

GraduateFIRST: The Dropout Prevention Destination

Laura C. Brown, Ph.D.
North GLRS Director

Effective Implementation: Lessons Learned



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Georgia's State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG)
helping students with disabilities stay in school and graduate



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GraduateFIRST Goals

helping Georgia's students with disabilities stay in school and graduate

- **Increase graduation rate for students with disabilities who receive a general education diploma**
- **Decrease the dropout rate for students with disabilities**



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Scaling Up GraduateFIRST

Cohort I

- 34 High Schools & the Feeder Middle Schools

Cohort II

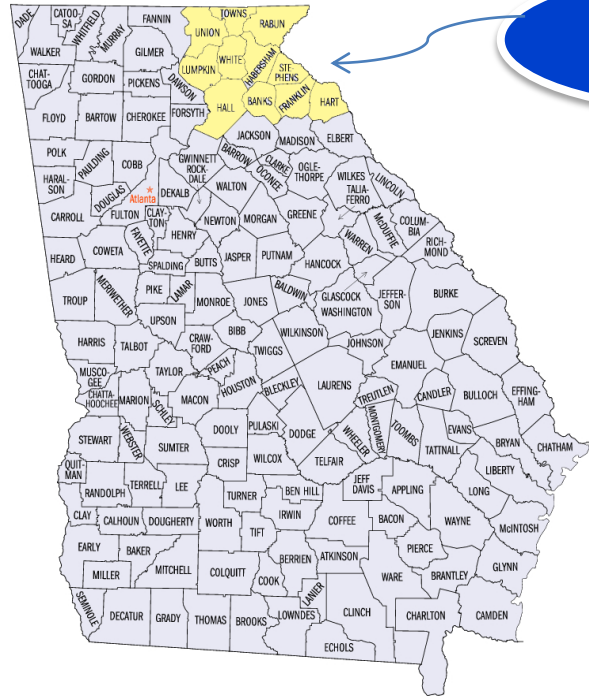
- 80 High Schools and Middle Schools
- Collaboration Coaches work with Team Leaders at each school

Cohort III

- 60 High Schools and Middle Schools
- Collaboration Coaches work with Team Leaders at each school

200 participants attended the 2011 GraduateFIRST Institute

Intervention Sites



Georgia's
Pilot



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Intervention Sites



Year 1



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Year 3



7

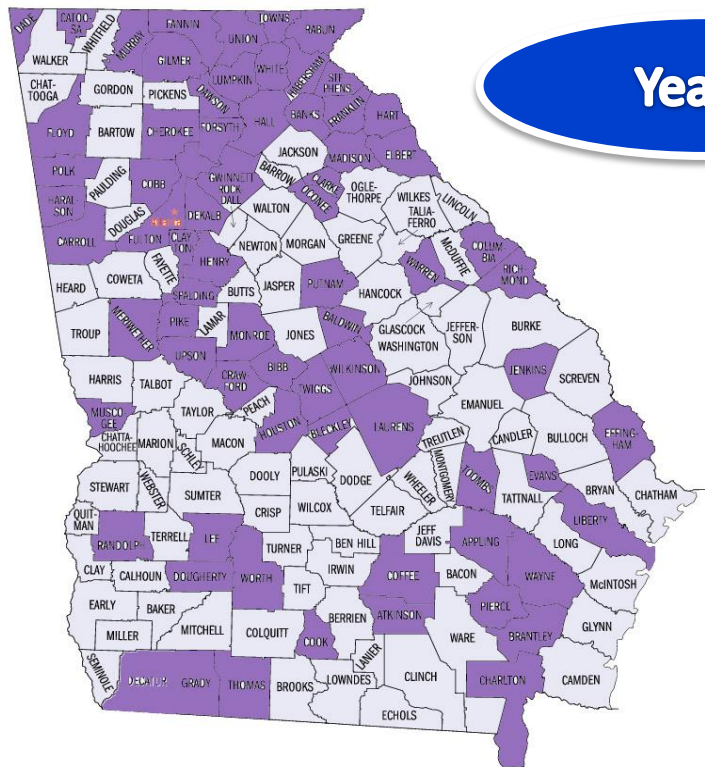
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Year 5

Today 145 schools across Georgia...



are participating in GraduateFIRST and over 4000 targeted students are being monitored.



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NDPC-SD DROPOUT PREVENTION

Intervention Framework



Align State and Local Resources

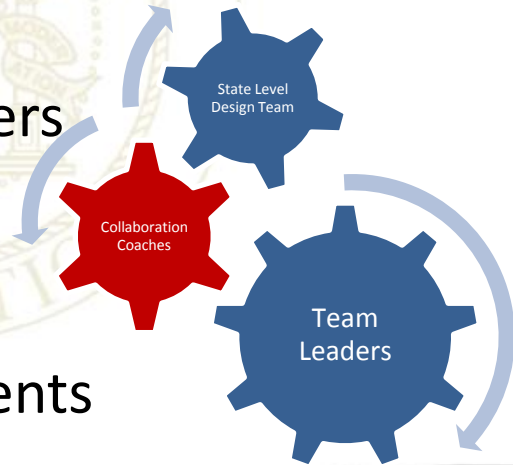
- Strong Leaders
- Committed Schools
- Graduation Coaches
- GLRS Network
- Parent Mentor Partnership
- SPDG Funding
- Collaboration Coaches



