



Georgia  
Parent Mentor  
Partnership

**2023 GaPMP Kickoff Meeting**

**Power of the Past** ↔ **Force of the Future**

**Middle Georgia State University, Macon, GA**

**September 14, 2023**

**8:00am- 4:30pm**

**Agenda**

Thursday, September 14, 2023

8:00 am – 8:30 am

**Sign-in**

8:30 am – 9:15 am

**Welcome to the 22nd Annual GaPMP Kickoff**

Superintendent Woods

Jodie Zeuke, Leadership Council Chair

Karen Tharpe, Phil Pickens Award Chair

Deidre Stewart, FY 22 Rookie of the Year

9:30 am – 10:20 am

**Meeting I**

**Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0 Participation Eligibility and Postschool Outcomes**

Anne Myers, Program Specialist, GaDOE; Elise James, Program Specialist, GaDOE

**Rm 212**

This session will provide information on determining which students are appropriate for participation in the Extended Content Standards and the Georgia Alternate Assessment 2.0. The presenters will discuss the characteristics of these students, instructional and technology needs, and the diploma awarded, the State-defined Alternate Diploma. There will also be a discussion of the impact of this decision on transition postschool outcomes.

**Emory Autism Center's ITAP Project** Karla Wade, Emory Autism Center; Dayna Holbel, Emory Autism Center

**Rm 234**

As we face today's challenges, Parent Mentors need access to resources for families with youth and young adults with disabilities who are transitioning to adulthood. In this interactive session, members of the Emory Autism Center's Transition Team will share information with Georgia Parent Mentors about the EAC's Individual Transition to Adulthood (ITAP) Project, including lessons learned that Parent Mentors can pass on to parents in their own districts. EAC's research has identified four significant areas in which students with Autism may struggle: Self-Advocacy/Self-Determination, Daily Living Skills, Executive Functioning, and Social Skills. Participants will leave the session with an understanding of an array of practical

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strategies to address each of these four transition challenge areas, and other ways that the Transition Team at Emory Autism Center can support the work of Georgia's Parent Mentors and the families they serve.

#### **Let's Plan It: Family Engagement Framework Overview** April Lee, Family

Engagement Framework Coach, GaDOE

**Rm 237**

Whether you are a new administrator, new parent mentor or you simply want to plan for a Successful year, attend this session for an overview of the Family Engagement Framework. Let us help you get your FY24 target plan together.

#### **GVRA Pathful Explore** Rebecca Williamson, GVRA

**Rm 238**

Review of Pre-ETS by Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency highlighting use of Pathful Explore for transitioning students.

10:30 am – 11:20 am

#### **Meeting II**

#### **Importance of Self-Determination Building in Transition Programming: Guidance for Parents of Students with Disabilities** Elise James, GaDOE

**Rm 212**

Self-determination is a necessary skill for students to transition successfully to their Postschool environment. Although transition-aged students were the primary focus of early research On self-determination, more recently, increased attention has been directed toward understanding the development of self-determination in young children with disabilities. Families play a critical role in this process. This session will explore the importance of families supporting school initiatives and providing self-determination experiences for their children.

#### **The Importance of the Director / Parent Mentor Relationship** Alecia Segursky, Special Education Director, Gordon County Schools; Brandi Waters, Gordon County Schools

Parent Mentor

**Rm 234**

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One districts story on building the bridge between the special education director and the parent mentor. This presentation will focus on building trust, communication, and a shared vision to ensure a strong partnership between the special education director and parent mentor that supports parents, students, staff, and student achievement.

**Let's Build It: Initiative Design Start to Finish for Successful Reporting** Jennifer Anderson, Education Chairperson, GaPMP Leadership Council  
**Rm 237**

In this session, we will discuss how to choose data you want to target and to select an Evidence to Practice Guide to help you meet your goal. We will then move through how to set up an initiative from the first session with families to the final progress check and all the steps in between. Focus will be centered on designing the right Learning Targets for the first training session, Vital Behaviors you are asking families to complete, and how to collect benchmark data along the way. By making a plan early you will be able to finalize your report at the end of the year by simply reporting on the outcome of the activities you designed at the beginning.

**GVRA Pathful Explore** Rebecca Williamson, GVRA  
Review of Pre-ETS by Georgia Vocational Rehabilitation Agency highlighting use of Pathful Explore for transitioning students.  
**Rm 238**

11:30 am – 12:50 pm

**Lunch & Award Presentation**  
Phil Pickens Award Committee

1:00 pm – 1:50 pm

**Meeting III**

**Transition Preparation from Pre-School to Postschool Outcome** Elise James, Program Specialist, GaDOE  
**Rm 212**

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This session will focus on best practices in transition for preparing students to successfully transition to postschool environments. Included in this presentation is a discussion of the importance of collaboration with parents, communities, and service agencies beginning in Pre-K.

**Supporting Hispanic Families**, Tania Amerson, Director of Special Education, Bartow County Schools; Kim Chester, Parent Mentor, Bartow County Schools  
**Rm 234**

In this presentation, cultural differences that may impact a parent's experiences interacting with a school will be discussed. Strategies for communicating respect for cultural differences and developing trust will be discussed as well as how to work effectively through a translator.

**P2P and Me** Sitara Nayak, Vice President, P2P  
**Rm 237**

This presentation will cover information about Parent-to-Parent Georgia, who we are and what we do. It will focus on some well-defined opportunities for collaboration between P2P and Georgia school systems, so together we can create better outcomes for students and families of children with disabilities and/or special healthcare needs.

#### **Let's Measure it: Using Student Assessment Data and Parent Survey Results to Support Our Work with Families**

Dawn Kemp, Part B Data Manager, GaDOE; Suzanne Korngold, Director of Special Education, Oconee County Schools; April Lee, Family Engagement Framework Coach, GaDOE  
Framework Coach

**Rm 238**

This presentation will examine the role of data in supporting the outcomes of students with disabilities. The focus of the presentation will be equipping districts and Parent Mentors with the knowledge necessary to examine and utilize student assessment results at the State and Local Education Agency (LEA) levels on the Georgia Milestones,

1:50 pm – 2:10 pm

**Provided Break**

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2:10 pm – 3:00 pm

**Full Group Meeting**

**Driver of the Team** – Joshua Williams, Self-advocate & Mitzi Proffitt, Director, P2P

The biggest drivers of success are desire, hard work, and perseverance. At the root of all success, you'll find desire. Desire is a strong feeling or wanting to have something happen. This internal feeling drives you to do the things necessary to accomplish your goal. In this session, Joshua and Mitzi will talk about wins, losses, crashes, and lots of cautions. Most of all perseverance listening to the driver! Building the right team for the long haul. It's all about the Chose Cone!

3:00 pm – 3:10 pm

**Break**

3:10 pm - 4:30 pm

**Full Group Meeting**

**A Healthy Tomorrow Healthcare Transition Panel** – Flo Bry, Program Specialist, GaDOE

A family's personal story about their child's healthcare crisis underscores the impact and importance of communication across settings. The panel discussion will touch on all the aspects of how communication can be life changing. Our panel will include a perspective from education, transition, health care, and adult services.

Panel:

Family Story- Giles Family

Healthcare- Hannah Hicks, Children's Medical Services

Adult Services/Communication Tools- Pat Satterfield, Adult Disability Medical Healthcare

Healthcare Transition Tool- Karla, Emory Autism ITAP

Education/Assistive Technology- Paula Gumpman, GaDOE

Education/Transition- Elise James, GaDOE

Education/Communication- Barbara Ross, GaDOE

4:30 pm

**Adjourn**

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