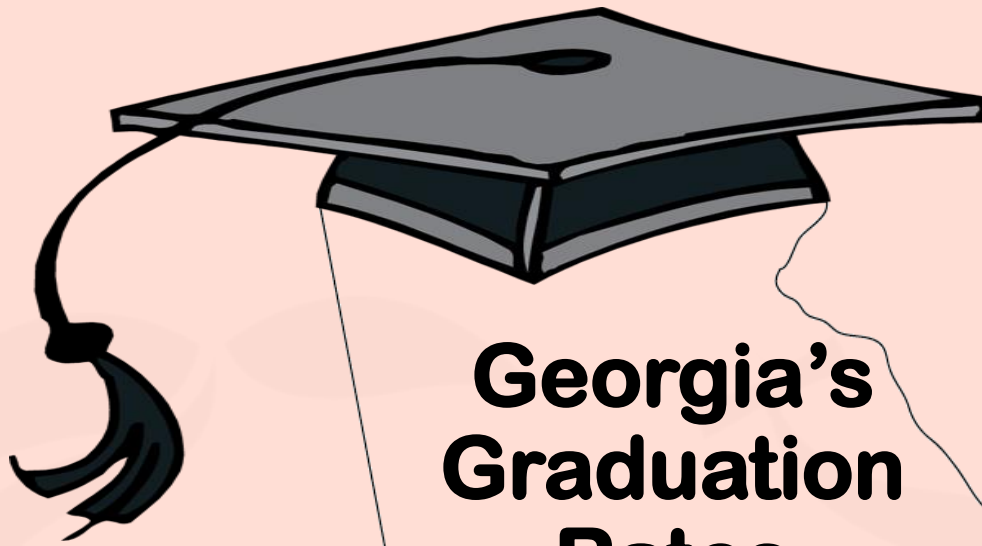


The background of the slide features silhouettes of three graduates in caps and gowns, holding their staves high in the air. The scene is set against a dark green background with a large, glowing white arc and numerous white starburst effects.

# Helping to Improve Your School's Graduation Rate

Maria Grovner  
Education Program Specialist  
January 27, 2016





## Georgia's Graduation Rates

- 2015 – 78.8 %
- 2014 – 72.5 %
- 2013 – 71.8 %
- 2012 – 69.7 %
- 2011 – 67.4 %

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# School and Community Perspective



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
*"Educating Georgia's Future"*  
ga DOE.org

- Systemic Renewal
- School Community Collaboration
- Safe Learning Environment

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# Strategies



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Georgia's School Superintendent  
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## Safe Learning Environment

- Engagement
  - Relationships
  - Respect for Diversity
  - School Participation
- Safety
  - Emotional Safety
  - Physical Safety
  - Substance Use
- Environment
  - Physical Environment
  - Academic Environment
  - Wellness
  - Disciplinary Environment

## Systemic Renewal

- Identifying educational improvements
- Removing organizational barriers
- What are some research & evidence based practices that you can implement?

# Strategies: School - Community Collaboration



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Georgia's School Superintendent  
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- Volunteers & [Funding](#)
- Community Advocacy Groups
- Partnerships/Collaborations
- Community Volunteer Programs
- Community Work Experience
- Community Presentations
- Community Service Learning
- Community Resource Sharing
- Work Based Learning
- Business Advocacy Groups
- Business Internships
- Business Mentoring

# Early Interventions



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- Family Engagement
- Early Childhood Education
- Early Literacy Development

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# Strategies



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Georgia's School Superintendent  
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## Early Childhood Education

- Review past academic and attendance history
- Co-facilitate parenting workshops with elementary and middle school personnel
- Parenting resources...What can be done in elementary school to help with graduating from high school?

## Early Literacy Development

- A book-rich literate environment
- Teacher read-alouds
- Students reading aloud to others
- Shared reading
- Phonological awareness instruction
- Phonics instruction
- Reading comprehension strategy instruction
- Writing strategy instruction
- Variety of reading and writing activities
- Time for reading and writing



# Family Engagement Strategies



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- [Toolkit for High Schools](#)
- [Parent Engagement Toolkit](#) (America's Promise)
- Transitioning to High School
  - Create a summer freshman academy program involving students and families to support transition from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade.
  - Engage in more proactive outreach efforts to make families aware of high school coursework requirements and what teens need to accomplish in order to graduate on time.
  - Hire parent liaisons to maintain ongoing communication with parents of ninth graders experiencing academic challenges to help connect them to academic and other support services.
- Access relevant out-of-school support services, such as tutoring or mentoring, that can support their student's academic work.
  - Provide information about support services for students to youth-serving organizations, faith leaders, neighborhood leaders, libraries, and physicians.
  - Ensure that information and referral services, such as 2-1-1, have information about support services for students that indicate the specific challenges each service addresses – academic, behavioral, college or career preparation, etc.

