

# **GraduateFIRST: *Yesterday, Today, and Beyond***

Consortia Webinar

September 9, 2015



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
*"Educating Georgia's Future"*  
[ga DOE.org](http://ga DOE.org)

# GraduateFIRST

- Nationally recognized initiative
- Funded by GA's State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)
- Grant from Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP)



Office of Special Education Programs  
U.S. Department of Education

# Yesterday

Georgia Department of Education



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga DOE.org](http://ga DOE.org)

# GraduateFIRST

- GraduateFIRST focused on building the capacity of **schools**.
- For the last 3 years, GraduateFIRST **supported 72 -130** elementary, middle, and high schools.
- In 2014 -2015 school year, GraduateFIRST schools supported **3171 students**.
- GraduateFIRST schools identified a target group of students and focused on attendance, behavior, and course performance **(ABCs) to improve graduation** for struggling students.
- GraduateFIRST schools also worked at **building strong relationships** with students, families, and communities.

Georgia Department of Education

# Results Driven Accountability Shifting the Balance



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
*"Educating Georgia's Future"*  
[ga.gov](http://ga.gov)  
[ga DOE.org](http://ga DOE.org)

OSEP has revised its accountability system to shift the balance from a system focused primarily on compliance to one that puts more emphasis on results.





Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga.gov](http://ga.gov)  
[gaedoe.org](http://gaedoe.org)

# State Systemic Improvement Plan

2014-2015

SSIP submitted April 2015

- 1) Data Analysis
- 2) Analysis of State Infrastructure to Support Improvement and Build Capacity
- 3) State-identified Measureable Result(s) (SIMR) for Children with Disabilities
- 4) Selection of Coherent Improvement Strategies;  
and
- 5) Theory of Action



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga DOE.org](http://ga DOE.org)

# Georgia's Coherent Intervention

- Georgia has committed to selecting Coherent Improvement Strategies that are **process-oriented**.
- **Data and infrastructure analyses** support a need for systems change.
- **Supporting leaders** to engage the right stakeholders and solve their own problems will yield positive outcomes.
- ***Data analysis, authentic stakeholder engagement and systemic problem solving process will be implemented with fidelity and yield success on every level.***

Georgia Department of Education

# Barriers Identified

## Access to the General Curriculum for All Students

- Effective Instruction with Universal Design for Learning (UDL)
- Interventions and Supports
- **Access to Positive School Climate for All Students**
  - Learning environments that nurture the whole child
- **Access to Specially Designed Instruction for Students with Disabilities**
  - Appropriate services and supports



# Implementation Science: Exploration Stage



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga.gov](http://ga.gov)  
[gaedoe.org](http://gaedoe.org)

The result of the Exploration Stage is a clear implementation plan with tasks and time lines to facilitate the installation and initial implementation of the program.

## Exploration Stage include:

- ✓ Identify Needs and Options- Statewide data analysis/ infrastructure analysis
- ✓ Create Readiness- professional learning
- ✓ Identify Usable Intervention-coherent strategy
- ✓ Develop Team Structures
- ✓ Develop Communication Plan



# Lessons Learned

- Build capacity of districts to support schools.
- Develop better protocols for data reporting.
- Promote communication across all levels and with all stakeholders.
- Allow flexibility with professional learning and meetings.
- Continue the regional networking with other schools and districts.

# Today

Georgia Department of Education



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga.gov](http://ga.gov)  
[gaedoe.org](http://gaedoe.org)

# Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities

- GA's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) is *Student Success: Imagine the Possibilities*.
- Focuses on building the capacity of **districts** to implement evidence-based practices that benefit students to improve student outcomes including graduation rates.
- Includes the GraduateFIRST framework for work with schools.
- Provides both universal and intensive support for districts.

# Implementation Science: Installation Stage



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[gaDOE.org](http://gaDOE.org)

A new practice or innovation requires the completion of tasks that need to be accomplished before the change in practice actually begins.

