

# Resolution

## Georgia State Board of Education

The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education Adopt  
Statement on Parent Engagement

WHEREAS, The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education recognize that true partnerships between parents, schools, and communities working together throughout a child's educational journey results in students of all backgrounds and abilities achieving at highest levels; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education recognize that parent engagement is an ongoing process that increases active participation, communication, and collaboration between parents, schools, and communities with the goal of educating the whole child to ensure student achievement and success; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education recognize that the partnerships between parents, schools, and communities must be viewed as equal with shared responsibilities, but schools must take the lead in developing and sustaining these collaborative partnerships to ensure maximum effectiveness; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education hereby adopt this Resolution and Statement on Parent Engagement and strongly urge local school officials to use them as a guide in developing local school and district plans and policies.

In witness whereof, we have set our hands and caused the Georgia Department of Education Seal to be affixed this 10th day of November 2010.

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Wanda T. Barrs, Chair  
State Board of Education

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Linda M. Zechmann  
First Congressional District

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James E. Bostic, Jr.  
Fifth Congressional District

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Larry E. Winter  
Ninth Congressional District

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Allen C. Rice  
Twelfth Congressional District

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Elizabeth J. Ragsdale  
Second Congressional District

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Robert "Buzz" Law  
Sixth Congressional District

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Brian K. Burdette  
Tenth Congressional District

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William Bradley "Brad" Bryant  
Chief Executive Officer

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Joey M. Loudermilk  
Third Congressional District

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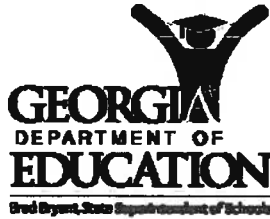
José R. Perez  
Seventh Congressional District

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Albert "Al" Hodge  
Eleventh Congressional District

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Mary Sue Murray  
Thirteenth Congressional District



## Statement on Parent Engagement

The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education recognize that parents are responsible for providing and maintaining a continuous and safe learning environment for their children. The term parent refers to any caregiver who assumes the responsibility for nurturing and caring for a child's entire well-being consisting of educational, emotional, spiritual, and physical health. Even though parents have diverse economic, racial, ethnic, cultural, and educational backgrounds, all want what is best for their children.

The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education believe that parents, schools, and communities working together create meaningful partnerships that ultimately lead to significant gains in student achievement. Parents will show support of high academic expectations by making sure that their children attend school every day and closely monitor school progress. They will support the school community by engaging in school and district learning opportunities, program planning, and decision making. Schools will welcome all parents and community members by providing a variety of opportunities for parent engagement throughout all grade levels, while recognizing and respecting the diverse needs of their school community. They will collaborate with the community to provide services to students and parents as well as expand opportunities for continued learning, community service, and civic participation. A community is inclusive of any entity that shares a common interest in education. Communities will recognize that an investment in education is an investment in the community and will work with schools to form a network that strengthens families and supports student success.

In order to accomplish successful partnerships, the Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education endorse PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships as the framework for how families, schools and communities should work together to support student success. To enhance parent engagement programs it is recommended that schools promote the following standards:

**Standard 1: Welcoming all families into the school community**—Families are active participants in the life of the school, and feel welcomed, valued, and connected to each other, to school staff, and to what students are learning and doing in class.

**Standard 2: Communicating effectively**—Families and school staff engage in regular, two-way, meaningful communication about student learning.

**Standard 3: Supporting student success**—Families and school staff continuously collaborate to support students' learning and healthy development both at home and at school, and have regular opportunities to strengthen their knowledge and skills to do so effectively.

**Standard 4: Speaking up for every child**—Families are empowered to be advocates for their own and other children, to ensure that students are treated fairly and have access to learning opportunities that will support their success.

**Standard 5: Sharing power**—Families and school staff are equal partners in decisions that affect children and families and together inform, influence, and create policies, practices, and programs.

**Standard 6: Collaborating with community**—Families and school staff collaborate with community members to connect students, families, and staff to expanded learning opportunities, community services, and civic participation.

The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education are focused on working with partners in local school districts and the community to provide parents with the best opportunities and resources to help their children succeed in school across all grade levels. They recognize the importance of district and school administrator leadership in setting expectations of a welcoming climate that actively seeks and supports parent engagement. The Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education are committed to providing professional development opportunities to all school personnel and district leadership to enhance understanding and implementation of effective parent engagement strategies.

In order to achieve the Georgia State Board of Education and the Georgia Department of Education's number one goal of increasing the high school graduation rate, decreasing high school dropout rate, and increasing the post-secondary enrollment rate, it is essential that parents, schools, and communities work together in true partnerships for the benefit of all children Pre-K thru 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Strong support and effective parent engagement programs are critical for students to realize their potential and to assist schools in increasing student achievement across our state.