

January 2018

GPA Special Education



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

Special Education Director's Message

We are piloting student led, student centered IEP meetings at two of our Youth Development Centers (YDC) this school year. We will continue to expand this process until all facilities are participating. This will afford our students the opportunity to acquire self-determination and self-advocacy skills. Our SWD will have opportunities to lead their IEP meeting. This will prepare them for adult environments, engage them in their education, promote lifelong skills for

school, home, job, and community, as well as, promote self-awareness to respond appropriately in social situations and adjust as needed.

Our goals are:

1. Continue to focus on improving student achievement and supporting students in the general education setting as much as possible.
2. Continue to provide services within a multi-tiered

system of support that builds the district's capacity to increase reading and math gains of all students with disabilities.

3. Provide information and support to build family, school and community partnerships to implement and sustain best practices for inclusive education.

We are excited about the direction in which the Special Education Department is progressing and look forward to many great things.

Welcome Back To A Great 2nd Semester

Happy New Year! Welcome back to the start of a great 2nd semester. We hope that this year brings peace, joy, happiness and good health to you and each of your family members. 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 at Georgia Preparatory Academy. One of the ways we are communicating with

parents is through the student information system, Infinite Campus. Parent Portal is one of the features of Infinite Campus. Parent Portal allows parents to track their child's grades, attendance, schedule, and report card. This feature allows parents to have online or mobile access to their student's progress.

Contact Georgia Preparatory Academy to complete the activation

request form for access to Parent Portal.

We look forward to building and strengthening our partnership with you. We hope to see you soon.

Have a great year!



2018 Annual Parent Involvement Survey for Georgia Families Raising a Student with a Disability

Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE), Division for Special Education in Partnership with Parent to Parent of Georgia (P2P) wants to make sure your voice is heard. In order for all students to graduate prepared to achieve a lifetime of success, families need to be an important part of the school team. It is the goal

of the Department of Juvenile Justice School System to partner with families to raise the achievement rate for students with disabilities. Completing the survey will assist in achieving this goal. The GaDOE is surveying parents of students with disabilities throughout Georgia. Individual answers are kept

confidential. You may complete the survey online at <https://djj.georgia.gov/our-school-system> under Parents & Students heading, then click on 2017-2018 Parent Survey. If you cannot access the survey online, you may request a paper copy by contacting Doricia Thompson, Parent Mentor at 404-508-6689.

Perseverance is the ability to overcome obstacles and the desire to continue to work toward a goal or task even when challenges are involved.

Georgia’s Education Plan Every Student Succeeds Act -ESSA

News from the Georgia Department of Education

The U.S. Department of Education approved Georgia’s Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan on January 19, 2018. This state plan replaces the federal law commonly known as No Child Left Behind. ESSA allows states and local schools/districts to make many education decisions, rather than responding to overreaching federal requirements.

The Every Student Succeeds Act transfers power over many education decisions back to states and local schools/districts. Georgia’s state plan will address standards, assessments/testing, school and district accountability, and special help for struggling schools and students.



Metro Fall Student of the Month –A/B Honor Roll



Helping Students with Learning Disabilities

In the United States an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is mandated by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). It is especially important for families of students with disabilities to be involved in the educational process that includes planning and reviewing the IEP. In this age of endless budget cuts and inadequately funded school programs, parents' role in their child's education is more important than ever. Now is the time to ensure that you are providing your child with the tools they

need to learn. You can and should take an active role in your child's education.

It's important to note, that the presence of a disability doesn't automatically guarantee a child will receive services. To be eligible, the disability must affect functioning at school. If there is demonstrated educational need, the school is required by law to develop an IEP that ensures your child receives a Free and Appropriate Education (FAPE). Parents who want the best for their children

may find this standard frustrating. Understanding special education laws and your school's guidelines for services will help you get the best support for your child at school. Your child may be eligible for many kinds of accommodations, related services, and support services, but the school might not provide services unless a child is identified as having a disability. Understanding how to access these services can help parents to be effective advocates for their children.



Parent Resources

Parent to Parent of Georgia's comprehensive resource database contains over 5,000 resources in over 150 categories. The Special Needs Database is a user-friendly, online searchable resource available to individuals with disabilities, their families, and professionals throughout Georgia.

Parent to Parent of Georgia Administrative Office
1-800-229-2038

Parent to Parent of Georgia East Office
478-934-4277

Parent to Parent of Georgia Southeast Office
912-489-1904

Parent to Parent of Georgia West Office
678- 884-5194

Educational Advocacy Associates, LLC
edu-advocacy-assoc.com
770-856-4842

IEPadvocate4you
www.iepadvocate4you.com
770-442-8357

Disability Service Center
www.disabilityservicecenter.org
706-457-5112

Georgia Advocacy Office
thegao.org
1-800-537-2329

Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
www.gcdd.org
404-657-2126

Parents Educating Parents & Professionals (PEPP)
www.peppinc.org
1-800-322-7065

