** 2016 Phil Pickens Award Finalist**

**Amanda Locke - Evans County Parent Mentor**

**“I am fortunate to have co-workers at the district level who value family engagement and see it as an integral part of improving student outcomes.”**

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Amanda Locke

Parent Mentor

Evans County Schools

**Collaborations and Leadership Achievement Highlights:**

**Work with school psychologist to increase parents’ understanding of the eligibility process and decrease decrease their fears as they approach the determination meetings.**

**Work with school social worker to play an active role to reform attendance policies and improve school climate.**

**Developed initiatives.**

**Respresenting Evans County Schools Student Services Department in the community.**

**Collaboration with middle and high school staffs that has led to annual meetings focused on transitioning parents of all rising 9th grade students.**

**Collaboration with GLRS and transition support specialists from the state to form a regional transition council.**

**Served as region representative for the GaPMP.**

Link to Amanda’s Evans County Schools page

<http://www.evans.k12.ga.us/departments.cfm?subpage=1453225>