



GEORGIA DEPARTMENT
OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

AVERY D. NILES, COMMISSIONER

A MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS

Avery D. Niles, Commissioner
Jim Shuler, Director
Office of Communications



DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE JUSTICE

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Georgia Preparatory Academy ‘Springs into Health’ with 1st Annual Health Fair **GA’s 181st School District Offers Free Medical Screenings**

(STATEWIDE, GA) – DJJ Commissioner Avery D. Niles is pleased to announce Georgia Preparatory Academy (GPA) schools will “Spring into Health” this month with the first annual statewide GPA Health Fair. In partnership with local health departments, the Georgia Preparatory Academy is hosting the “Spring into Health” program, designed to provide basic health screenings and information for all DJJ students.

The health fairs are scheduled during the months of March and April. Participation is free and voluntary and provides free information, pamphlets, medical tests, healthy snacks, and counseling for all participants. The screenings include height, weight, body mass index, cholesterol, blood pressure, blood glucose, optional HIV testing, and more. Professional staff will also be onsite to provide counseling based on screening results.

The health fairs are a collaborative effort conducted by the Wellness Committees at each Georgia Preparatory Academy school as part of the DJJ Wellness Program. Statewide program results are compiled to provide a snapshot report on the health of DJJ youth in secure custody. The big picture will be presented to statewide medical staff, food service directors, and wellness ambassadors at the upcoming DJJ annual Professional Development Course in May. These results will help prepare Georgia Preparatory Academy staff to better serve DJJ youth by detecting any health disparities. Using the screening information, local Wellness Committees can develop innovative wellness initiatives to help meet specific patient needs at each DJJ secure facility.

WHAT: Georgia Preparatory Academy Schools Health Fair
WHERE: Statewide in Georgia Preparatory Academy Schools
WHEN: March – April 2015
COST: Free
CONTACT: For more information contact Lauren Gean, DJJ Office of Nutrition & Food Service at LaurenGean@djj.state.ga.us or 404-508-6699

The goal of the annual statewide GPA Health Fair is to provide a motivated learning environment while inspiring individuals to focus on the health and wellness of themselves and others.

(END RELEASE)

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