

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT



Fall is officially here and we are well into the school year. I hope that, as your children work hard at their lessons, you are continuing to be a positive influence over their education.

As educators, we have spoken in recent years about the importance of Parent *Involvement* in education and how your presence conveys to your child the importance of studying hard. However, research is showing that Parent *Engagement* is much more effective for academic achievement.

What's the difference, you may ask? Engagement means you take an active role in your child's education by extending what they are learning at school into the home.

In this month's newsletter, we begin a year-long overview of a parent engagement model called Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT), which is equipping parents to understand how they can continue lessons in fun ways in the evenings or over the weekends. Also, our very own Kid Superintendent has announced two video contests for this year's Parent Engagement Month.

I am ever grateful for the parents who work with their students at home to strive for excellence.

RICHARD WOODS,
GEORGIA'S SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT

PARENT ENGAGEMENT MONTH

Governor Nathan Deal has issued a proclamation that November is Parent Engagement Month, and this year we are celebrating it with two video contests and the Georgia Parent Leadership Awards. For rules and guidelines, visit our website.



Parents' Video Contest

The first video contest is for parents to show us how they are playing an active role to be more engaged in their child's education. **Deadline: November 16**

Schools' Video Contest

The second video contest is for schools to show us how they are engaging parents in their child's education or training staff to help parents increase student achievement. **Deadline: December 1**

Georgia Parent Leadership Awards

Do you know of an exemplary parent who has gone to great lengths to engage in his or her child's education? Nominate that person for the Georgia Parent Leadership Awards. Visit our website for the nomination form. **Deadline: November 30**

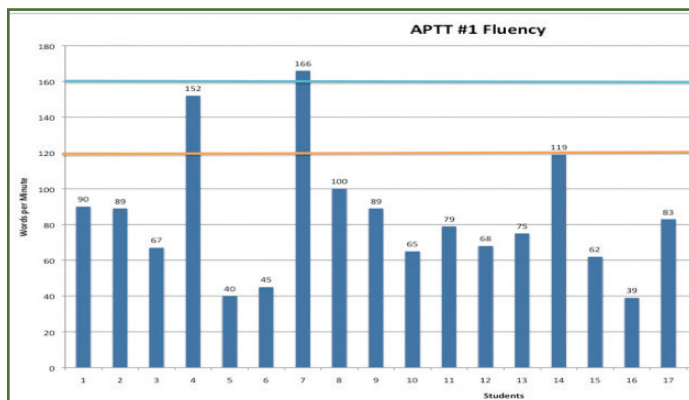


Parent Engagement Program

ACADEMIC PARENT-TEACHER TEAMS

Last year, the Parent Engagement Program launched the Academic Parent-Teacher Teams (APTT) model, which is a classroom-based, data-driven family engagement strategy that supports Georgia's families in the education of their children. With three APTT meetings over the course of a year, parents are given academic performance data for their child and practical strategies they can use to support their child's education at home. The take-home activities are based on a chosen grade-level foundational skill.

In the first APTT meeting, the teacher provides confidential, easily understandable data to the parent that serves as a snapshot of how their child is performing on a foundational grade-level skill. Additionally, the teacher provides parents with details



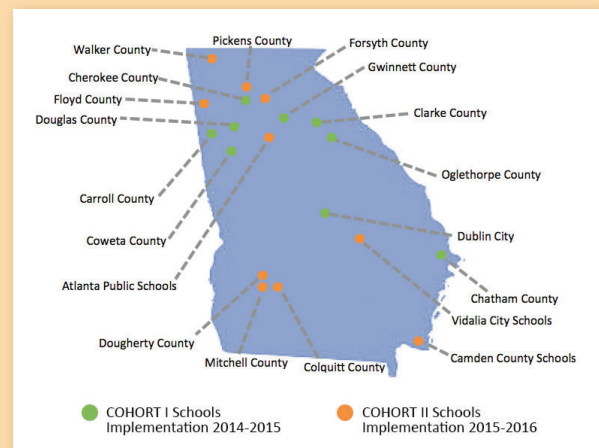
This chart is an example of the data parents receive at APTT meetings. Each student in the class is represented anonymously by a number, which is displayed across the bottom. The chart also shows current and year-end benchmarks and where each student has performed in relation to their peers on a foundational skill.

about this skill and related, fun activities that parents can do with their children at home. The teacher even takes time to model the activities so the parent fully understands how they can use them with their child at home.

APTT goes well beyond the traditional parent-teacher conference. Instead of simply informing the parent of the student's academic progress, the teacher helps parents set a realistic, attainable, academic goal for their child. Ultimately, APTT builds trust and forges a stronger relationship between the parent and the teacher.

The APTT model is currently active in Title I schools across Georgia. Last year, ten Title I schools formed the first grouping of Georgia schools, called Cohort I. This year, a new grouping of schools, called Cohort II, is implementing APTT. At present, Georgia has 33 schools that utilize APTT meetings.

To learn more visit <http://bit.ly/georgiaAPTT>



Above: Cohort I Schools, indicated by green dots, were formed across the state in 2014. This year, Cohort II schools, indicated by orange dots, are implementing APTT.

Below: A parent at an APTT meeting at Ferguson Elementary in Duluth, GA practices an activity that she will use with her child at home.



SAVE THE DATES

November is National American Indian Heritage Month In the month of November, we recognize the roles of American Indians and Alaska Natives and their part in U.S. history. Schools and communities sponsor numerous activities and programs to celebrate this month.

America Recycles Day — November 15 America Recycles Day is a nationally recognized day dedicated to promoting and celebrating recycling in the United States.

National Parental Involvement Day — November 19 This day is a call to action for parents to commit to being an active part of their child's education.