

**Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership (GaPMP)**  
Impacting Education with Family Engagement Strategies



**GaPMP UPDATE**

June 2010

Divisions for Special Education Services and Supports

**THANK YOU GEORGIA PARENT MENTOR PARTNERSHIP (GaPMP) FOR AN ANOTHER EXCELLENT YEAR LEADING FAMILY ENGAGEMENT**

The Divisions for Special Education will be requesting approval from the State Board of Education at its June meeting for allocations for our current 79 GaPMP systems and to add additional IDEA funding for parent mentor positions in Social Circle, Hart and Haralson school systems and our three state schools. In addition, we are pleased to announce that Stephens County will be returning this fall. We also salute Thomaston-Upson, Columbia and Effingham school systems for believing in the initiative so much to fully fund a parent mentor position in 2009-2010. All three systems are expected to receive IDEA funds toward their parent mentor positions this fall. Also, kudos to Fulton County who used its own funding in 2009 to hire a third parent mentor, Zoila Martinez, who is bilingual and is targeting her work with Latino families.

**FY10 PARENT SURVEYS TURNED IN BY MAY 31**

If you need assistance, the direct line to UGA Assessment is 706-542-5603  
Or contact Dr. Steve Cramer at [cramer@uga.edu](mailto:cramer@uga.edu), phone 706-542-5589.

**DISTRICT ANECDOTAL DATA STORY/QUARTERLY CONTACT REPORT DUE!**

Please put your system's name in the "save as" when you finalize your document and please send it a word document. (i.e.: [FY'10.Anecdotal.Gwinnett.Ladd.6.3.10](#))

**DID YOU KNOW?** Parent Mentors will be using their school systems' results on the FY10 Parent Surveys and/or IEP annual attendance rates as one of their *quantitative* annual data measures. Annually, each mentor prepares an anecdotal data story to show his/her family engagement work toward improving a targeted IDEA indicator. This year, mentors also will tie in their district's results on surveys and/or IEP attendance to their targeted area(s). If you need to brush up on family engagement data, go to the GaDOE Illuminate archives. Link to the three **GaPMP trainings on data** and/or link to the four sessions, **360-Degree Family Engagement**, created for family engagement professionals in Georgia schools by the GaDOE and the Division for Early Childcare and Learning (DECAL).


**ANECDOTAL DATA STORIES to be REVIEWED by GaDOE STAFF!**

*You asked for it, you got it!* **NEW this year**....each anecdotal data story will be reviewed with an evaluation rubric currently being developed by the Divisions' Professional Learning Unit. The rubric will be based on the PTA National Parent Involvement Standards and the state's three family engagement strategies. This will provide mentors and directors the ongoing feedback they requested to receive before planning initiatives for the new school year.

At the September, PMP regional meetings, mentors will receive their rubric. Additionally, each mentor will be asked to bring their district's FY'10 parent survey results (*if the system was the FY'10 survey sampling cycle*) as well as the system's IEP attendance results for the schools that the mentor targeted in his/her plan.

Together, we are working to build evidence-based best practices  
to increase student achievement and outcomes for students, particularly for those with disabilities,  
through our family engagement work.

