

District 9 News

FALL 2016 NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER, 2016

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<http://district9pta.my-pta.org>



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A Note from our Director

Dear Fellow Advocates,

It's been my honor and privilege to serve in PTA for over 10 years, and I have been a part of many great programs and activities. I remember the first time I attended Advocacy Day at the Capitol and sat in a state representative's seat and realized the power and purpose of our association. Yet I am hard-pressed to remember a time when so many of our members were united in communicating and sharing information about one issue – **Amendment #1**. There have been E-blasts, social media postings, town halls, information sessions, school board resolutions, videos of families and students speaking out, passionate citizens. In fact, I saw a posting this morning from a sheriff in a Georgia county that stated after having worked with his school system for years, he had full faith in his elected school board and the superintendent it had hired to best educate, support, listen to and serve the needs of the students in the community. Not an outsider.

So, fellow members and advocates, I ask you to keep spreading the word about Georgia PTA's position on Amendment #1. While no District 9 schools are on the latest list of schools eligible for takeover, that does not mean we can rest. Passage of this legislation puts into question the value of local school boards and the rights of citizens to have a voice in the allocation of their own tax dollars. Since the definition of "failing" can change and the scorecard of CCRPI has undergone multiple changes since its introduction, there is the possibility that schools deemed "passing" now could be eligible for takeover in the future. Please continue speaking up to your fellow parents, co-workers, neighbors, friends, family and more. Only 1/3 of households in Georgia have a child under the age of 18 in the home, so think how many people are NOT connected to a school and receiving this important information. If you are in need of anyone to speak to a gathering, please don't hesitate to contact your council, District 9 or the state office. We are here to stand united for helping all children succeed in a way that is inclusive and befits our long-standing tradition of advocacy.

Warmest regards,
Irene M. Barton
9th District Director

9th District
PTA
everychild.onevoice.®



Membership News



For the month of October, District 9 PTA is focusing on **dads, granddads, uncles** and **other male figures** and recognizing the importance of their involvement in PTA. Make family engagement and PTA relevant to men by connecting it to their children's success in school and in life. Share with men the many benefits of family engagement.

The **3 schools** with the highest number of men joining in the month of October will be placed in a drawing for a prize to share with the members of their schools. Local units will need to submit male memberships to District 9 by **Friday, November 4, 2016** that were sold during October. ***This is on the honor system, so we don't need names, just a number please.*** Send this to Heather Held at hheld221@gmail.com



Heather Held, D9 Membership Chair
Dr. Grant Rivera, D9 Honorary Membership Chair
announcing winners of September's contest
Wheeler HS PTA (pictured) and Hutchins ES PTA

Oak Tree
deadline is
October 31.

We have tips for achieving this on our [Membership Toolkit](#) webpage.

Our Newest Charter



*9th District Director, Irene Barton
with Temple ES PTA officers*

**District 9 Welcomes our newest charter
Temple Elementary School PTA
in Carroll County!**

**President - Celeste Easter
Vice President - Scott Thomas
Secretary - Micah Tingen
Treasurer - Julie Guzik**

Welcome

GA Department of Education

Special Education State Advisory Panel

The Georgia Department of Education supports several panels – parent advisory, student advisory, and also sponsors one for Special Education. This is comprised of at least 51% of parents of a child with a disability or adults with a disability. Laura Shyman, South Cobb Council Co-President, went through an extensive application process and was selected as a member two years ago. The panel meets 4 times a year to discuss with representatives of the DoE relevant information from the area of special education, what's working and what still needs to be improved. The panel learns what the DoE is doing with programs like SSIP (Student Success Imagine the Possibilities) and ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act) for example, as well as many other programs affecting all students with disabilities and/or special abilities.

Laura states, "We advise in our meetings and use it to inform and get feedback in our communities. Our panel covers the state of Georgia using congressional districts. We strive for voices from a multitude of disabilities, disorders and special needs. All panel members serve a 3-year term and have the opportunity to re-apply for a second 3-year term.

"As my 3rd year starts, I have been honored to share about my son and the world of the twice exceptional students. I have shared the outstanding programs in our area like the success of PBIS in elementary and middle schools as well as the coaching model for our consultative services students in our local high school. I have shared the work PTA has done at our District level and also PTA State panel member Angel Little has shared from the state level."

Laura's passion is to be a voice for all children - regular ed and special ed - so every child has more opportunities for success. It is important for families of special education students to know they are not alone, someone shares the victories and struggles, and there are many people willing to work to find a way for all students to be successful.

