



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

GNETS Priority Facilities Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) Document

- Q. Is there any negotiable room on a timeline for moving out of the facility?
- A. The State Board of Education considers this as an extremely urgent matter and wants all students to be transitioned out of these sites before the beginning of the school year. The State Board and the Georgia Department of Education fully understand that transitioning these students at this time will be challenging. We are directing staff to assist you and provide guidance throughout this process so that we may provide the best educational opportunity for all students in a safe and positive environment.
- Q. Teachers start pre-planning in a week. It is highly unlikely that a facility will be available by this time. Are the teachers allowed to start their pre-planning in the present facility while we work on a plan?
- A. Yes, teachers are allowed to begin pre-planning in the present facility while you work on a plan to transition students. GaDOE's Regional facilities representatives are available to help you assess other options. The regional facilities contact information can be found in the link below:
<http://www.gadoe.org/Finance-and-Business-Operations/Facilities-Services/Documents/Facilities%20Services%20Directory%20-%20Feb%202016.pdf>
- Q. Can funds be set aside for facilities upgrades?
- A. Part of GaDOE's evaluation of the facilities included the financial feasibility of renovations to bring facilities up to code. The findings did not support using funds to address the numerous issues at these sites.
- Q. Is there a list of the nine sites available?
- A. The list is included below:
- | GNETS Facility | Location |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| Burwell | Carrollton City |
| Cedarwood | Appling and Toombs County |
| Coastal Academy | Glynn County |
| Horizon Academy | Tift County |
| Oak Tree | Dougherty County |
| Oconee | Baldwin County |
| Sand Hills | McDuffie County |
| Woodall | Muscookee County |

Q. School starts soon, if we make some immediate improvements to the facility, could we have more time to make the transition? Even a month or two would help since we will have to look for a facility in another system. Any facility that is available will need some attention before we move kids and teachers.

A. We anticipated that you may need time to make this transition happen. Our staff has reviewed your local facilities plans to determine space that may be available for you to transition students for GNETS services. We are fully committed to supporting you through this transition.

Q. Will the GNETS grant allocations be reduced for the 2016-2017 school year because some facilities are closing?

A. No, grant allocations for this school year will not be reduced. We would expect that GNETS to work with their fiscal agents to reassess budgets and reallocate resources.

Q. Is there any documentation to support how these sites were identified?

A. Yes. Within the next week, a letter from the State Board of Education Chair along with documentation will be mailed to the local board chair in the district where the facility is located.

Q. Where does LRE come to play when an executive decision was made to close these facilities?

A. Today's meeting was only related to the facilities where students were receiving GNETS instructional and therapeutic supports. In order to address LRE, the following steps were shared.

- Collaborate with key stakeholders mentioned in the webinar (GNETs, RESAs, Fiscal Agents and GaDOE regional facilities staff).
- Review IEPs for the impacted students to determine the delivery of related services in the least restrictive environment.
 - When appropriate schedule IEP team meetings to update student's IEPs to support this transition.

Q. Who do we contact if we have additional questions?

A. Please contact Nakeba Rahming, GNETS Director at Nrahming@doe.k12.ga.us or by phone at 404-640-6536.