



**2012 Georgia Family Engagement Conference**  
**Workshop Session Schedule**  
*(Subject to Change)*

**Featured Conference Sessions**

**Thursday, February 16, 2012 from 1:30pm – 3:00pm**

**Beyond the Compliance Checklist – *Creating Collaborative and Coordinated Systems for Family and Community Engagement***

The U.S. Department of Education’s (Department) blueprint to reauthorize Title I, Part A, of the *Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)* reflects the importance of strengthening and supporting family engagement both through specific programs designed to involve families and communities and through policies that will empower and engage families. The proposal will require that districts and schools develop comprehensive, systemic plans for sustained family engagement, and fund those plans with at least 2 percent of their funds from the Title I, Part A, program. Rather than implementing a checklist of activities, districts and schools will use family engagement strategies that increase student achievement and create a welcoming environment, open communication, and strong collaboration between families and their children’s teachers, schools, and districts. Staff from the Department’s Office of Communications and Outreach will discuss the proposed changes to the ESEA and share strategies and resources to help districts and schools create school, family and community partnerships.

**Presenters:** *Dennis Bega, Deputy Director, Office of Communications and Outreach, Regional Operations, U.S. Department of Education*

*Carrie Jasper, Director, Outreach to Parents and Families, Office of Communications and Outreach, U.S. Department of Education*

*Jonava Johnson, Family Engagement Specialist, Office of Communications and Outreach, Region IV, U.S. Department of Education*

**Strand:** ESEA Parental Involvement Compliance Requirements

**Audience:** District Level Administrators, School Level Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Community and Faith-Based Organization Staff, or State Agency and Organization Staff

**Building Effective Parent Leadership**

What is parent leadership? How can I become an effective parent leader? Can I and other parents working together really impact student success? Join Georgia PTA leadership and several members of the State Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council in this dynamic, interactive session as they discuss and define parent leadership. Learn the challenges typically encountered in leadership and discover the resources and solutions that are available to help. A panel of members from the State Superintendent’s Parent Advisory Council will also share experiences and successes as effective parent leaders. Attendees will be encouraged to actively participate in the activities as well as the question and answer session.

**Presenters:** *Donna Kosicki, President, Georgia PTA*  
*Patty Yohn, Family Engagement Chair, Georgia PTA*

**Panel:** *Kathy Candler, Parent, Carroll County Schools*  
*Leticia Houston-Dent, Parent, Stewart County Schools*  
*Monya Rutland, Parent, Bibb County Schools*  
*Michael Turner, Parent, Muscogee County Schools*

**Facilitators:** *Shonda Carter, Parent, Atlanta Public Schools*  
*Dana Thomas, Parent, Wayne County Schools*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** Parents

**Supporting Early Literacy through Parent-Child Shared Book Reading**

Research suggests a close link between parent-child shared book reading and young children’s language and literacy development including vocabulary acquisition. Although it matters how often children engage in shared book reading, it is also important to understand the nature and quality of interactions children experience during reading. This workshop session provides information regarding parent-initiated and child-initiated shared book reading behaviors commonly practiced in homes with high and low home literacy. Discussing this issue may provide practical implications as to how best to support young children’s language and literacy development by employing research-based reading practices.

**Presenters:** *Jisu Han, Doctoral Candidate, The University of Georgia*  
*Dr. Stacey Neuharth – Pritchett, Department of Educational Psychology, The University of Georgia*

**Strand:** Research – Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** Educators and Parents

**Systemic Family Engagement**

The purpose of this workshop session is to define and demonstrate what is meant by "systemic" family engagement. This session will feature "promising practice" examples of systemic initiatives that span several schools, are linked to student learning, and engage various stakeholders. The workshop session will explore how systemic engagement differs from traditional forms of parent involvement and the type of resources and infrastructure needed to support and sustain this work.