# Basic Core Strategies



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- Mentoring/Tutoring
- Service Learning
- Alternative Schooling
- After School Opportunities

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# Strategies



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## Mentoring/Tutoring

- [Resources for Mentoring Programs](#)
- [GCPS Community Based Mentoring Program](#)
- [How to Build a Successful Mentoring Program](#)
- Ideal target students: 9<sup>th</sup> graders experiencing academic challenges or based on reports from 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

## Service Learning

- Preparation and Planning: Do a needs assessment and identify multiple course standards.
- **Action: Make sure the project is academically engaging and meets a need in the community.**
- Reflection: Evaluate and analyze the results, and document the changes.
- Celebration: Honor teachers and students for their efforts.

# Strategies



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## Alternative Schooling

- A maximum teacher/student ratio of 1:10
- A small student base not exceeding 250 students
- A caring faculty with continual staff development
- A school staff having high expectations for student achievement
- A learning program specific to the student's expectations and learning style
- A flexible school schedule with community involvement and support
- **NOT NECESSARILY FOR STUDENTS WITH BEHAVIOR ISSUES**

## After School Opportunities

- Academic offerings—homework assistance, tutoring, hands-on learning, reading and writing enrichment
- Enrichment and accelerated learning—exposure to visual and performing arts, field trips, character education, critical thinking skills, foreign languages, and technology
- Supervised recreation—organized sports and sports education
- Community service—connects students to the community.
- [21<sup>st</sup> Century Community Learning Centers](#)
  - [nschult@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:nschult@doe.k12.ga.us) (Nathan Schult)
  - Grant Competition opens up in August 2016 to be used for 2017-2018

# Types of Alternative Schools



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- The Alternative Classroom, designed as a self-contained classroom within a traditional school, simply offering varied programs in a different environment
- The School-Within-a-School, housed within a traditional school, but having semiautonomous or specialized educational programs
- The Separate Alternative School, separated from the regular school and having different academic and social adjustment programs
- The Magnet School, a self-contained program offering an intensified curriculum in one or more subject areas such as math or science
- Schools of Choice, offering different specialized learning opportunities for students usually in a magnet school
- Last-Chance Schools, designed to provide continued education program options for disruptive students
- Remedial Schools, having a focus on the student's need for academic remediation or social rehabilitation

Which type will work best for your population?

# Making the Most of Instruction



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Georgia's School Superintendent  
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- Professional Development
- Active Listening
- Educational Technology
- Individualized Instruction
- Career and Technology Education (CTE)

# Strategies



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## Professional Development

- Long-term programs embedded in the school year
- Active learning activities such as demonstration, practice, and feedback
- Collaborative study of student learning
- Administrative support for continuing collaboration to improve teaching and learning

## Active Learning

- Cooperative Learning
- Learning Styles
- Multiple Intelligences
- Project Based Learning

# Strategies



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## Educational Technology

- Educational Technology is more than just connectivity and is more than using a PPT with the students.
- How is technology being incorporated into the curriculum?
- What grants can be written to assist in getting technology for your school? (iPads, Kindles, etc.)
- Technology Specialists sharing resources with students and teachers
- Helps to keep students engaged and active in learning
- What educational technology can you use in your program to assist?

