


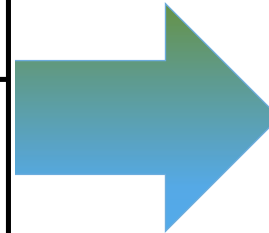
# How Family-Friendly Is Your School?



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[gadoe.org](http://gadoe.org)

**Please complete Column 1 before the session begins.**

 Georgia Department of Education Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent "Educating Georgia's Future"	<h3>How Family - Friendly Is Your School?</h3> <p><i>Part of the Georgia Family - Friendly Partnership School Initiative</i>                  A partnership between Georgia Department of Education and                  Georgia Parental Information and Resource Center (GA PIRC)</p>	
	1	2
Before viewing the Georgia Virtual Family - Friendly Partnership Schools , take a minute to complete this self assessment. <i>How family - friendly is your school?</i> In column one place a check mark beside the items you feel represent your school. Then, after viewing the Georgia Virtual Family - Friendly Partnership Schools review your choices . <i>Do you still think your school is family - friendly in those areas?</i> Now using column two place an X beside the items you would like to improve or implement in your school.		
1. The school is easy to find within the community and the front entrance of the building can be easily identified.		
2. The front of the school depicts a welcoming environment that naturally makes families and visitors feel accepted and at ease.		
3. The school provides various guest badges upon sign in representing either a parent, a volunteer, or a visitor.		
4. The front office staff is friendly and helpful. They assist and recognize visitors immediately, as well as answer the phone and treat visitors politely.		



# Welcoming Environments: Is Your School Family-Friendly?



**Georgia Education  
Leadership Institute**

**September 10, 2015**

**Amy Park  
Parent Engagement Program Manager  
Georgia Department of Education**

# Today's Agenda

## ➤ Why

- Family-Friendly Self-Assessment
- Core Beliefs

## ➤ What

- National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships

## ➤ How

- Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership Schools
- Small Groups

## ➤ Who

- Forsyth County Schools

## ➤ Questions



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# School Improvement and District Effectiveness



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# Core Beliefs



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- Parents have dreams for their children and want the best for them.
- All parents have the capacity to support their children's learning.
- Parents and school staff should be equal partners.
- Responsibility for building partnerships between school and home rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders.



*\*Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships, by Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davies (New York, NY: The New Press, 2007).*

# Why Welcoming Environments?



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***Welcoming environments*** provide parents with a reciprocal relationship where not only do they feel that they belong to the school, but also that the school belongs to them.

- Henderson, Mapp, Johnson, and Davies (2007)





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# PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



The focus is not what schools should do to involve parents—it is what parents, schools, and communities can do ***together*** to support student success.



