

SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATE



Board of Education Meeting February 27, 2008

The I Care character trait for the month of February is Self Aware at the elementary level, Reliable at the middle school level, and Honest at the high school level.

I Care in the Community

City Manager Alfred Lott has initiated support from the City to ensure that the community is aware of our **I Care** initiative. Mrs. Pam Jackson will make contacts throughout the community to solicit support for the community component of **I Care**. Mr. Lott sees the potential benefit to the community of teaching character development to all students through the **I Care** Program, and the DCSS is truly grateful for the City's efforts to support our children and staff.

Advanced Placement Participation / Success Recognized

In order for students to excel, they must be exposed to more rigorous curriculum. Therefore, exposing as many students as possible to Advanced Placement (AP) courses is the goal at each high school.

Albany High School and Westover High School were recognized among the top 20 percent of high schools offering Advanced Placement (AP) programs to students by State Superintendent Kathy Cox. Eighty-six out of 436 high schools in the state were designated as Advanced Placement Honor Schools because of success in student achievement for students taking advanced placement exams and for system success in making courses more widely available.

Between 2001 and 2007, the number of students taking the AP exams has increased 58.9%. The number of AP students scoring 3, 4, or 5 (college credit) has increased by 387%.

Schools of Excellence Celebration

The Georgia Department of Education sponsored a dinner celebration honoring the 2007 National Blue Ribbon Schools and the Georgia Schools of Excellence. Administrators and staff from International Studies and Robert Cross attended. (I also attended to support our two schools in these very special accomplishments.)

Professional Standards Commission

Dr. Gary Walker, Executive Director of the PSC, asked that on February 25th I participate on a statewide committee to review the code of ethics for educators in Georgia.

Superintendent's Incentive Awards

Cleanest / Most Improved Facilities

A committee of community members selected the Cleanest/Most Improved Facility at the elementary schools (3 sites), middle schools (1 site), high school (1 site) and non-instructional site (1 site). The winners are the following:

Elementary – Jackson Heights, Lincoln Magnet and Morningside

Middle – Radium Springs Middle Magnet School of the Arts

High – Albany High School

Non-Instructional – Lincoln Complex (ESP and Gifted)

A drawing will take place for the Superintendent's Incentive Award to be given to the custodians assigned to the facility within the next few weeks.

Early College Initiative

An advisory council has been formed and has met to begin discussions on the following: Early College Memorandum of Understanding, budget, curriculum, student selection criteria/lottery, teacher selection, school size, and *next steps*. Periodic updates will be provided to the Board as soon as work on the various areas is complete. We will advertise for the Early College Coordinator within the next few days.

Child Nutrition Update

The Child Nutrition Services deficit as of January 31st is \$672,289. Year-to-date participation for breakfast and lunch is as follows:

	Breakfast	Lunch
Elementary Schools	77%	88%
Secondary Schools	63%	78%

Minimum Direct Classroom Expenditures

Beginning with fiscal year 2008, local school systems are required to either spend a minimum of 65 per cent of their total operating expenditures on direct classroom expenditures or increase by two or more percentage points over the previous fiscal year. A system that does not meet the requirements may either qualify for a waiver of the law or will be subject to sanctions.

Fiscal year 2007 will be the baseline for implementation. Financial information for fiscal year 2008 will be submitted in September. The GDOE will then apply the test. However, specific guidelines and procedures from the Georgia Department of Education have not been outlined at this point.

The two types of waivers are achievement waiver and hardship waiver:

Achievement – evidence that the system exceeded the state's average for the fiscal year, on one or more of three academic criteria to include the percent of the local school system's schools that made Adequate Yearly Progress, graduation rate, and the most recent average total SAT score.

Hardship – an extreme situation which is solely responsible for the system’s inability to meet the expenditure requirements, such as acts of God and inordinate unexpected increases in energy and fuel costs.

Georgia Education Leadership Preparation/Certification Changes

The core work of Georgia’s educational leaders is to continuously improve schools, to ensure schools are designed so that every child succeeds in meeting high standards and to model democracy through practice.

Leadership Certification in Georgia is about to undergo significant changes. Preparation will transition to a performance-based program. In order to meet the performance-based program, standards and requirements can be accomplished only with the close cooperation and collaboration of the employing school system.

E-Rate Audit

A routine audit to examine the Universal Service Funds (USF) Schools and Libraries (S&L) funds (our E-Rate funding) will be conducted and work began this week. Plans are to complete the audit in April.

Personnel Re-Appointment Schedule for 2008-09 – Another Reminder

April 15th is the absolute deadline for a decision to have been made regarding a teacher’s contract. If a decision has not been made, a contract is automatically awarded to the individual. Therefore, in order to comply with The Georgia Code, the following timeline will guide the re-appointment process for 2008-09:

- Re-Appointment lists completed and turned in to Human Resources [March 3rd]
- Re-Appointment lists evaluated by Human Resources and revised lists turned in to Superintendent for review [March 10th]
- Re-Appointment lists delivered to Board members for review [March 19th]
- Recommendation made to Board of Education [March 26th]

Joint Civilian Orientation Conference

The Marine Corps Logistic Base nominated me to participate in the JCOC to be hosted by U.S. Southern Command this spring, and I was selected as an alternate.