**FY'11 DATES THAT RATE for PROFESSIONAL LEARNING TRAININGS AND MEETINGS**

<p><b>PARENT MENTOR COUNCIL RETREAT</b></p>	<p>Tues., Aug. 31, 11 a.m. - 9 pm Wed., Sept. 1, 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Lake Blackshear Conference Center</b> (pending contract)</p>
<p><b>GaPMP ORIENTATION</b></p> <p>Optional for current systems but recommended for new GaPMP systems, state schools and mentors hired after January 2010. Training is geared to both mentor and administrator.</p> <p><b>You told us ...we listened!</b> Last year the GaPMP offered Orientation the day before the two-day State Kick Off Conference but you told us it was too much information to receive at once!</p> <p>Location was chosen because it is the most centrally located for the new rookie class members.</p>	<p><b>Topics will include:</b> Working as a Team and Ways to Get Started; Ground Rules, Confidentiality; Handling Complaints; Improving Parent Surveys Results and IEP Attendance Rates; Family Engagement Initiatives Embedded into the IDEA Performance Goals; Collecting Data; Working with Title 1 Parent Involvement; Everything About IEPs and Parent Rights; Leadership Development; and Communication Strategies.</p>	<p><b>Wednesday, Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.</b> Please hire your parent mentor by late August.</p> <p><b>Gwinnett's Instructional Support Center</b> Building 200 437 Old Peachtree Rd, NW Suwanee, Ga 30024 Room: Central Gwinnett (right off Route 85 South)</p> <p><b>Tell us if you will attend:</b> Patti Solomon <a href="mailto:psolomon@doe.k12.ga.us">psolomon@doe.k12.ga.us</a></p>
<p><b>GaPMP UNIVERSITY</b></p> <p>Two days of walk in classes in both the GaPMP Southern Division and the Northern Division.</p> <p>Training is optional Offered at no cost.</p> 	<p>Class topics will be based recent <b>GaPMP Council Talent Survey</b> results. The questionnaire process aimed at identifying mentors' strengths and weaknesses was led by April Lee, Education Chair, and Wayne County Parent Mentor. <i>Results are attached. More than 60 mentors participated.</i></p> <p>The Talent Survey showed a majority of parent mentors need extensive training in: Medicaid, including social security, guardianship and the waiver system; Public speaking, and preparing presentations; How to embed family engagement initiatives into the districts' student achievement work; and IEPs and Parent Rights.</p>	<p><b>North and South locations TBA</b></p> <p><b>Tentative Dates:</b> South: Sept. 16 and 17 North: Sept. 22 and 23</p> <p><b>First Day</b> 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. <b>Class # 1</b> 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. <b>Class # 2</b></p> <p><b>2<sup>nd</sup> Day</b> 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. <b>Class #3</b> 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. <b>Class # 4</b></p> <p><b>Administrators are welcome.</b> The same sessions will be offered in both Divisions' trainings.</p>
<p><b>GaPMP Council Regional Meetings</b></p> <p>Four times per school year from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A seasoned parent mentor is designated as Regional Representative to lead each region.</p>	<p>GaPMP regions typically meet in <b>Sept., Nov., Feb. and April</b> to share ideas and to work on initiatives and date collection. Council hopes to schedule Southern Division the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of the designated month and Northern the 4<sup>th</sup> week.</p>	<p><b>Sept. Tentative Dates</b> <b>Northern Division:</b> NW GA 9/30 NE GA 9/28 METRO 9/29 <b>Southern Division:</b> MID GA 9/21 SW GA 9/22 SE GA 9/23 Most regions charge a \$10 REG. fee.</p>

## 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GaPMP KICK OFF CONFERENCE

The annual meeting of GaPMP is well-respected for its outstanding trainings and spirit of partnership.

It includes almost 200 administrators and parent mentors, GaDOE leadership team and staff, GLRS Directors, Title 1 Parent Involvement leaders and Parent to Parent of GA team members.

*"This annual conference is considered hands down by educators throughout the state as one of the best trainings offered year after year?"* said Dr. Mikki Garcia, Special Education Director, Chatham/Savannah

**Oct. 12 *Optional Pre-Session Leadership Trainings*** at no cost. And, back by popular demand, the very well-attended "**Annual Pre-Conference Evening Network Session**" hosted by your GaPMP Leadership Council.

**Oct. 13** First day of main sessions and breakout trainings, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. **Leadership Dinner** at 6:30 p.m.

**Oct. 14:** Annual **Administrator Coffee Clutch** with GaDOE State Directors and the Annual **Parent Mentor Sunny Side Up Early Summit** including state parent leaders. Working sessions will follow. Also, planned are the well-respected Annual Phil Pickens' Leadership Awards; along with the announcement of our newest family engagement best practices driven by systems' parent mentor FY'10 data. Details to follow in July. Ideas are welcome!

**University Conference Center, Athens** (*pending contract finalization*) Registration and hotel costs.

**The Kick-Off line up** already includes trainings led by two of Georgia's top facilitators on **Improvisational Leadership**; Philip Mellor, Henry County Special Education Director, who leads the 2,000-member Georgia Association of Leaders in Education (GAEL); Gordon County leaders will offer **Translation Lessons** on specially- designed instruction, classroom interventions and other RTI terms of endearment; a humorous yet poignant, critically-acclaimed SKIT on IEPs with a dazzling cast written and directed by Penny Howerton, Walker County Special Education Director.

**PROJECTED DATES, LOCATIONS AND EVENTS IN THIS UPDATE ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

**PASSWORD FOR OUR WEB-BASED LEARNING CURVE:** User Name: [partnership](#) and your password is your region such as [metro](#), [southeast](#). (Use lowercase) The Learning Curve is much improved. Check it out!