# Welcoming All Families into the School Community



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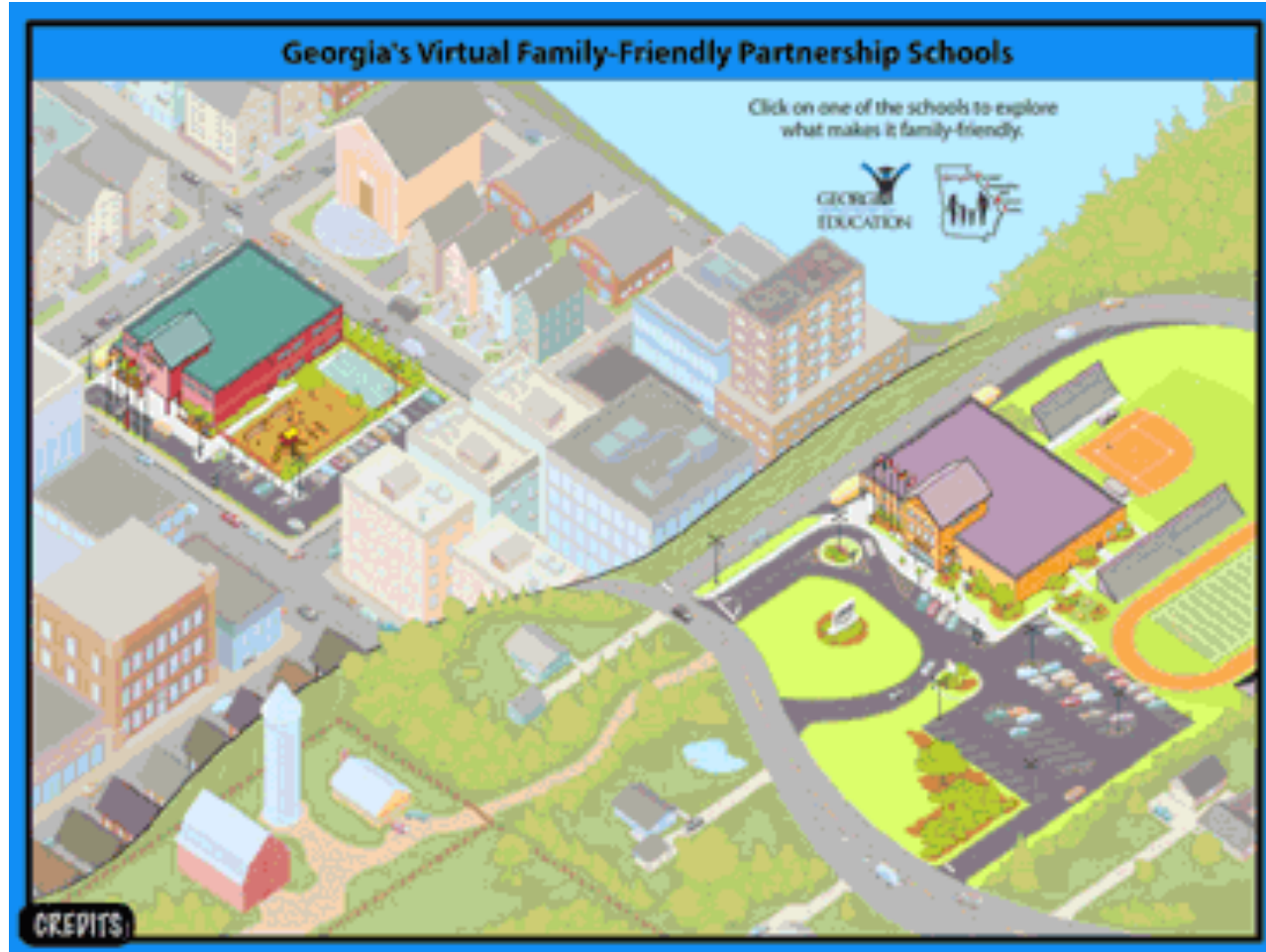
Families are **active** participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.



# Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership Schools



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# Where to Start: Data Based Decision Making

## Parent Survey

### Family - Friendly School Parent Survey

*Part of the Georgia Family - Friendly Partnership School Initiative  
A partnership between Georgia Department of Education and  
Georgia Parental Information and Resource Center (GA PIRC)*

For the following questions, please circle the answer that you agree with the most:				
I feel welcome and accepted at my child's school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
I enjoy visiting my child's school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school has parking spaces for parents.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
I am able to find my way easily around the school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school has opportunities that allow me to meet and speak with the staff at my child's school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
My child's principal and assistant principal are available and easy to approach.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
I am comfortable going to the front office when visiting my child's school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school's front office staff is nice, polite, and helpful.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school has a translator for non-English speaking families when needed.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school provides written materials in languages other than English for non-English speaking families.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY

# It's at [gadoe.org](http://gadoe.org)



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## Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership School Initiative



### Why Create A Family-Friendly Partnership School?

According to the book *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide for Family-School Partnerships* by Anne Henderson, Karen Mapp, Vivian Johnson, and Don

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### Handouts

- 2015 Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership School Awards!
- Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Award Handout
- 2015 Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership Schools Awards Booklet
- Welcoming Environments Overview

# It's at [gadoe.org](http://gadoe.org)



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## Georgia's Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools

To help schools, families and communities work together in creating a Family-Friendly Partnership School the Georgia Department of Education created Georgia's Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools. Georgia's Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools takes viewers on a virtual journey of an elementary and a middle-high school to show what makes a school family-friendly.

The Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools along with the handout materials on this website should be used by all— educational leaders, school staff, parents, school, parent, or community organizations and local business partners. As a result, schools, families and communities will be able to contribute to an environment that supports parent involvement and student success!

To view Georgia's Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools and begin your virtual tours please click on the appropriate link below to download the program to your computer. Although the Georgia Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools Program (hereinafter "Program") is intended for public use, the Georgia Department of Education reserves all rights to the information, materials, graphics or logos appearing in this program. These materials are protected by copyright and other intellectual property laws.

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If referencing the Georgia Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools Program in printed materials, please cite as:

Georgia Department of Education. (2010). Georgia Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools. [Computer software]. Atlanta, GA: Engauge. Retrieved (date).

