

2019 GACIS Fall Conference

Tentative Agenda

Pre-Conference, September 24

GACIS Board of Directors Meeting

GACIS Board of Directors Dinner

Teacher Clarity: Empowering Student Learning

Thursday, September 26

7:00 a.m.	Registration opens	Atrium Lobby
	Breakfast and Visit Exhibits	Atrium and Athena Pre-function
8:15-9:45 a.m.	General Session	Athena Ballroom A-J

John Almarode (Ph.D)

Teacher Clarity

The sessions will challenge you to consider some essential questions to empower student learning. Are both teachers and students clear about what must be learned, why students are learning it, and how they can be successful? Are students able to determine their next steps in learning through quality feedback and assessment? Have teachers had the time and support to collaborate around clarity to ensure an aligned approach within your school system?

With the ever-changing landscape of education, teachers and leaders often find themselves searching for clarity in a sea of standards, curriculum resources, and competing priorities. A simple and doable approach for developing clarity and sharing it with students will be presented. Five essential and powerful practices to establish clarity for learning will be shared: Gaining clarity, Sharing clarity, Feedback with clarity, Assessing with clarity, and Collaborating with clarity.

9:45-10:00	Recognition of Sponsors	
10:00-10:40 a.m.	Visit Exhibits and Break	Atrium and Athena Pre-function
10:40-11:40 a.m.	General Session	Athena Ballroom A-J

John Almarode (Ph.D)

11:45 a.m.	Awards and Special Recognitions	Athena Ballroom A-J
	Lunch	Grand Hall 8

1:15-2:15 p.m.
Best Practices Breakout Session I

2:15- 2:45 p.m.	Visit Exhibits and Break	Atrium and Athena Pre-function
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2:45-3:45 p.m.	General Session	Athena Ballroom A-J
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Dr. Allison Timberlake, Deputy Superintendent Assessment & Accountability

Georgia Assessment and Accountability

3:45-4:45 p.m.	GACIS Business Meeting	Athena Ballroom A-J
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Friday, September 27

7:15-8:00 a.m.

Networking Breakfast

8:30-10:00 a.m.

General Session

Grand Hall 6 & 7

Athena Ballrooms A-J

Krista Leh

Every Child, Every Day

In this keynote, educators will understand the components of social-emotional learning (SEL): self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationships skills, and responsible decision-making. After a series of learning activities, attendees will engage in deep dialogue as they analyze the scope and sequence of SEL themes, examine four entry points for SEL integration, and uncover ways in which SEL can be woven into daily practice and curriculum. Specific attention will focus on critical factors related to developing and sustaining a comprehensive SEL system. Then, participants will analyze their organization's strengths and areas of growth and begin to create a plan of action to transform every educational space into a social, emotional, and academic learning community where students can thrive.

10:00- 10:30 a.m.

Visit Exhibits and Break

Atrium and Athena Pre-function

10:30-11:30 a.m.

Best Practices Breakout Session II

11:30

Conference concludes

BEST PRACTICES BREAKOUT SESSIONS

Design, Teach, Assess, Reflect

Presenters: Travis Nesmith, Executive Director of Curriculum and Technology; Wendy Porter, Curriculum Director Grades 6-12; Dr. Melodie Fulcher, Assistant Curriculum Coordinator Grades K-5 & K-12 Gifted; and Jessica Javo, Assistant Principal/Instructional Supervisor, South Effingham Elementary School, Effingham County Schools

Effingham County Schools took bold steps to create an Instructional Framework that defines the values and practices for instruction for all students by all teachers. During the first year of implementation of the Instructional Framework, the school system discovered four focus priorities: Data Analysis, Professional Learning Communities, Social and Emotional Learning, and High-Impact Strategies. This presentation will walk you through the journey Effingham County has already begun and the anticipated steps yet to be taken.

Empowering Administrators and Teachers to control their One-to-One Initiative

Presenter: Dr. LaShonda Flanders, Curriculum Director, Tift County Schools

Come hear how Tift County has transformed the traditional instructional environment with their One-to-One Chromebook Student Initiative. While empowering our students to take charge of their own learning, administrators and teachers have control of this one-to-one initiative. Our Chief Technology Officer will share how software extensions allow the district to content filter devices both on and off the district's network. Teachers will share how the one-to-one initiative

has been a “game changer” in the learning environment. We will offer suggestions how other districts may start the process of implementing a One-to-One Student Initiative.

Enhancing Professional Development with Collaborative Conversations

Presenters: Dr. Amy Fouse, English Language Arts Coordinator (6-12), Houston County School and Beth Herod, Director of Curriculum, Gordon County Schools

Educators are constantly trying to find new ways to engage collaboratively and to remain current with professional development resources. Dr. Amy Fouse, Houston County Schools and Beth Herod, Gordon County Schools, will share innovative ways to collaborate while sharing valuable resources available for teachers of English Language Arts in Georgia. Attendees will be given the opportunity to share innovative practices from their district as well as learn how local school districts and organizations are providing professional learning with fun and engaging protocols and methods.

