

Spring Semester 2023

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 29 Georgia Preparatory Academy schools 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 to Spring Semester 2023

Happy 2023! We hope you are having a happy and joyful start to the new year. We ended 2022 on a high note with our students that received their High School Diploma and General education Diploma (GED) during our December 2022 Graduation ceremony. We congratulate all of our graduates for achieving this major milestone. We look forward to hearing and seeing what they will

do next as they continue their educational or job and career journey. As we begin our second semester, we will continue the work of improving students' success and outcomes by providing them with access to learning and growing opportunities in all areas of their lives. There will be more news to share as the year goes on, but in the meantime if you have any questions, we encourage

you to reach out to your child's school. You may contact the school by phone or email. Please ensure that we have the most update to date information on file. We ask that you allow 24-48 hours for a response unless it is an urgent situation.

We look forward to working and partnering with you this semester.

2023 Annual Parent Involvement Survey for Georgia Families Raising a Student with a Disability

Each year Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Division for Special Education in Partnership with Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) work to make sure that parents of students with disabilities' voices are heard. One way this is facilitated is by families completing the online survey in which the data is used to assist school systems in improving services, student achievement and family engagement. 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/SPEDParentSurvey>. There will also be an opportunity at the end

of an IEP meeting to complete the survey.

If you are not able to access the survey online, you may reach out to your local school within DJJ School System or contact Doricia Thompson, Parent Mentor by email at doriciathompson@djj.state.ga.us or 404-273-4112 for assistance.



Special Education Parent Mentor Program



Ms. Thompson serves as our Special Education Parent Mentor. She assists parents and teachers with communication, advocacy, support related to the special education process, and resources. She brings a wealth of knowledge and lived experience to her position. She is a parent of a student who received special education services. She was very involved his

educational experience and is passionate about helping other parents along their journey. Ms. Thompson welcomes your ideas, questions, and concerns. She invites you to become active participants in your child's educational experience. Reach out to her if you need assistance with something or if you need someone to listen. She is a parent first and understands your

experience with raising a child or children with special challenges. Ms. Thompson can be reached at dorciathompson@djj.state.ga.us or 404-273-4112.

The Parent Mentor program is a free support provided by the DJJ School System to parents of children with special needs or children who are suspected of having special needs.

FAIR ISN'T
everybody getting the
same thing.....

FAIR IS
everybody getting
what they need
In order to be
SUCCESSFUL.

Individualized Education Program (IEP) Student Supports

Examples of Student Supports

- ❖ Classroom Testing Accommodations (Extended time, frequent breaks, etc.)
- ❖ Supplemental Aides and Services (Tutoring, adult assistance, note-taking, etc.)
- ❖ Supports from System Personnel (AT Training, crisis prevention training, etc)
- ❖ Assessment
- ❖ Placement Options
- ❖ Extended School Year (ESY)
- ❖ Related Services Instructional Accommodations (large print text, large print books, etc.)

Child Find

Child Find is a process designed to identify, locate, and evaluate individuals from birth to 21 years of age who may need special education and related services.

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).

Links to Community Resources

Atlanta Food Bank - 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.

Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) – 800-229-2038 - Parent to Parent of Georgia offers a variety of services to Georgia families impacted by disabilities or special healthcare needs.

Find Help Georgia - <https://georgia.findhelp.com/>

Speak with a Find Help GA Specialist toll free at 1-800-244-5373, Monday to Friday, 8am-6pm.