

January 2021

Parent Connection



The Georgia Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) is the 181st school system in the state of Georgia. Georgia Preparatory Academy (GPA) is the school located within the DJJ school system. There are 30 Georgia Preparatory Academy campuses located across the state of Georgia. Georgia Preparatory Academy is accredited through AdvancEd. All teachers, principals and guidance counselors hold certificates from the Georgia Professional Standards Commission.

Information and Supportive Services for Parents of Students with Disabilities

Welcome Back to Spring Semester 2021

Welcome back to a new semester and a happy 2021. We hope that your holiday break was restful, that you remained safe and good things came your way. We wish each of you peace, joy, hope, happiness and good health this year. May it be the best year yet! As we begin our second semester, we believe that it is important that we keep the lines of communication open

regarding what is going on within Georgia Preparatory Academy. There are several ways we are communicating with families during the pandemic, including by Remind, Zoom, teleconferencing and email. Technology has become our most utilized tool over the last year. Our goal is to help every student succeed. By partnering together and engaging in positive 2-way

communication, we will be able to achieve this goal. Contact your student's Georgia Preparatory Academy school to ensure that we have the most up to date information and that the information we have on file is correct. We look forward to building and strengthening our partnership with you as we continue to navigate and celebrate the progress we have made thus far.

Reentry Parent-Family Engagement Call

Join the Office of Reentry Services, along with other supporting Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) staff and partners every 1st Monday of the month for an engaging conversation with the families we serve. This parent engagement call is an opportunity for families to discuss and share with DJJ how we can better support a successful return to the community for the youth in our care. It is an opportunity to suggest improvements and share your perspective about current processes and how we can work together to

ensure that we are making a real impact in the lives of the youth and families we serve every day. So, bring your questions, concerns, suggestions, comments, experiences and/or compliments as we come together to listen and explore ways that will bring about a positive impact as we work together in partnership.

Please consider joining this very engaging, informative and interactive call as we come together to focus on creating better outcomes and a better future for our youth.

The upcoming call schedule is listed below through June 2021. Mark your calendar.

February 1, 2021
March 1, 2021
April 5, 2021
May 3, 2021
June 7, 2021

For additional information about the monthly parent engagement call, please contact Kim Conkle, Office of Reentry Services at kimconkle@djj.state.ga.us or Doricia Thompson at doriciathompson@djj.state.ga.us.



2021 Annual Parent Involvement Survey for Georgia Families Raising a Student with a Disability

Each year Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Division for Special Education submits a State Performance Plan/Annual Performance Report. This report includes a Parent Involvement Indicator that gather data based on the percentage of parents with a child receiving special education services who report that schools

facilitated parent involvement as a means of improving services and results for children with disabilities.

An online survey is used to gather data for this reporting requirement. The survey is for all families of students with an IEP. The survey is comprised of 10 questions plus demographic questions that measure

representation. Individual answers are kept confidential. You may complete the survey online at <https://survey.gadoe.org/S PEDParentSurvey>.

If you need assistance with completing or accessing the survey online, please contact Doricia Thompson, Parent Mentor at doriciathompson@djj.state.ga.us or (404) 273-4112.

Never let anyone dis your ability to make the right choices regarding your child's disabilities.
~ Lisa Thornbury



Reaching Families of Children with Special Needs

Child Find is a continuous process designed to identify, locate, and evaluate individuals from birth to 21 years of age who are suspected of, or have a disability or developmental delay that may result in a need for special education and related services. Child Find is part of a federal law called the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). This law protects the rights of students with disabilities.

The Department of Juvenile System School has Child Find responsibility for all students within its jurisdiction suspected of having disabilities, regardless of the severity of their disabilities. We provide child find for all students enrolled in DJJ through Multi-tiered System of Supports (MTSS). A referral can be made by anyone who has a concern about a child's development. If you suspect a child has a disability and is need of special education services, please contact the DJJ Special Education Department to communicate your concerns to the school administrator.

Links to Community Resources



How to contact the Peer2Peer Warm Line: Call 888-945-1414 (toll-free) statewide.



Need help locating a food pantry near you or assistance with securing food, healthcare, childcare or other necessities? Text 'FINDFOOD' (COMIDA for Spanish) to 888-976-2232.



Assists people who have been emotionally, physically, or financially impacted by COVID-19. Free and confidential.