PC Users: [Download](#)

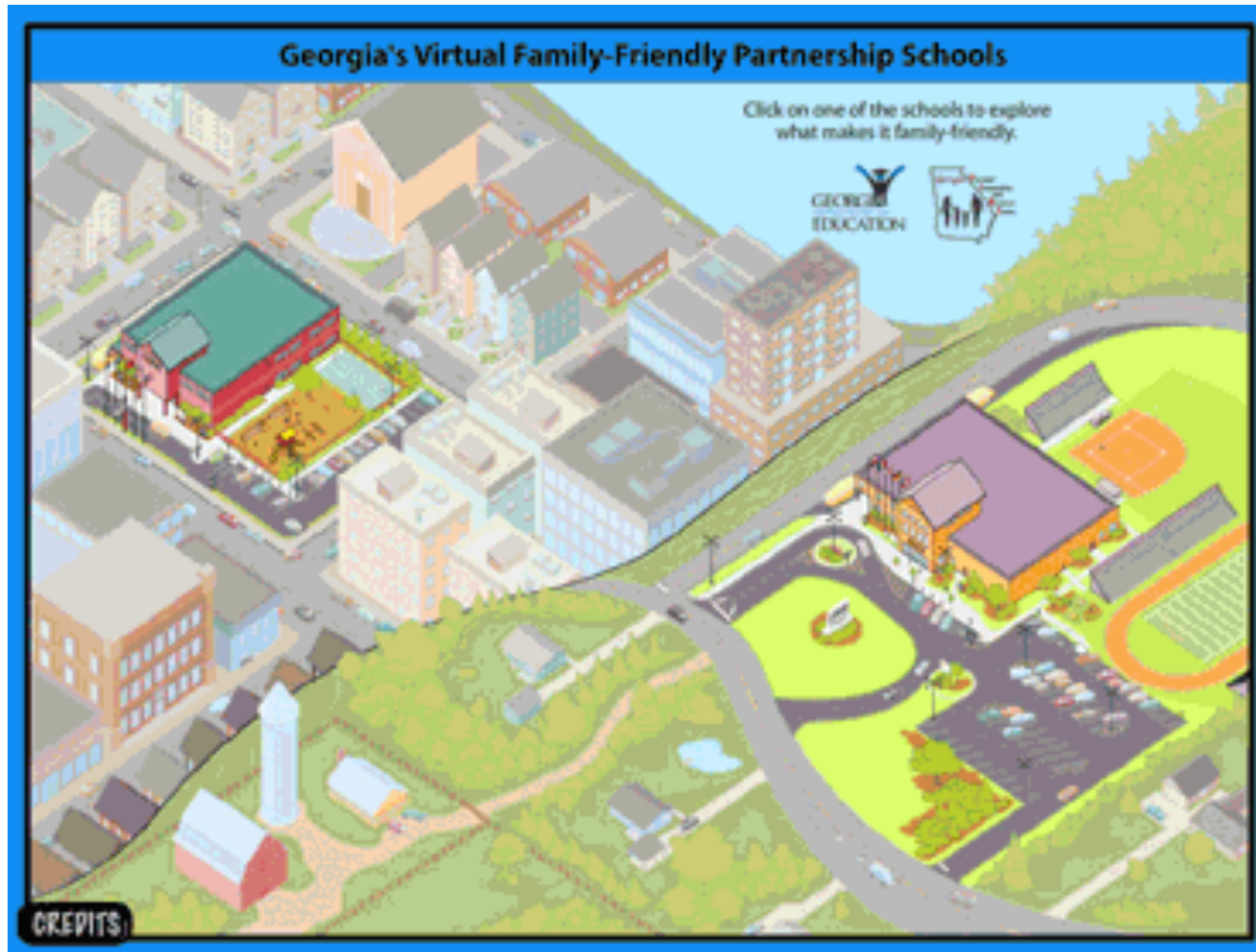
MAC Users: [Download](#)



# Virtual Tour



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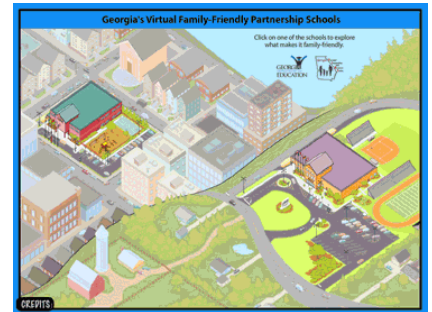


# Scenarios—Small Groups



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- Form small groups of 4-6 people.
- Read the scenario.
- Discuss with your small group what are some changes that can be made to improve the welcoming environment.
- Be prepared to summarize what your group discussed.

