



Richard Woods, Georgia's School Superintendent
"Educating Georgia's Future"

Thank You Letter to Georgia's Families

By Richard Woods
State School Superintendent
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Every child in Georgia's public schools will have many teachers before they walk across the stage on graduation day. They'll learn about reading, math, science, art, and so much more. They'll learn how to interact with others. They'll learn about life.

But a child doesn't meet their first teacher inside a school building – they meet them inside their home. Parents and families have an immense, lasting, and irreplaceable impact on a child's education.

The month of November is **Family Engagement Month** in the state of Georgia, a time to collectively recognize and honor the contributions of parents and families to student success.

The Georgia Department of Education is committed to educating the whole child. We strive to provide high-quality programs that improve teaching and learning across the state and equip schools with the information and resources they need to help parents actively engage in their child's academic achievement.

Family engagement is a shared responsibility in which schools and other community organizations are committed to communicating with, reaching out to, and building ties to engage families in meaningful ways. Research on family engagement suggests that when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and abilities achieve at the highest levels.

First and foremost, to every parent and family member across the state of Georgia who pours their time, resources, efforts and hours into their child's education: thank you, from the bottom of my heart. Nothing could be more important than your engagement and involvement with your child's education, and in their school.

I want to invite you to join the celebration throughout November and all year round, as schools and districts across the state plan special events and recognitions to honor the crucial role parents and families play in students' education. Additionally, Nov. 16 is National Parent Involvement Day, a time reserved, as a nation, for all parents to reflect on ways they can get more involved in the education of their children.

For ideas on how you can get engaged, please visit the Information for Parents page on the GaDOE's website at gadoe.org/parent-information. Here you can access an array of resources including videos, assessment guides, school transitional information, and printable brochures in English and Spanish.

Again, I want to personally thank you as a parent or family member of a child in Georgia's public schools. Thank you for entrusting us with your child's education. We could not do the work of educating Georgia's future without you.