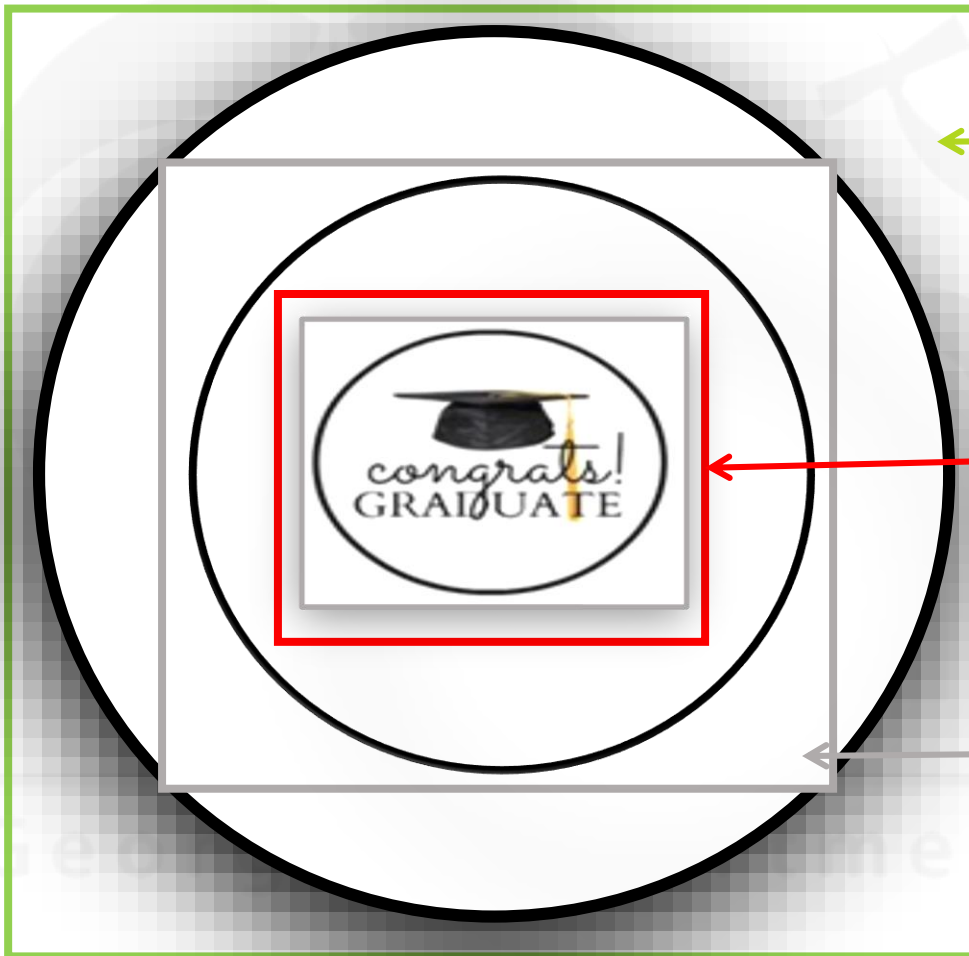
- **Key functions at SEA, Region and LEA include:**
  - Develop Training Plan
  - Train First Cohort of Staff
  - Develop Coaching Plan
  - Establish Readiness of Data Systems
  - Establish Communication Protocols



# Differentiated and Embedded Technical Assistance (TA) Model



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga.gov](http://ga.gov)  
[gaDOE.org](http://gaDOE.org)



Universal TA  
and Capacity  
Efforts for ALL  
Districts

Intensive TA  
and Capacity  
Efforts for 50  
Districts

Fluid  
Alignment of  
PL for  
Districts



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[ga.gov](http://ga.gov)  
[ga DOE.org](http://ga DOE.org)

# Support for GraduateFIRST Schools

## Professional Development

- Web-based Consortia
- 2 Regional Team Leader Meetings (Fall/Spring)

## Data Collection & Reporting

- Student Level ABC Data from Student Record
- Fall/Spring Implementation Scales
- Professional Development Surveys

Georgia Department of Education



Richard Woods,  
Georgia's School Superintendent  
"Educating Georgia's Future"  
[gadoe.org](http://gadoe.org)

# Student Success Resources

## Student Success Webpage

<http://www.gadoe.org/Curriculum-Instruction-and-Assessment/Special-Education-Services/Pages/SSIP-.aspx>

## The Georgia Story Video Student Success Webpage

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xhAT2M8KtTQ&feature=youtu.be>

## Student Success Video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rdA8EfCJSCc&feature=youtu.be>



# **NEXT STEP**



All of GA's districts and schools are part of  
***Student Success:***  
***Imagine the Possibilities.***

Georgia Department of Education