

2025 GAMSP Winter Drive-In Conference

February 24, 2025

Draft Agenda

8:15-8:30 Continental Breakfast

8:30 - 8:45 Welcome Remarks

Dr. Richard Rogers

Houston County Incoming Superintendent

- The Five Levels of Leadership (John Maxwell)

8:45 - 9:45 Keynote Speaker

Dr. Frederick Buskey, Founder of Strategic Leadership Consulting

“From Fires to Fulfillment: Reclaiming Purposeful Leadership”

Description: Middle school principals enter leadership to transform students' lives. The most powerful way to achieve this is by supporting and growing teachers - yet the daily demands of the job often pull leaders away from this essential work. In this interactive keynote, learn practical strategies to *spend* less time putting out fires and *invest* more time in the people who matter most.

Through powerful perspective shifts and a simple yet effective 5-minute coaching approach, you'll discover how to amplify your impact on teacher growth while taking back control of your time. Leave energized and equipped with tools you can implement immediately to reclaim your purpose as an instructional leader.

9:45 - 10:15 Visit Expo/Break

10:15 - 11:30 Breakout Sessions

- Forward We Grow: Maximizing Student Growth through Data Digs

- Colleen Jones, Principal, Central Middle School
- Megan Johnson, Instructional Lead Support
- Callie Coward, ELA Special Education

Description: A comprehensive approach at using school-based professional learning communities (PLCs) to understand student assessment data, set goals, student-led conferences, as well as motivate and celebrate which in turn drives improvement in students and teachers. Data analysis helps teachers understand their students' learning abilities and challenges. It provides a path to ensure student results.

- Leading for Learning: Building and Sustaining Effective Learning Systems

- Stacey Lutz, ReinventED Education Solutions LLC

Description: Building leaders are responsible for balancing and providing feedback for multiple instructional initiatives simultaneously, but there is little guidance on how to effectively manage that process to maximize instructional effect. Current research on principal impact on student achievement has identified four key behaviors which, if managed effectively, can have a direct, positive impact on student achievement. But how can school leaders use these behaviors in action on a daily basis? More specifically, how can school leaders successfully translate the research into action with current instructional initiatives? Using Growing Readers as a framework for implementing literacy initiatives, this session will help building leaders establish a plan and develop skills and tools for cultivating, supporting, and maximizing instructional initiatives.

- Unifying PBIS and MTSS: Connecting Academics, Behavior, and Wellbeing for Success

- Ginger Breyo, Assistant Principal, Riverwatch Middle School
- Amy Johnson, Instructional Coach & PBIS Lead

Description: In this breakout session, participants will hear about Riverwatch Middle School's journey in unifying PBIS and MTSS to support student success. We will share how a collaborative approach has helped maximize time, resources, and expertise in addressing student needs. The session will highlight our use of a data-driven problem-solving process to guide decision-making and meet improvement goals, along with a focus on prevention and early intervention. Participants will also have the opportunity to reflect on their school's unique needs and envision the path forward to foster student success.

11:30 - 12:30 Lunch/Awards/Sponsors

12:30 - 1:45 Breakout Sessions

- Forward We Grow: Maximizing Student Growth through Data Digs
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- Building a Climate for Whole School Success

- Stacey Lutz, ReinventED Education Solutions LLC

Description: School leaders are tasked with implementing multiple initiatives with diverse teams with a wide range of talents. Understanding and leveraging the talents of an entire staff is difficult without first building a common culture and climate that ignites the individual talents of its members. This session will allow school leaders to explore the benefits of using a CliftonStrengths model as a systematic way to accelerate instructional initiatives within the school.

- Principal Panel:

- Denise Showell, Principal, Hull Middle School
- Mark Sams, Principal, Feagin Mill Middle School
- Betsy Kelly, Principal, Twin Rivers Middle School
- Rhonda Gulley, Principal, Upson-Lee Middle School

1:45 - 2:30 Keynote Speakers

Dr. Robin Cartright, GaDOE English Language Arts Program Manager English Language Arts & Literacy & Dr. Lauren Sanders - ELA Program Specialist

“Understanding Georgia's K-12 ELA Standards”

Description: Join members of GaDOE's ELA team for an overview of Georgia's K-12 ELA Standards, which will be implemented and assessed during the 2025-2026 school year. Topics of discussion will include the conceptual and structural shifts from the current ELA standards to the new standards; the integrated modes of communication (interpreting and constructing); the role of adolescent literacy in the new standards; and resources and professional learning opportunities to support the implementation.

2:30 - 2:50 Empower, Inspire, Strengthen, and Transform

Dr. Anthony Lunceford

2:50 - 3:00 Closing Remarks & Door Prizes