**Presenters:** *Dr. Karen Mapp, Lecturer, Harvard Graduate School of Education*

**Strand:** Research – Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Level Administrators, School Level Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

**Promoting Positive Parent Participation at Title I Schools**

Have you ever found yourself attending school functions only to help your child’s classroom receive an ice cream or pizza party for having the largest number of parents sign-in on a classroom roster? This workshop session is designed to facilitate one’s transition from “Attendant” to “Participant” in the ever – continuing improvement process at your child’s school. Participants will gain a basic understanding of the configuration and functionality of Title I Schools and will explore the available opportunities that allow parents to become active participants in the development/improvement of the Title I Program at their school(s).

**Presenters:** *Dr. Randy Phillips, Title I Program Area Specialist, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** ESEA Parental Involvement Compliance Requirements

**Audience:** District Level Administrators, School Level Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

**Creating Equalization of Access and Influence in Schools for All Families in Rural Georgia**

It is estimated that more than forty percent of children and youth in Georgia and in America are served in rural areas and small towns. These communities face unique challenges created by distance/isolation, low income or high rates of poverty and limited public resources. Teaching, serving and connecting in rural communities offers unique opportunities and challenges. Learn from evidence-based practices how to translate family engagement strategies into positive achievement results for students at risk to not graduate and/or receiving special education in rural communities.

**Presenters:** *Patti Solomon, Family Engagement Specialist, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** Research – Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Level Administrators, School Level Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Advocacy vs. Partnership – Can They Co-Exist Peacefully?**

An advocate is a person who speaks or writes in support of defense of a person or cause. A partner is one who shares a common interest or participates in achieving a common goal. This workshop session will help parents and professionals understand how to effectively advocate for their children while building strong partnerships with schools to promote positive outcomes for their children. Learn practical tips for effective communication, organization, and preparation. Because, through effective partnerships and collaborations, children do better in school, they go farther in school, and the schools they go to are better!

**Presenters:** *Georgia Freuchtenicht, Regional Supervisor/Trainer, Parent to Parent of Georgia*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, and Parents

### **Increasing Parent Engagement: A Funds of Knowledge Approach in Urban Schools**

This workshop session will explain how teachers' exploration of families' "Funds of Knowledge" clearly enhance parent engagement and student learning in a standards based classroom. It will also highlight how teachers learn about the dreams and goals that the parents have for their children and how teachers can more effectively support these goals. The presentation will also reveal the results of a research effort that will outline common themes resulting from a data gathering effort involving a student population with 95% of students qualifying for free and reduced lunch. Participants will also "experience" a sample Funds of Knowledge Parent Survey and two sample Teacher Surveys for pre and post consideration after teaching sessions with the students.

**Presenters:** *Arnetta Eady, Assistant Principal, Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School*  
*Renee Prior, Principal, Hamilton E. Holmes Elementary School*

**Strand:** Research – Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community and Faith-Based Organization Staff

### **Collaboratives and You: A Community Quest for Family Engagement**

This session will take you on a journey through one community's search for ways to join forces and talents to achieve and maintain a strong plan for family engagement, especially at the high school level. Along the way you will receive ideas and tips, such as "branding" your school, publicizing events, developing business partnerships, raising fun funds for projects, creating family – friendly environments, raising voter awareness, and calling on parent leaders to serve. Be prepared to be uplifted, taken in a new direction, and quite possibly entertained in this quest for better community and family engagement initiatives with end results!

**Presenter:** *Stephanie Bell, Parent Involvement Coordinator, Wayne County Schools*

**Strand:** Research – Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Language Acquisition for Digital Age Students: Connecting School to Home**

This session will explore a pilot program which endeavors to improve the language proficiency of English learners in schools by using podcasts, mp3/video devices and other ancillary materials. The program appeals to our digital learners and allows them to "take their teachers home" in their backpacks. Come and see how teacher created podcasts combined with supplementary resources are helping to connect the school to home while improving English language proficiency.

