



# Leadership Council

## By-Laws

Updated Sept. 10, 2024

## Article 1 – Name

The Parent Mentor Partnership under the guidance of the Georgia Department of Education; Division for Special Education Support; Office of Standards, Assessments of Instruction will establish a Parent Mentor Leadership Council. The Parent Mentor Leadership Council is hereinafter referred to as Leadership Council.

## Article II – Mission

The mission of the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership is to build effective family, school, and community partnerships that lead to greater achievement for students, especially those with disabilities.

### Article III – Beliefs

- Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership activities are an integral part of local school system's plan for increasing student achievement.
- New local school systems will be continually welcomed to the Partnership. The Leadership Council will look for new methods to expand outreach to small district and find ways to ensure consistency in programming when a Partnership mentor or administrator leaves his or her system.
- Educating the public about family/school partnerships is critical to increasing successful student outcomes.
- All students with disabilities would benefit from access to Parent Mentor services so we will continue to build capacity in family, schools and community.
- Providing information and resources to parents will assist them in making appropriate education decisions. Parent mentors will continue to work to build parent capacity.
- Parents and schools will communicate effectively and develop parent/school relationships.
- Including parents in School Decision Making will develop parent leadership and capacity.
- Providing parenting information and resources on ways to assist children at home will increase student's success levels.
- Involving families with their children in learning at home activities based on the student's IEP and the school's curriculum will enhance the child's performance in the classroom.
- In collaborating with the community to integrate and bring services together.
- In a commonality of purpose and expectations between home and school.
- "Seek first to understand, then to be understood". As school personnel and parents seek to understand one another, they will form a relationship that is interdependent which leads to shared responsibility.

### Article IV – Participation

Participation shall be available to all parents of children with disabilities hired by local school systems that participate in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership.

## Article V – Positions

- Section 1. Leadership Council participation recommends at least one (1) year experience in the Georgia Parent Mentor Partnership.
- Section 2. The Executive Board shall be as follows: Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, Recorder, Immediate Past Chairperson and three special education administrators.
- Section 3. The Chairperson, Chairperson-Elect, Recorder, Immediate Past Chairperson and three special education administrators shall serve a one (1) year term. All positions shall begin their duties beginning July 1. The Chairperson may extend the term of the Recorder and special education administrators for another year.
- Section 4. In case of a vacancy occurring in the position of Chairperson, the Chairperson-Elect shall assume the position of Chairperson. In case of a vacancy in the position of Chairperson-Elect, or in the event that he/she succeeds the Chairperson for any reason, the Immediate Past Chairperson, if available, shall assume the position of Chairperson-Elect until a new candidate can be named, or an Interim Chairperson-Elect will be named by the Executive Board to fill the unexpired term.
- Section 5. In case of a vacancy occurring in the position of Recorder or special education administrator, the Chairperson, with the approval of the Executive Board, shall appoint a new Recorder or special education administrator to complete the unexpired one (1) year term.

Section 6. The CHAIRPERSON. The Chairperson shall preside at all Executive Board and Leadership Council meetings. She/He shall appoint all standing and special committee chairperson and shall be ex-officio member of all committees. This position shall act for the Leadership Council between meetings, clearing whenever necessary, important actions with the Executive Board. The Chairperson or such alternate as she/he may designate shall represent the Leadership Council at meetings or other groups where Leadership Council representation is desired or required.

Section 7. The CHAIRPERSON-ELECT. The Chairperson-Elect shall serve in the event of the resignation or absence of the Chairperson. She/He shall accede to the position of Chairperson from the position of Chairperson-Elect.

Section 8. The RECORDER. The Recorder shall keep accurate minutes of all meetings of the Executive Board and Leadership Council Meetings. She/He shall carry on correspondence as necessary in regard to matters as delegated by the Chairperson.

Section 9. The IMMEDIATE PAST CHAIRPERSON. The Immediate Past Chairperson shall serve as Chairperson of the Award Committee. In the event the Immediate Past Chairperson cannot serve, the Chairperson shall appoint the next most recent Past Chairperson whose service are available.

Section 10: The SPECIAL EDUCATION ADMINISTRATORS. The Executive Council will extend invitations to three (3) special education administrators to serve a one year term as advisors to the Executive Board.

## Article VI – Meetings

The Leadership Council shall meet prior to the statewide Parent Mentor Partnership Kick-off meeting and at such times as deemed necessary. Changes in the time and place of the meetings shall be made upon recommendation of the Executive Board who may all call additional membership meetings as deemed necessary.

## Article VII – Executive Board and Leadership Council

Section 1. The Executive Board shall serve as advisor to the Chairperson and shall approve appointment of members of standing and special committees. It shall approve appointments, as made the by Chairperson, of a position to fill a vacancy. It shall act upon matters of business that may arise between meetings of the Leadership Council.

Section 2. Members of the Leadership Council (who serve as Region Representative and Assistant Region Representatives) shall be recommended for appointment by each region. Members of the Leadership Council shall serve on the Leadership Council for a minimum two (2) year term. Members of the Leadership Council may be reappointed for one (1) additional year.

## Article VIII – Committees

Section 1. The standing committees shall be as follows: Sunshine, Special Projects, Phil Pickens, Education, Communication, Advisor.

Section 2. The standing committee chairpersons and other special committee chairperson shall be appointed by the Chairperson with the approval of the Executive Board.

The committee chairpersons, with the approval of the Chairperson. Shall select committee members.

Section 3. The standing committee chairperson and other special committee chairpersons shall report to the Chairperson the activities of the respective committees on a regular basis that will be determined by the Chairperson.

## Article IX