All of the special education community can share public comment with the state Advisory panel. Please take the time to share the good, the bad and the ugly – the reality of your life! Just copy this link below then scroll down and click on public comment. [http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/State-Advisory-Panel-\(SAP\).aspx](http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/State-Advisory-Panel-(SAP).aspx)

Special education families in D9 can also use their Parent Mentors as a resource. These individuals joined us at the fall conference and if you did not have a chance to meet them, see their contact information below:



Special Education Parent Mentors

Cobb County

Melissa Tellekamp Melissa.Tellekamp@cobbk12.org
Stacy Greene Stacy.Greene@cobbk12.org

Douglas County

Renee Davis Rhonda.r.davis@douglas.k12.ga.us

Marietta City

Ashley Gellis agellis@marietta-city.k12.ga.us

Paulding County

Amy Pitts apitts@paulding.k12.ga.us

Legislation and Advocacy



On September 29, the Douglas County Council PTA hosted a Town Hall at Douglas County High School. The purpose of the event was to engage the community in learning the details and impact of Amendment #1 (“Opportunity School District”) on public school students, educators, families and communities throughout Georgia. DCC PTA Co-President Laquetta Peters welcomed attendees and introduced the panelists while GPTA Legislative Chair Tynettia Elrod (pictured at left) moderated the Q&A portion of the program.

- * Tyler Barr, Georgia PTA President-Elect (Parent/Advocate)
- * Josh Stephens, Legislative Analyst with PAGE (Policy)
- * Casey M. Bethel, Georgia 2017 Teacher of the Year (Educator)



Besides the facts of the enabling legislation, several points emerged:

- 1) The preamble language reads “Provides greater flexibility and state accountability to fix failing schools through increasing community involvement.”

Yet, there is no definition, requirement or parameters for what community involvement is. It could be one meeting with a school community held during the daytime when parents are working; it could not involve families at all and be held offsite; and there is no obligation that the appointed superintendent is required to listen to or react to the input from the community.

2) Voters were cautioned about a “something is better than nothing” mentality. No one wants school children to be sitting in “failing schools”, but the definition of “failing” is below 60 for the past 3 years on the CCRPI. This rubric has changed annually since being introduced. Future legislatures can change the definition of “failing” to a different number or use a different measurement tool. So schools not currently on the list could end up being a potential target. Additionally, a large part of a school’s CCRPI grade comes from standardized test scores – scores which have been considered so unreliable the last two years that they have not been mandated as a factor in grade promotion.

- 3) Recently, Georgia State Senator Vincent Fort (D-39) introduced Senate Bill Resolution 828, which calls for a revision of the ballot question to read as follows:

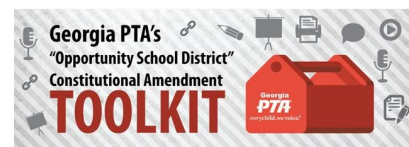
“Shall the Constitution of Georgia be amended to allow an appointee of the Governor to take over local school operation, buildings, and control of all federal, state, and local funding if a school has low scores on standardized tests or for any other reason a future legislature may allow”

Fort, when discussing the use of the phrase “to intervene” in the measure, said “The public ought to at least have truthful language when they go to the ballot this November.” Fort introduced Senate Resolution 828 in order to use the words “take over” and “to control” instead. A class action lawsuit was filed on September 27 by a parent, member of the clergy and an educator charging that the language is “so misleading and deceptive that it violates the due process and voting rights of all Georgia voters.”

Participants were allowed to ask questions and were urged to take this message back to their community and civic groups, friends, neighbors, places of worship and make sure that all voters are informed about the true intent of the amendment. We thank Douglas County Council for its leadership in being an advocate for public education in Georgia and the rights of families and tax payers to have a say in the running of their district!



District 9 PTA members have signed over 100 rulers to show their support of maintaining local rules and taxpayer access to locally elected officials.



For resources and information, please checkout the [GA PTA OSD Toolkit](#)

GA PTA Advocacy Day 2016



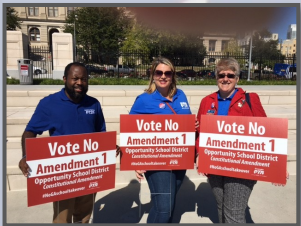
Vote No



Amendment 1



Opportunity School District Constitutional Amendment



#NoGAschooltakeover **Georgia PTA**
everychild.one voice.®



Georgia

Congratulations D9 CLT Award Winners

The following schools were recognized for their outstanding work at the 2016 Georgia PTA Convention & Leadership Training held in Athens last June. Congratulations to them all!

