



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

March 16, 2018
Cobb Galleria Centre
Disproportionality Forum

Our Mission: To increase the awareness of equity gaps and improve the effectiveness of educational leaders to foster positive outcomes for all students.

Learning Targets:

Participants will be able to:

- 1. State how disproportionality impacts student outcomes.**
- 2. Identify evidence-based promising practices that reduce disproportionality.**
- 3. Identify how to use the continuous school improvement process, through an equity lens, to close achievement gaps for targeted students.**

Local Educational Agencies (LEAs) from across Georgia who have been implementing programs and strategies to reduce disproportionality will be presenting their journeys on reducing or eliminating disproportionality. The IDEA Data Center - IDC will provide technical assistance, specifically focused on "Addressing Success Gaps". The Georgia Department of Education, Division of Special Education Services and Supports program specialists will also be presenting sessions on how to decrease disproportionality. The LEA teams in attendance will have the opportunity to participate in interactive breakout sessions that will assist them in identifying strategies that impact their LEAs and/or schools. Educators will reflect on the current climate around discipline, referral to special education, identification, placement, and achievement.

Ben Hill County School District

Title: Disproportionality: One System's Journey to Improvement

Description:

Ben Hill County School System will take participants on a walk through their journey to address disproportionality. Through a collaborative approach which involved the entire school system, the district is experiencing improvements in disproportionality rates and student growth. The presenters will provide an overview of research based practices that have been implemented as well as discuss the important role that professional learning communities, sound RTI processes, scheduling and individual student portfolios have played on this journey to improvement.

Dr. Shawn Haralson, Superintendent

Wanda Kimbrell, Ex. Director of Student Services

Susan Henry, Ben Hill Primary Instructional Coach

Haley Luckie, Ben Hill Elementary CEIS Coordinator

Dee Ann Cook, Fitzgerald High School Instructional Coach

Sonya Sutton, System Wide CEIS Behavior Specialist



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Catoosa County Public Schools

Title: Taking the "OH NO!" Out of Dispro

Description:

In the wake of special education disproportionality, the Catoosa team worked to evaluate and align interventions and existing resources available in the district. Our goal was clear. We needed to implement a district-wide instructional model that provides:

- the consistency and flexibility teachers need to plan and lead effective, personalized literacy instruction for all students
- visibility into student achievement that leaders need to support and monitor teaching and learning district-wide.

Kim Nichols, Assistant Superintendent
Becky Conner, Special Education Director
Gina Haynes, Elementary School Improvement Specialist
Shalanda Mohan, CEIS Coordinator and Lead School Psychologist

Glynn County School System

Title: A District's TEAM Approach to Address Disproportionality in Discipline

Description:

In Glynn County, we received a disproportionate determination in discipline and needed to develop CEIS and Corrective Action Plans. The plans involved implementation of the "Why Try" program to teach resilience, but also included exploring "real" alternatives to OSS/ISS. We also knew we needed to educate our school administrators on the difference between subjective and objective discipline referrals, so they could educate their staff to improve classroom management and improve the appropriateness of discipline referrals. We collected a mountain of data during the 16-17 school year in the areas of perception, attendance, behavior and academics. The results for 180 student participants was amazing!

Dr. Pam McKinnon, Director of Special Education
Dr. Leslie Forcina, Assistant Principal, Needwood Middle School
Mr. Calvin Bone, CEIS Behavior Specialist



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IDEA Data Center – IDC

Title: Identifying Root Causes of Disproportionality: Aligning and Using Data from Multiple Sources to Dig Deep

Description:

This session will introduce participants to the Success Gaps Toolkit containing materials and resources that LEAs or schools can use to identify root causes of disproportionality. These tools will help teams dig deeper into a variety of data sources including the Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CNA) and determining improvement strategies (i.e., District Improvement Plan or School Improvement Plan). These strategies will assist LEAs to develop a plan that will address equity gaps in student achievement.

Nancy O'Hara
Laura Snyder

Georgia Department of Education

Title: Addressing Disproportionality: Strategies for Making Appropriate Identification and Placement Decisions

Description:

This session will help participants gain knowledge of best practices around identification of students with disabilities and the Least Restrictive Environment (LRE) requirements in IDEA. Participants will be provided information on how Student Support Teams or eligibility teams can implement effective practices that reduce inappropriate identification of students as having disabilities. This session will also cover how the IEP team can make compliant and informed placement decisions for students with disabilities.

Dr. Jasolyn Henderson
Dr. Susan Brozovic
Dr. Lakshmi Sankar

Title: Decreasing Disproportionality in Discipline: Promising Practices Leading to Positive Change

Description:

This session will focus on ways to reduce unnecessary disciplinary actions and promote a climate of greater productivity, safety and learning for the whole child. School discipline refers to rules, policies and practices that support students at the classroom and school levels. There is growing evidence that positive learning environments impact academic achievement and child development. Positive approaches to school discipline are more effective alternatives to corporal punishment and exclusionary practices (e.g., in/out of school suspension).

Monica Henderson
Debi Keane



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 Disproportionality Forum and Technical Assistance

8:00 – 8:30 am	Registration and Continental Breakfast		
8:30 – 9:00 am	Overview - Dr. Zephine Smith-Dixon --- Logistics - Monica Henderson - Ballroom CD		
	<u>Room 103</u>	<u>Room 104</u>	<u>Room 105</u>
9:00 – 10:00 am	Glynn County School System <i>A District's Team Approach: Addressing Disproportionality in Discipline/Placement</i>	Catoosa County Public Schools <i>Taking the "OH NO!" Out of Dispro</i>	Ben Hill County School District <i>Disproportionality: Our System's Journey to Improvement</i>
10:00 – 10:10 am	Break		
10:10 - 11:00 am	GaDOE- <i>Decreasing Disproportionality in Discipline</i>	GaDOE- <i>Addressing Disproportionality: Strategies for Making Appropriate ID and Placement</i>	IDC- <i>Nancy O'Hara and Laura Snyder Identifying Root Causes of Disproportionality</i>
11:00 – 11:10 am	Break		
11:10 - 12:10 pm	Glynn County School System <i>A District's Team Approach: Addressing Disproportionality in Discipline/Placement</i>	Catoosa County Public Schools <i>Taking the "OH NO!" Out of Dispro</i>	Ben Hill County School District <i>Disproportionality: Our System's Journey to Improvement</i>
12:10 – 1:00 pm	Lunch - Ballroom F		
1:00 - 2:00 pm	Glynn County School System <i>A District's Team Approach: Addressing Disproportionality in Discipline/Placement</i>	Catoosa County Public Schools <i>Taking the "OH NO!" Out of Dispro</i>	Ben Hill County School District <i>Disproportionality: Our System's Journey to Improvement</i>
2:00 – 2:10 pm	Break		
2:10 – 3:00 pm	GaDOE- <i>Decreasing Disproportionality in Discipline</i>	GaDOE - <i>Addressing Disproportionality: Strategies for Making Appropriate ID and Placement</i>	IDC- <i>Nancy O'Hara and Laura Snyder Identifying Root Causes of Disproportionality</i>