**Presenters:** *Dwight Hutson, Model Teacher Leader, Atlanta Public Schools*  
*Stephen Fowler, ESOL Program Specialist, Atlanta Public Schools*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** Educators and Parents

### **The 411 on Education and Career Planning**

Education and career planning is a vital part of the educational journey. The individual graduation plan (mandated by Georgia House Bill 400, otherwise known as the BRIDGE law) requires that educators help all student answer three important questions: Who am I, Where am I going, and How am I going to get there? This workshop session will discuss these important questions by highlighting Gacollege411, a web tool that can assist all students in their quest for information, and as a result, lead to better and more informed decision-making.

**Presenter:** *Vivian Snyder, Career Development Coordinator, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** Program Staff, Educators, and Parents

## **Speaking of Parents...Are You Asking the Right Questions?**

Parent Café conversations create collaborative dialogue around questions that matter to increase community wisdom, build parent voices and facilitate action to improve lives for children. Cafés are successful due to: (1) the intimacy of the conversation and parent leadership help to create a level of candor that might not be achieved in a standard focus group or other feedback input process; and, (2) the careful structuring of the questions helps synthesize knowledge across a range of individual experiences. Come learn how one community has used cafés to meet specific goals such as providing input into System or School Improvement Plans and empowering parents and school staff to work together through protective factors to increase student achievement.

**Presenters:** *Tammy Storey, Parent Involvement Coordinator, Early County School System*  
*Leslie Gregoire, Workforce Investment Act Youth Coordinator, Early County Family Connections*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

## **Strengthening Families Through Parental Resilience**

This Strengthening Families Georgia workshop session teaches child and family serving professionals to promote parental resilience by assisting families with strategies and resources to “*bounce back*” from difficult situations. Participants will learn how to embed parental resilience into everyday practice, make appropriate assessments and referrals based on the family’s situation, and discover how to follow-up appropriately.

**Presenter:** *Bobbie Lee, Trainer/Consultant, Georgia Association on Young Children and Strengthening Families Georgia*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Drop-Out Prevention for Academically At-Risk Youth**

This workshop session will focus on prevention strategies to decrease risk factors for academically at-risk students and methods to increase graduation rates for homeless, neglected and delinquent youth. After a brief overview of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program and Neglected, Delinquent and At-Risk Youth Program, participants will examine current data regarding graduation rates. In addition, participants will be given the opportunity to explore ways they can positively affect graduation rates for all at-risk students in their local school districts.

**Presenter:** *Eric McGhee, Grant Programs Manager, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

### **Parent Engagement Takes Flight...Utilizing Data to ENGAGE and EMPOWER Families**

We live in a data-driven society and yet, when it comes to family engagement, many educators are still extremely “Old School” – relying on intuition, tradition, and convenience to drive decisions related to family engagement. This workshop session challenges those traditional beliefs and charts a new course by introducing participants to a comprehensive assessment process involving all stakeholders that produces baseline family engagement data critical to implementing impactful strategies that ENABLE, ENGAGE, and EMPOWER families to be active partners in ways that support student learning. Fasten your seatbelts, this workshop is sure to be highly engaging and entertaining!

**Presenters:** *Jenni Brasington, Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC) Director, Arizona State PIRC*  
*Ron Mirr, President, RM Consulting*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Knowledge = Effective Parent Engagement**

This workshop session will provide an overview of parental rights and responsibilities. To become effectively engaged, parents must first understand their role as their child’s first teacher and advocate. They must become familiar with the educational school system and its many policies and procedures. Parents are successful when they know how to communicate and collaborate with schools, community agencies and organizations. Learning how to apply this powerful knowledge can provide parents the tools to become effective and confident leaders and advocates for their child’s education.

**Presenters:** *Elida Perez Knapp, Community Development Specialist, National PTA*  
*Isabel Sance, Parent School Partnership Director, MALDEF*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** Program Staff, Educators, and Parents

### **Parent Involvement Closer to Home: A Neighborhood Literacy Event**

All schools struggle to involve students' families in meaningful ways. Logistical factors such as transportation, scheduling, and language barriers often get in the way of schools' well-intentioned family engagement efforts. In this workshop session, a Family Engagement Specialist and an Instructional Coach will describe how teachers and staff at a Title I Elementary School used student achievement data as a springboard for launching an innovative family literacy event at one of its most isolated neighborhoods. Participants will have the opportunity to consider strategies for engaging families in supporting student learning based on building respectful and trusting relationships among all relevant stakeholders.