Outstanding Local Unit

Elementary 750 and Below

1st place – Shallowford Falls ES
3rd place – Garrison Mill ES

Elementary 751 and Above

2nd place – Mt. Bethel ES

Middle School

2nd Place – Dickerson MS
3rd Place – Dodgen MS

High School

3rd Place – Wheeler HS

Outstanding Advocacy Award

Garrison Mill ES PTA
Mt. Bethel ES PTA

Outstanding Principal

Felicia Angelle, Shallowford Falls ES

Birney Butler Outstanding Educator

Giselle Kurth, Wheeler HS

Hearst Family Partnership

Standard #4 Speaking Up for Every Child
Lassiter HS PTSA

Standard #6 Collaborating with the Community
South Cobb HS PTSA

Exemplary Councils

East Cobb County
Marietta City Schools
Paulding County
South Cobb
Tom Mathis, Sr.

Outstanding Council

East Cobb County Council PTA

Outstanding District

9th District

Jan Harp Domene Diversity & Inclusion Award

Georgia Hispanic-Latino Community PTA
(National PTA Convention - Orlando, FL in 2016)

Congratulations!

The Path to Successful Report Writing



Tip #1: Keep up with your [Model PTA](#) requirements throughout the year. Even if you've missed a deadline, mark the item "complete" when it is completed. You will still receive the credit!

Tip #2 : As events/programs finish, ask the committee chair or volunteer to write a descriptive paragraph about that event. That makes writing your Outstanding Local Unit much easier in March!

Fall Conference

Fall Conference Presentations



D9 Executive Committee

Lisa-Marie Haygood
President, GA PTA



Karen Hallacy
D9 Legislative Chair



Anita Hagins Jones
D9 Education Enrichment Chair



Parent Mentors from
Cobb County, Marietta City,
Paulding and Douglas County



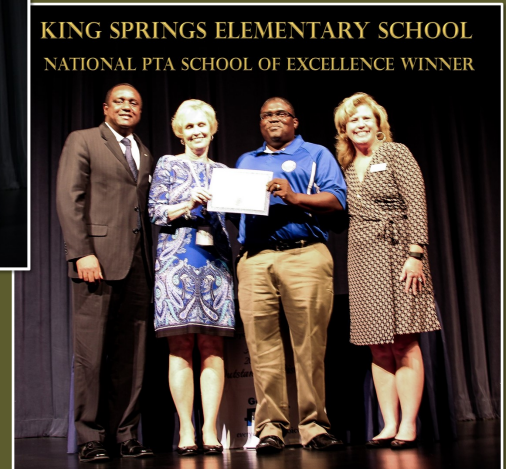
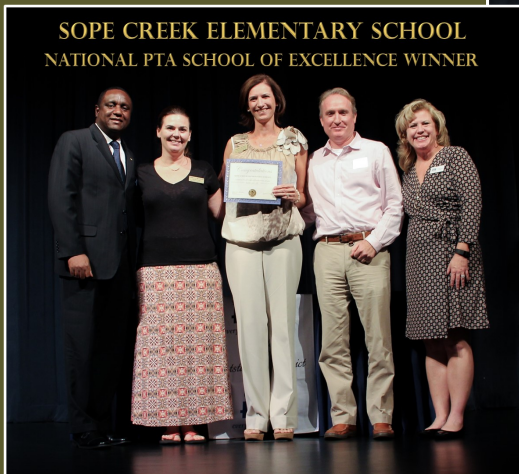
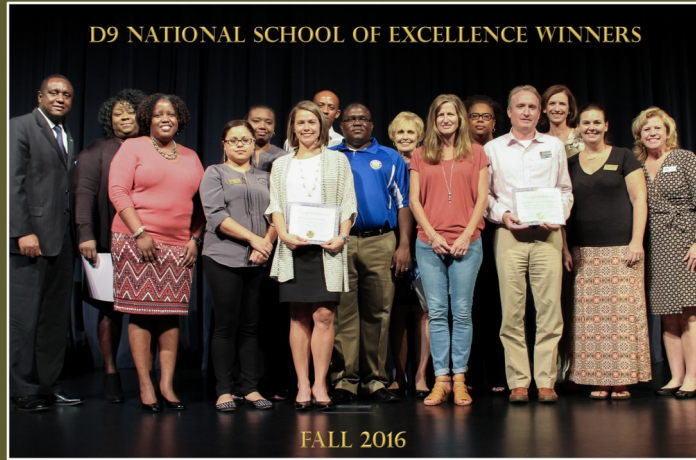
Heather Held
D9 Membership Chair