FAST LANE (Focus on Accelerating Student Learning And preparing for Next year)

Presenter: Celeste Cannon, Director of Secondary Education and CTAE and Shannon Hammond, Director of Federal Programs; and John Lamb, Instructional Coach, Walton County Schools

The Walton County School District replaced “traditional summer school” for high school students with a new acceleration-based model for credit recovery based on the work of Suzy Pepper Rollins (*Learning in the Fast Lane*). The primary goal of the program was to stop the cycle of failure and reignite excitement about learning in students who have come to dislike school. Come hear how we funded the program, how we selected teachers and planned instruction for the program, and our results.

Leaning Is A Process Not an Event

Presenter: Dr. Marianne Cole, Assistant Superintendent, Heard County Schools (GACIS District 13)

The Heard County School System has been on a 10-year journey of improvement focused on improving instruction in the classroom as the primary goal. They started with implementation of a clear instructional process at one school which is now expected to be utilized in all schools and classrooms throughout the system. Over time many lessons have been learned including the need to stay committed to the process and the importance of expecting fidelity of implementation. The latest step in this journey has focused on supporting the development of the principal as the true instructional leader in the school. In this session, you will learn about one system’s improvement journey and the resulting transformation of all the schools in the system.

Making Literacy More Visible and Valued in Your Community

Presenter: Dr. Ronda Hightower, Associate Superintendent of Teaching and Learning, Laurens County Schools

The hard-working, dedicated teachers and staff in Georgia public school systems are realizing more and more the long-term consequences for our students who are not reading proficiently by the end of 3rd grade. This clarion call has many asking, “What else can we do?” More and more school systems are also realizing “*It takes more than good schools, more than great teachers,*

and more than loving parents.” (Get Georgia Reading) This presentation of many different practical efforts, ideas, initiatives, and opportunities is sure to encourage and ignite a passion to begin making improving literacy a community experience. No matter the size of the community, this presentation will have something for everyone who desires to begin the journey of “Making Literacy More Visible and Valued in Your Community.”

Moon Shot Thinking: Designing Professional Learning to Change Classroom Practice

Presenters: Gina Burns, Karen Ogline, Daphne Rogers: Forsyth County Elementary Literacy Task Force, Jill Short and Jordann Aler: Forsyth County Secondary Literacy Task Force

When teachers engage in powerful professional learning opportunities, student achievement improves. However, many teachers feel that their professional learning experiences fall short of expectations and rarely lead to sustainable improvement in their classrooms. Join the Forsyth County Literacy Team as they share a literacy project that rethinks professional learning as we know it. The FCS literacy initiative incorporates the leading strategies that make professional learning effective: establishing a shared vision, using data to improve, aligning resources to the vision, developing leadership, and managing change. Literacy team members will walk you through the phases of their literacy journey and examine how leaders from across the district have successfully reorganized resources to create the type of effective, job-embedded professional learning that leads to true school improvement

MTSS – Providing Time for All Students to Thrive

Presenter: Scott Weinand, Director of Elementary Student Learning; Steven Cummings, Director of Assessment and Student Learning Support Services; and Cindy Canaday, MTSS and 504 Coordinator, Columbia County Schools

The key to success for reading improvement lies in the ability to provide not only the right prescription for each student, but also the time needed for successful implementation. In Columbia County, we had to re-think how we were scheduling reading instruction for all learners in our elementary and middle schools. Providing alternative core instruction for our most fragile students required outside the box thinking. Teacher efficacy played a huge role in the program. Providing teachers with training, coaching and support was critical to the implementation. The combination of these efforts allowed us to see incredible reading growth for all of our students in just our first year of implementation. The presentation will provide participants with the instructional pathways and schedule of implementation we used to implement our program.

On a Journey to Make Data is Personal and Pivotal

Presenters: Dr. Deirdre Daughtry and Candace Stewart, Literacy Coaches; Connie Mitchell, Math Coach; Brook Paige, Instructional Technology; and Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning - Dr. April Aldridge, Decatur County Schools

Data can be a powerful tool for building a school and district culture that focuses on what matters most: Student Growth. This interactive session will share one Southwest Georgia district's journey in developing a comprehensive approach to the collection, analysis and utilization of formative and summative data to drive instructional improvement and overall

strategic planning. From paper and pencil documentation to the development of a comprehensive digital approach, it has been a collaborative journey as we have worked to ensure that data is personal and pivotal. Join us as we share our story of mishaps and successes that have allowed us to more fully embrace the role of data in a way that works for students, teachers and instructional leaders.