**Presenters:** *Kathryn Kipling, Family Engagement Specialist, Chase Street Elementary School*  
*Andrea Neher, Instructional Coach, Chase Street Elementary School*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith Based Organization Staff

### **Technology and Internet Safety: How to Keep Your Kids Safe**

Previously of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and Massachusetts State Police, Katie has worked closely with the Internet Crimes Against Children Task forces throughout the country to educate students, parents, and educators on the issues of Internet safety and cyber bullying. This workshop session will cover issues such as Facebook, Internet privacy, cyber bullying, texting, sexting, and more. Explore how you can help keep yourselves, your schools, and kids safe in this technology-driven world.

**Presenter:** *Katelyn LeClerc Greer, CEO/Presenter, KL Geer Consulting*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Connecting with Grandparents As Parents...Filling the GAP**

How many students in your district are being raised by a grandparent? The 2000 Census identified 11,586 grandparents in 11 middle Georgia counties as the sole caregivers for school-aged children. The Peach County School District has successfully implemented their Grandparents as Parents (GAP) program for the past four years. Join us to learn why and how to develop a GAP program in your community including support, resources, legal issues and parent involvement. We will give you a step-by-step road map to assist your district and your grandparents serving as guardians with the necessary tools to implement and maintain this valuable program.

**Presenters:** *Dr. Ken Banter, Director of Federal Programs, Peach County Schools*  
*Sara Mason, Parent/Community Liaison, Peach County Schools*  
*Barbara Ezell, Shonda Fobbs, Debbie Whyte, and Judy Messer, Parent Coordinators, Peach County Schools*  
*Pam Harbage and Charlotte Shephard, School Counselors, Peach County Schools*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Improving Student Achievement through Family Engagement: A Principal's Advice**

This workshop session is intended to be an extension of Thursday's keynote address by Dr. Grant Rivera. School and community leaders who wish to start the work of raising student achievement – please join us! Participants will be introduced to a five-part process that allows parent leaders and school officials to create an action plan for family engagement that is focused on increasing student achievement. Creative strategies will be offered and, during this session, participants will begin the work of writing the action plan for your school.

**Presenter:** *Dr. Grant Rivera, Principal, Westlake High School*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, and Parents

### **Vision and Voice: Building the Leadership Capacity of Parents**

United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta introduces Vision and Voice: Parent Leadership Institute (PLI), a series of workshops designed by the Parent Services Project to build the leadership capacity of families in early childhood programs, schools and the community at large. Presenters will provide an overview of the Parent Leadership Institute, demonstrate exercises from the curriculum, and spotlight a success story of a parent who attended the Institute. Participants will learn how to conduct at least one activity to build parent leadership capacity in their community.

**Presenters:** *Roberta Malavenda, Education Consultant, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta*  
*Pamela L. Ross, Education Consultant, United Way of Metropolitan Atlanta*  
*Clara Herrera, Parent Educator/Parent Leadership Institute Co-Facilitator, Families First*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Effective Student Discipline: Keeping Kids in Class**

This workshop session will inform the participants in detail about student discipline policies, practices, and outcomes in Georgia's public schools based on detailed data analysis, research, interviews with educators and other stakeholders, and a survey of parents and students. Specific information about out of school suspension rates for the school districts of interest to the participants will be available. The participants will also engage with the presenters to discuss effective student practices in place in Georgia and elsewhere that reduce out of class discipline and enhance school morale and academic performance.

**Presenters:** *Rob L. Rhodes, Director of Projects, Georgia Appleseed Center for Law and Justice*  
*John H. McRae, Retired Educator*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

### **Involving Parents in the Title I Process**

This workshop session will provide detailed information and give specific examples of ways that parents are to be involved in the decision making in their child's education. It will also provide information that assists schools and school districts with ways to communicate with parents, community stakeholders, and business partners. Discussion will also be encouraged regarding ways to ensure that all parents and stakeholders are included in decision-making regarding Title I Parental Involvement to increase academic achievement and student success.