Dr. Grant Rivera
D9 Honorary Membership Chair

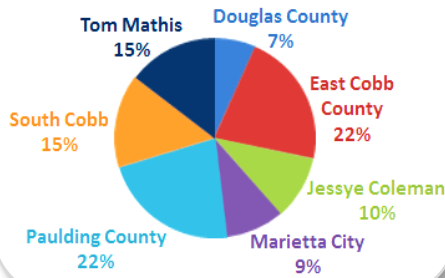
Casey Bethel
Georgia 2017 Teacher of the Year
Keynote Speaker



D9 National School of Excellence Winners



D9 FALL CONFERENCE
ATTENDANCE ACCORDING TO COUNCIL



Fall Conference Wrap Up!

It was wonderful to see so many of you at our **Fall Conference** on September 22nd. **We hit record attendance with 251 present!** And a HUGE shout out to Paulding County - they came out en masse and every council had an uptick.

Thanks to all who attended and we look forward to seeing you at our Spring Conference - April 25th, 2017 at NorthStar Church!

D9 Salutes Dr. Emily Lembeck



We wish Dr. Emily Lembeck, Superintendent of Marietta City Schools, a happy retirement. Many thanks for her countless hours of leadership, service and support to all students. She is a true advocate for public education. Thank you for bringing greetings and farewells to our fall conference. You will be missed.

We want to thank everyone who made our Fall Conference a huge success!



D9 Council Registration



Lisa-Marie Haygood,
President, GA PTA



Concessions



Vendors

If you were not able to attend CLT, or were elected recently or would like a refresher class, check out these resources for our local unit leaders:

[Georgia PTA Online Trainings](#)

[2016 CLT Training Materials](#)

[National PTA E-learning courses](#)

[9th District Best Ideas & Resources](#)



Visit our Website

<http://district9pta.my-pta.org>

Cobb County ESOL/Title III
Promoting English Proficiency and Academic Achievement for ELs



The Cobb County School District is pleased to announce a significant increase in our graduation rates for our English Learners (ELs) across the district. The overall average graduation rates for our EL students rose from 45.6% in 2014 to 52.4% in 2015. The two schools with the largest increase were Pebblebrook High School with an increase of 22.4% to 52.8% and South Cobb High School with an increase of 37.5% to 65.2%. Each high school across the district might implement a variety of delivery models to serve our ELs in their school. All students who are eligible for ESOL services are provided fair and equitable resources in which to learn content and achieve English language proficiency with highly qualified teachers. Depending on the needs of each of the students, schools will provide ESOL services such as *Sheltered Content* for academic courses, such as math, social studies, language arts, or science, *Scheduled* classes for language development, such as the Intensive English Language (IEL) courses or reading and writing courses, and *Push-in* courses in which a content and ESOL teacher work together to teach content and language.

Sean Bagley
ESOL/Title III Consultant

The following schools currently offer English Classes for Parents:

Campbell HS, Belmont Hills ES, North Cobb HS, Norton Park ES, Oakwood Digital Academy, Pebblebrook HS, Riverside Intermediate ES, Nicholson ES, South Cobb HS, Wheeler HS, Sprayberry HS, Mableton ES, Russell ES and Floyd MS, McCall Primary.

In addition to participation of a weekly face to face session with a teacher at these schools, students are assigned to continue the practice of the language through Rosetta Stone. Using a smart phone or any other device, students continue to learn at home or at any other place.

Aldo Alcaraz Lopez

Important Dates!

OCTOBER

- 13** OSD Townhall at Lassiter High School - 7pm
- 31** PTA Membership Deadline - Gold, Oak Tree and Community Partner

NOVEMBER

- 4** Membership Contest reporting deadline
- 8** Election Day
- 14** CCSD Special Education Parent Meeting - 6:30pm @ Campbell MS
- 30** PTA Membership Deadline - Silver

DECEMBER

- 2** State Reflections entry deadline (from Councils to GPTA)

JANUARY

- 17** Council Winter Reports Due to Georgia PTA
- 30** CCSD Special Education Parent Meeting @ Dodgen MS - 6:30pm

FEBRUARY

- 16** Georgia PTA Day at the Capitol
- 17** Founders Day
- 28** PTA Membership Deadline - Bronze

MARCH

- 10** Local Unit Reports due to State, District and Council
- 20** CCSD Special Education Parent Meeting - 6:30pm @ Lost Mountain MS

APRIL

- 25** District 9 Spring Conference