

# Connect



...with each other ...with our schools ...and with our vision!

## Making School-Home Connections: Working Together to Improve Schools

It's a fact... the more that families know about their child's school, the school's improvement plans, and school system initiatives to support student achievement, the more confidence they have in their school and the more supportive they are. For almost two decades, Gwinnett County Public Schools (GCPS) has remained constant in its strategic direction, pursuing a vision of becoming a system of world-class schools and a mission of pursuing excellence for each student. Great strides have been made over the years, but there is still much to do... and we can't do it alone! This school year is a pivotal one in the district's quest to become a system of world-class schools. Four very important strategic initiatives that are essential to improving student achievement all come together this year. These initiatives are:

- **Gwinnett Teacher Effectiveness System (GTES):** Great teachers inspire great learning. So the work we are doing to improve instruction will have a direct impact on students and on improved student achievement. It is important for parents to understand the district's commitment to hire and develop great teachers.
- **AKS:** GCPS' AKS curriculum, which is aligned with the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards, provides a consistent, clear understanding of what students are expected to learn and be able to do. The AKS reflect the knowledge and skills that our young people need for success in college and careers. You can review the AKS online.
- **eCLASS:** As a parent you may be familiar with the Parent Portal and the Student Portal... but there is much more to eCLASS and the work being done to transform teaching and learning. Ask your school about eCLASS.
- **Leadership Development:** Gwinnett leaders are passionate about their schools, public education, and the positive effect schools can have on students' lives. Our GCPS leaders are committed to working with parents and their school communities.

All four of these district initiatives are fundamental components of the one "main thing" — our core business of teaching and learning.



### Gwinnett County Public Schools' Strategic Priority for Parents

As partners with the school, parents/guardians of Gwinnett students will support their children's education. They will be engaged with their children and teachers to optimize teaching and learning at school and in the home. They will reinforce high expectations for learning and behavior and will share accountability for their children's success at school. Families will encourage personal responsibility, regular attendance, and a strong work ethic. They will routinely communicate with teachers and the school, sharing information, concerns, and ideas. Parents and guardians will be well-informed about their school's direction and initiatives, as well as those of the district. As a result, they will exhibit high levels of support for their schools and confidence in Gwinnett County Public Schools as a school system of choice.

#### Conversation Starter for Parents...

What does it mean to be  
an involved parent?