**Presenter:** *Brenda Williams, Education Program Specialist – Parental Involvement, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** ESEA Parental Involvement Compliance Requirements

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Moving on Up: Supporting Children's Transitions to Kindergarten**

Moving from preschool to kindergarten is one of the most important transitions a child will make. Preschool programs, kindergarten programs, parents, and the community all have a vital role in the transition process. When schools, parents, and the community partner prepare children for the transition to kindergarten, they help set the stage for children's success in school. Partnership activities to promote smooth transitions will be shared during this interactive workshop session.

**Presenters:** *Jackie Shivers, Pre-K Quality Improvement Coordinator, Bright From the Start: DECAL*  
*Darlene Sims, Pre-K Consultant, Bright From the Start: DECAL*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

**Accommodations for Testing and Instruction--Helping Students with Disabilities Access the Curriculum**

Many students with disabilities may need a small change to the way they are taught and tested to participate successfully in regular classes. Determining what accommodations will be a good “fit” for each student is more than picking what looks good from a list. This workshop session will discuss the what, why, and how of accommodations for instruction and assessment: how to select them and how to be sure the accommodation is working or needs to be changed.

**Presenters:** *Kayse Harshaw, Program Specialist for Assessment, Georgia Department of Education*  
*Deborah Reagin, Program Specialist for Intellectual Disabilities, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** Program Staff, Educators, and Parents

**Engaging Fathers and Father-Figures for Greater Student Success**

Thousands of schools across America are enhancing the success of children and schools by engaging fathers and father figures in the school setting. Schools are growing their parent engagement by utilizing easy-to-use and teacher-friendly strategies to engage men, inspire children, prevent bullying and create more successful educational environments for their schools.

**Presenters:** *Eric Snow, National Director, National Center for Fathering*  
*Michael Knowles, National Program Coordinator, National Center for Fathering*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

**Dr. Wade’s Top Ten Ways Family Engagement is Like Fishing**

This workshop session will include a countdown of *Dr. Wade’s Top Ten Ways Family Engagement is Like Fishing*, a quick review of research and policy, common concerns, honest mistakes, and research-based practices. Come be informed and entertained while leaving with some great strategies to improve family engagement efforts in your schools and school districts!

**Presenter:** *Dr. Sally M. Wade, Program Associate, Southeast Comprehensive Center (SEDL)*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators

### **Title I Schools: Fact or Fiction**

What is a Title I School? How does MY child benefit? Does this mean the school is poor? This workshop session is provided to answer your questions concerning how Title I schools are identified, the services available to Targeted Assistance schools and School Wide Program schools and the benefits of both models. The perception and misperception of being a Title I school will be addressed. A question and answer period will be provided to ask everything you ever wanted to know about Title I, but had no one to ask.

**Presenter:** *Kathy Pruett, Title I Program Area Specialist, Georgia Department of Education*  
*Jennifer L. Davenport, Title I, Part A Program Manager, Georgia Department of Education*  
*Margo K. DeLaune, Title Programs Director, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** ESEA Parental Involvement Compliance Requirements

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Nothing About Me Without Me: Making Engagement Work for Families**

After a group decides that the family voice needs more representation at the table, what is the next step? This workshop session will equip participants with concrete steps to meaningfully engage families in the following three phases of meetings/events: Planning and Preparation, During the Meeting, and Follow-up/Follow-Through. Operating under the principle “*nothing about me without me,*” the tools offered will help administrators, educators, and community leaders truly make engagement work for families.

