



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Thank You Letter to Georgia's Families

By Richard Woods
State School Superintendent
November 2016

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) works to serve students, families, and local school districts to provide high-quality programs that improve teaching and learning across the state. All GaDOE-sponsored programs share a common goal of offering Georgia's students an education that affords them the opportunity to move on to college, the military, or directly into a meaningful career.

Research on family engagement suggests that when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and ability levels achieve at the highest levels. The message to all of us in the research is clear: educational programs are more effective when parents are actively engaged in them. Engaged parents and family members give students the support they need to be successful.

The importance of parental support is highlighted during the month of November as Georgia celebrates Family Engagement Month. Schools across the state plan special events to honor the crucial role that parents play in students' education. In addition, November 17 is National Parent Involvement Day, a time for all parents to reflect on ways they can get more involved in the education of their children. Also on November 17, I invite you to follow the Parent Engagement Program on Facebook (GaDOEParentEngagement) to view and "like" the video campaign schools and districts submitted for the Family Engagement Month video contest.

To support you with best practices in November and year-round, the Georgia Department of Education has an array of materials for Title I schools and parents. You can download brochures, school transitional materials, and other resources on the Information for Parents webpage at <http://gadoe.org/parent-information>.

On behalf of our schools and school systems, I want to personally thank all the parents and families who have taken on the significant role of engaging in their children's education. The importance of your support is immeasurable; schools simply cannot succeed without you.