**DEVELOP a PARENT STATE LEADER:** The GaPMP Council will soon be closing the process to apply for several council openings. Questions: Chair Anne Ladd, [Anne\\_Ladd@Gwinnett.k12.ga.us](mailto:Anne_Ladd@Gwinnett.k12.ga.us). Thank you to this year's volunteer GaPMP Council including co-chair Teresa Johnson, the regional reps and the education and public relation chairs. In particular, we are very grateful to the chair Ms. Ladd for her vision and energetic leadership. She will continue as chair in the next school year Thank you also to our council administrator advisors: Ms. Joan Baird, Madison; Ms. Beverly Woods, Marion; and Dr. Mikki Garcia, Savannah Chatham. *FYI: Parent Mentors must ask permission from his/her director to be on the Council. Leaders meet in a retreat setting for two days in September. There is no cost to the system. Members play a pivotal role in the state conference, leading regional meetings, training new mentors, teaching data development, creating Elluminate trainings and much more.*

### IMPORTANT LISTSERVE UPDATE FROM LISTSERVE EDITOR KAREN ADDAMS:

If you would like to continue receiving GaPMP listserve emails this summer, please **change your school email address** to your home email address. Don't forget to change it back in August. If you continue to use your school email address, but are not planning to check your emails during break then you should change your membership to "no emails". **If you do not change to "no email" and put in an auto-response, the entire listserve will receive that email every time an email is sent to the group!** If you are leaving the GaPMP, you are invited to continue as a friend or alumnae by switching your email address.

To change your membership, go to [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/parentmentors\\_georgia](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/parentmentors_georgia) Look at the top of the page where it has your name/email address and click on "edit membership" This will take you to a page where you can change/add your email.

## GaPMP NEWS:

### The Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership Says Farewell and a Sincere Thank You to Kathy Cox, GaDOE Superintendent.

**Congratulations to Kay Rogers, Rockdale Parent Mentor**, recently honored by Rockdale County Commissioners with a countywide “**Kay Rogers Day**.” Ms. Rogers is considered one of the most influential and knowledgeable parents in Georgia in the area of late transition. Ms. Rogers is retiring as a parent mentor after eight years of dedicated service, which included work as a GaPMP council leader and a rookie trainer.

**Thank you and good luck to Jane Christian**, a long-time supporter and friend of the GaPMP, as she retires as Glynn County Special Education Director. We also wish **Jenn Williams**, Coweta Parent Mentor, much luck in her family’s move to Alabama.

We welcome **Jennifer Jones**, Newton Parent Mentor, to lead the new **GaPMP Alumni Team!**

**Coming to the GaPMP Web Learning Curve:** Ware County Parent Mentor, **Kim Gibson’s** well-written Parent Manual will be posted. Also, GaDOE Title 1 Parent Outreach Division created an excellent PowerPoint, notes and tools to navigate school systems.

And, a salute to **Sabrina Cannady**, Special Education Director for Houston School System, who was chosen as Outstanding **New Special Education Director** by the Georgia Council of Administrators in Special Education, (GCASE) *Read all about it on the front page of the GaPMP web site!*

#### DO YOU WANT TO BE PUBLISHED?

Look at the web site for many opportunities to tell your story or explain an issue.  
We, particularly, invite educators to offer materials.

#### PARENT MENTOR PARTNERSHIP WEB SITE IS EVOLVING:

Please keep up with the [www.parentmentors.org](http://www.parentmentors.org) web site this summer and especially the password sensitive section, the **Learning Curve**. Jane Grillo, PMP Web Editor, Council Communications Chair and White County parent mentor, will announce the official week for the public kick off of our newly-designed website later this summer. The site is up and running but we consider this period a *soft opening* while the web committee is looking for edits, ideas and anything else to improve the site. The new site is about partnerships to increase student achievement and is divided into Family, School and Community sections. It is imperative that parent mentors make sure contact information, including profile photos, are sent ASAP. **Also, thanks to our terrific webmaster, Robert Jordan & our new copy editor, Royda Jordan**

**SUMMER CREATIVITY: “NO LIMITS: A CELEBRATION OF GEORGIA ARTISTS WITH DISABILITIES”** VSA Arts of Georgia, *a statewide nonprofit organization that provides access to the arts for people with disabilities and those with low income*, is sponsoring a juried exhibition of Georgia artists with physical or mental disabilities. **Submission deadline is June 20**. Eligible works will include; paintings, drawings, collages, photography, sculpture, video and mixed media. A Cash award of \$1000.00 will be presented to the Grand Prize Winner in the Adult Category as well as many other prizes. **For more information:** <http://vsaartsga.org/>

#### Have a great summer! Call us with ideas, questions and comments:

Patti Solomon, GaDOE Family Engagement Specialist, 404-657-7328  
Debbie Currere, GaPMP Parent Outreach Coach, 770-722-6250  
Anne Ladd, Council Chair, 404-402-8087

**This is the final GaPMP UPDATE for the 2009-2010 school year.** Please give us feedback on the UPDATES and if these newsletters are an effective communication tool. Thank you! Patti Solomon