**Presenter:** *Annetta Berry, Community Support Specialist, Georgia Family Connection Partnership*  
*Sonya Hope, Community Support Specialist, Georgia Family Connection Partnership*  
*Celeste Orr, Community Support Specialist, Georgia Family Connection Partnership*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **The Creation of a True Village**

A Georgia Title I school, an active school council, and a few highly dedicated parents collaborated to identify a sustainable method of bringing family engagement back into the public school system. Parental involvement is a vital component of student achievement. Sadly, many factors have caused parental involvement to decrease over the years. In an effort to supplement the decline of parental involvement, the Parental Advocate Stand-in (P.A.S.I.) program was devised. This program allows parents, active school councils and stakeholders to establish a role in aiding Georgia students in becoming academically, socially, and behaviorally proficient.

**Presenter:** *William Greene, Principal, Mundy’s Mill High School*  
*Danielle Hillman, Parent/School Council President, Mundy’s Mill High School*  
*Sonna Singleton, Parent Liaison, Mundy’s Mill High School*  
*Dr. Wakea N. Brown, Instructional Facilitator, Mundy’s Mill High School*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

### **Perceptions and Partnerships: Fact or Fiction**

Parent and school partnerships are built and hindered by our personal perceptions. These perceptions determine how we communicate and interact with others, frequently influencing the level of respect and credence we give to individuals. This workshop session will enable participants to analyze the parent/school relationship as it compares to personal perceptions of parental engagement, parent partnerships and parents as leaders.

**Presenters:** *Dona Harris, School Social Worker/Parent Involvement Coordinator, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf*  
*Deshonda Washington, Parent Mentor, Atlanta Area School for the Deaf*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, and Parents

### **Parent Academy: Engaging, Connecting, Instructing Parents for Student Success**

Dublin Middle School Parent Academy is an effective intervention that removes barriers for parents, schools, and the community. This workshop session is designed to provide participants with tools, resources, and methods that will engage, empower, and promote a cooperative team effort between parents, schools, and the community to ensure students achieve excellence.

**Presenters:** *Yolanda J. Cummings, Parent Involvement Coordinator, Dublin Middle School*  
*Dr. Fred Williams, Principal, Dublin Middle School*  
*Alicia Brooks, Counselor, Dublin Middle School*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

### **Promoting Family Engagement and School Readiness from Prenatal to Age 8**

This workshop session introduces the Parent, Family, and Community Engagement Framework for promoting family engagement and school readiness from prenatal through age 8 by introducing strategies that create program progress, as well as providing examples of parent and family progress. Participants will learn how to use the Framework as a roadmap to building relationships with families that lead to outcomes that create positive and enduring change for children and families.

**Presenters:** *Diane Bellem, Vice President Georgia Training Institute, Sheltering Arms*  
*Crystal Banks, Child and Family Specialist, Sheltering Arms Early Learning and Literacy Resource Center*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** Program Staff, Educators, or Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

### **SES: A Resource Empowering Families in Educational Excellence**

Supplemental Educational Services (SES) is free tutoring services in the areas of reading, math, and language arts. These tutoring services are available for students who attend Title I schools in “Need Improvement” status in their second year (NI-2), school not meeting Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), and students who receive free and reduced meals. SES is intended to help eligible students increase academic achievement on state assessments and attain proficiency in meeting state standards. This workshop session will provide parents with information on how SES can be provided to eligible students. In addition, this workshop session will assist parents in reading and interpreting their child’s academic reports.

**Presenter:** *Yvonne Hodge, Supplemental Educational Services Team Lead, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** Program Staff, Parents, and Community and Faith – Based Organization Staff

### **Cooking Up Student Achievement: Barrow County Schools’ 360 Family Engagement Plan**

Districts that have embedded family engagement in their school wide plans have produced significant and positive results for their students. Find out how to shift your thinking and maximize school and community resources through collaboration by becoming “360” - reaching up, down, around and all about! Learn from Barrow County Schools as they share two years of results and strategies from their meaningful work in collaboration with Title I, Special Education, and Pre-K in linking family engagement data to student achievement through a 360 Degree of Family Engagement Plan.