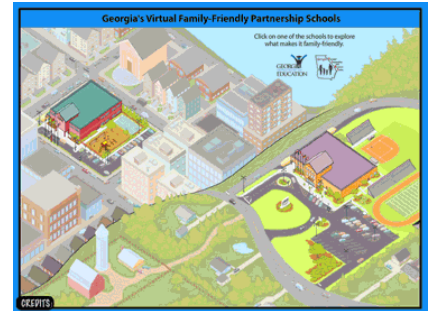


# Scenarios—Small Groups



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- Summarize your scenario to the whole group.
- Report on what your small group decided to change.





# Are you a Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School?



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THE RITZ-CARLTON



# Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Awards



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## Selection

- A panel of six judges *assesses* the *written applications*.
- Up to *twenty finalists* are announced.
- Judges conduct *surprise school site visits* to determine winners.
- Up to *ten schools* are announced as *winners*.

## Winners

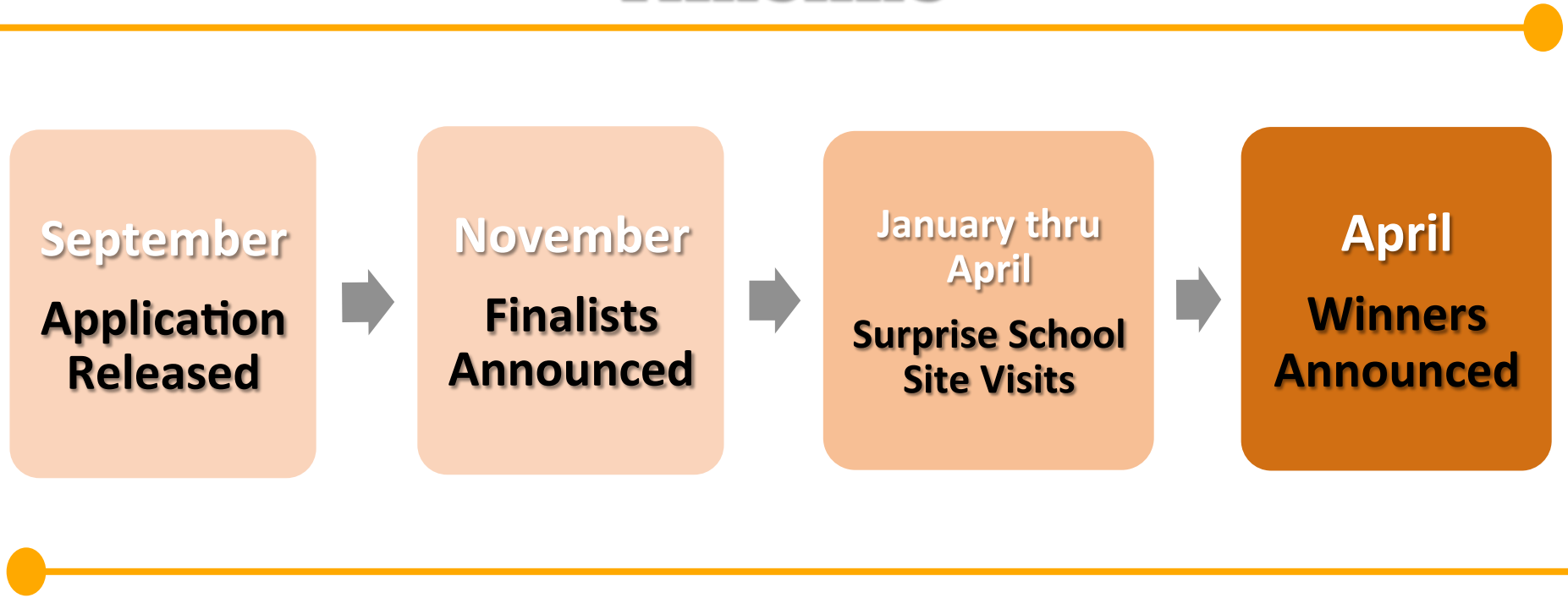
- Georgia Family–Friendly Partnership School *title of distinction*
- A *welcome mat* and *plaque*
- *Press release* from the GaDOE
- *Letter of Recognition* from State School Superintendent
- Recognition in *spotlight award publication*
- Special *professional learning opportunity* provided by The Ritz-Carlton Hotels

# Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Awards



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## Timeline



# Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Awards



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## **Application**

- 1.** Section A: *School Information*
- 2.** Section B: *School Data*
- 3.** Section C: *Parent Survey*
- 4.** Section D: *Short Answer*
- 5.** Section E: *Attachments*
- 6.** Section F: *Essay*

# Forsyth County Schools



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Federal Programs Specialist

# Questions



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