## ~~Individualized Instruction~~

## Differentiated Instruction

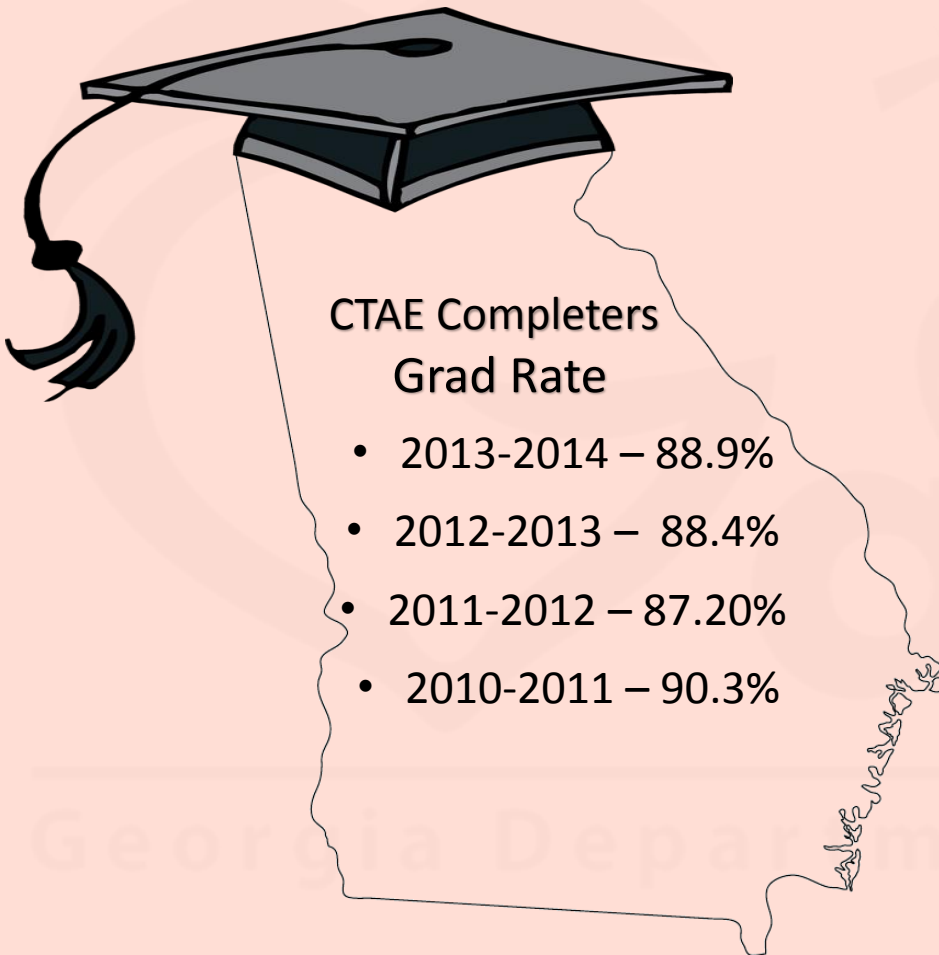
- Problem-based learning and reciprocal teaching
- Peer tutoring
- Cooperative learning
- Hands-on learning
- Journaling
- Projects
- Role play
- Simulation
- Inquiry
- [Strategies That Differentiate Instruction](#)
- [18 Teacher Tested Strategies on Differentiated Instruction.](#)



# Career & Technical Education



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Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
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- Career Guidance
- Work-Based Learning
- Career Pathways
- Postsecondary Education

# Guest Panelists

## SMALL

- Wilkinson County  
Dr. Yasmin Whirl, Counselor  
93 of 100 Graduates  
**93% 2015 Graduation Rate**  
94% students FRL  
[yasmin.whirl@wilkinson.k12.ga.us](mailto:yasmin.whirl@wilkinson.k12.ga.us)

## MEDIUM TO LARGE

- Fayette County  
Lakisha Bonner, Counseling  
Director  
1599 of 1738 Graduates  
**92% 2015 Graduation Rate**  
9.12%, 10.18%, 15.21%, 33.41%,  
42.16% students FRL  
[bonner.lakisha@mail.fcboe.org](mailto:bonner.lakisha@mail.fcboe.org)

# FEBRUARY WEBINARS

To register, click the webinar's title.

February 10:

[ALL Levels... Understanding the Counselor's  
Role in Building School Morale](#)

2:00 PM

Feb. 17:

[New Middle School Counselors  
Academic Achievement Initiatives](#)

11:00 AM

Feb. 17:

[New Elem Counselors--  
Using Art in Your School Counseling  
Program](#)

2:00 PM

Feb. 24:

[Middle School Counselors  
Empower & Inspire to Avoid the](#)

[Drama](#)  
11:00 AM

Feb. 24:

[New High School Counselors...  
College Entrance Exams Resources for  
Your Students](#)

2:00 PM