**Presenters:** *Andrea Lott, District Family Engagement Specialist, Barrow County Schools*

*Cynthia White, Parent Mentor, Barrow County Schools*

*Patti Solomon, Family Engagement Specialist, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency or Organization Staff

**Defying the O.D.D.S – Ongoing Dedication, Determination, and Support Through Parental Partnerships**

The urban school is often misunderstood and looked upon as a less than desirable setting by parents and, sometimes, educators. Urban schools tend to have fewer resources, are large, and usually located in high crime and high poverty areas; they commonly pose many challenges to educators. One such challenge is that of parental involvement. Research has shown that when parents are involved at school, the performance of ALL children improve, and (2) the more comprehensive and well-planned the school –home partnership, the higher the achievement. Relationship building is the beginning. This workshop session will highlight the successful methods Atlanta Heights has incorporated into their system to build relationships and trust with families to encourage parental support.

**Presenters:** *Melissa Jones Clarke, Principal, Atlanta Heights Charter School*  
*Betty Robinson, Academic Intervention Coach, Atlanta Heights Charter School*  
*Catherine Wood, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teachers, Atlanta Heights Charter School*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

**Mission: Make Learning a B.L.A.S.T. – Family Engagement Takes Flight**

Mission: Make Learning a B.L.A.S.T will challenge participants to “go where no educator has gone before.” This interactive workshop session will motivate and reenergize educators to build the capacity of parents through effective family nights and other activities. Educators will leave the presentation with many “how-to” practical strategies and concrete examples for working with students and families. Dr. Martin Walker will lead the “crew” through an enlightening discussion of the analogies and metaphors that can be used to illustrate the “family engagement flight plan.” Participants will develop a personal family engagement flight plan (handout) and interact with each other.

**Presenters:** *Dr. Angela Martin Walker, Chief Creative Officer, Workshops-in-a-Box*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

**Game Time! From Playbook to Playing Field: Real Ways to Get Involved**

Research shows that students with involved parents are more likely to earn higher grades and test scores, stay in school, and go on to postsecondary education. Isn't that what we want as parents? How do we keep our children on the path for success? Well, it's a lot like playing sports! Parents have to get in the game! This session breaks down the National PTA Standards for Family – School Partnerships into easy to use ideas for families to get involved and active with their children's education.

**Presenters:** *Debra S. Tucker, Executive Director, Parent to Parent of Georgia*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** Program Staff and Parents

### **“My Baby” to “No Babies PLEASE!” : Parent – Child Communication About Sexuality**

Georgia has the 13<sup>th</sup> highest teen birthrate in the nation and the 7<sup>th</sup> highest percentage of high school dropouts. These statistics can be frightening, but parents can contribute to the healthy behavior and academic achievement through the messages they communicate regarding love, relationships, sex and sexuality, and healthy decision – making. This workshop session will provide an overview of the characteristics of being an ask-able parent, as well as practical and effective communication tips for ways parents can be the primary influence in their child’s life. Parents will also be equipped with the skills, knowledge, and tips necessary to help foster their child’s success in life.

**Presenters:** *Brandy Barnett, Training and Technical Assistance Coordinator, G-CAPP*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** Program Staff and Parents

### **Six Degrees: How Relationships Shape School Success**

Do you identify and utilize your community resources to enhance academic achievement? Learn how to maximize collaboration between the principal, teachers, staff, parents, and other community resources for the benefit of children. Critical success factors to this collaboration are communication, mutual trust, respect, transparency, and teamwork. The “Six Degrees” concept of intertwined relationships is the basis of this workshop session, as the broad relationships in the community are the foundation to our success. Come and enjoy our unique story...the story of what it takes to pull a school community together.

**Presenters:** *Mimi Gamel, Graduation Coach, Crabapple Middle School*  
*Katha Stuart, PTA Co-President, Crabapple Middle School*  
*Inge Robb, PTA Parliamentary, Crabapple Middle School*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

### **More than Meals – Shifting the Parental Involvement Paradigm**

This workshop session will actively engage the participants to revisit the original intent and focus of Title I Parental Involvement and explore how we can realistically move beyond the issue around serving food. Making this shift in a long standing paradigm will require considering some rather creative techniques, but we are all in this journey together. Active participants will leave with a worksheet where they have sketched out a potentially realistic plan for implementation “back home” to empower parents with the resources to support their child’s achievement.

**Presenters:** *Marihelen Newman, District Family Involvement Specialist, Glynn County Schools*  
*Alisha Boatwright, Elementary School Level Parent Involvement Coordinator, Glynn County Schools*  
*Natasha McClendon, Middle School Level Parent Involvement Coordinator, Glynn County Schools*

**Strand:** ESEA Parental Involvement Compliance Requirements

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, and Parents

## **Parent University: Rigor, Relationships, and Relevance, The 3R's of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Parent University is a comprehensive program which models best practices by integrating the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards with research-based strategies, in an effort to address real life parent needs. The Parent University class model focuses on, but is not limited to, parents who are English language learners. It is educating parents on the standards of their child's curriculum while helping in the preparation of parents as their child's number one teacher by using brain based strategies and integrating arts into the curriculum.

**Presenters:** *Chaundra Fletcher, Parent Liaison, Sky View Elementary School*  
*Cindy Cutler, Principal, Sky View Elementary School*  
*Liz Murphy, Principal, Compton Elementary School*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** School Administrators, Program Staff, and Educators

## **Effective Family Engagement Strategies: Building Supportive Environments Where Children Thrive**

There is growing evidence to support the association between poverty and disparities among children in health, including mental health, education and life outcomes. There is indication that effective family engagement and "quality parenting," especially during early childhood, can mitigate up to 50% of the negative impacts of poverty on children. This workshop session will explore evidence-based strategies that focus both on building the capacity of parents and promoting policies and practices in home, school, and community environments so that children can grow strong and thrive.

**Presenters:** *Dr. Martha Okafor, Director, Satcher Health Leadership Institute's Office of Behavioral Health*  
*Aneeqah Ferguson, Research Administrator, Satcher Health Leadership Institute's Office of Behavioral Health*

**Strand:** Research-Based Best Practices for Family Engagement

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff, and State Agency and Organization Staff

## **Understanding and Selecting Career Pathways for Your Child**

This workshop session will provide parents, educators, administrators, and all attendees with a greater understanding about career pathways and why all students must select a career pathway as they transition into 9<sup>th</sup> grade. In addition to selecting a career pathway as a good practice, recent state laws require all students to select and complete a focused, sequenced set of courses to be taken in high school designed to provide students with greater understanding, application, knowledge, technical skills, and national credentialing of skills to be college and career ready.

**Presenters:** *Dr. John Pritchett, Middle School Curriculum Coordinator, Georgia Department of Education*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Educators, Parents, and State Agency and Organization Staff

## **PTA and the Business of Student Achievement**

Many times, involved or concerned parents encounter situations where there is no active PTA at their child's school, or perhaps the PTA is not effective in its mission at your particular school. This workshop session will provide schools and parents with the vision, history, and future of PTA. We will guide you in setting up a new PTA Charter for your school, and talk you through the advocacy, programs, training and leadership opportunities available through PTA for your parents and children alike.

**Presenters:** *Donna Kosicki, President, Georgia PTA*  
*Lisa-Marie Haygood, Membership Chair, Georgia PTA*

**Strand:** Student Support and Achievement Resources for Parents

**Audience:** District Administrators, School Administrators, Program Staff, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff

## **Parent Leadership: Powerful and Persuasive to Student Academic Success**

It is important that parents participate in decision-making at their child's school, at the school district level, and even at the state level. Many times, parents do not realize that policy makers value their opinion and want to hear from them. The question most parents ask is: Where do I start? Participants will be given an overview of how they can participate in the educational decision-making process at the local, district, and state levels.

**Presenters:** *Julie Hollis, State Director, GA Parental Information and Resource Center (PIRC)*

**Strand:** Parent Leadership and Skills Building

**Audience:** Program Staff, Parents, and Community or Faith-Based Organization Staff