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Provide Levels of Support

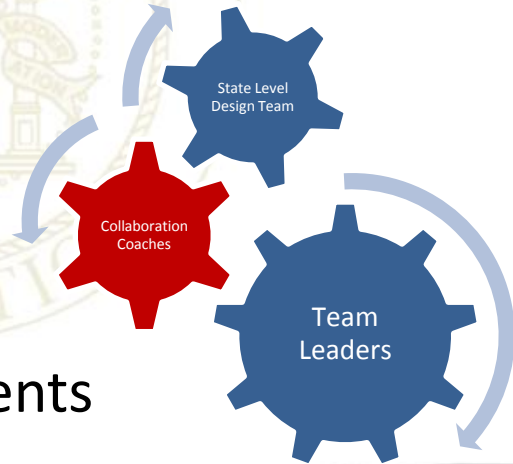
- State Design Team
- Regional Support Network (GLRS)
- Collaboration Coaches
- School-Based Team Leaders
- Administrators
- School Teams
- Engaged Families & Students



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Provide Levels of Support

- State Design Team
- Regional Support Network (GLRS)
- **Collaboration Coaches**
- Team Leaders
- Administrators
- School Teams
- Engaged Families & Students



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Coaching the Process



Regional Collaboration Coaches

Work with School-Based Team Leaders to help students with disabilities and their families navigate the maze of resources available ensuring access to the resources and support at the school and in the community



School Commitments

- Participate in GraduateFIRST Institute
- Support School-Based Team & Team Leader
- Participate in the professional learning communities
- Select at least one focus area
- Develop and implement Action Plan
- Collect and submit grading interval data & data summaries



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Focus on Student Engagement

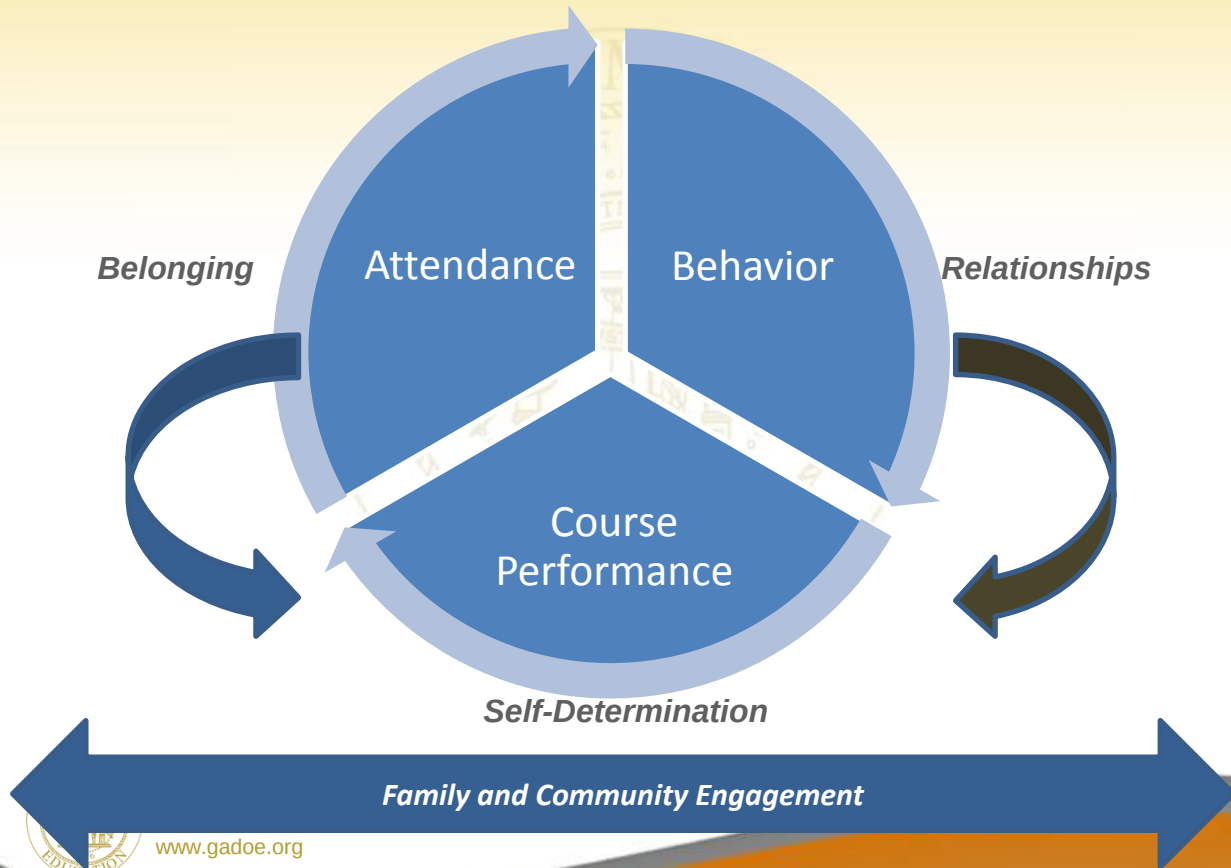
- Academic Engagement
- Behavioral Engagement
- Cognitive Engagement
- Affective Engagement
- Family & Community Engagement



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Sandra Christianson
Check and Connect

GraduateFIRST



Contextual Fit

- Based on analyzed data, schools prioritize areas need
- Schools select a targeted group of students
- Select research-based interventions based on contextual fit
- Develop Action Plan
- Monitor & celebrate Results



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Coach,
Coach,
Coach

NDPC-SD Framework

Identify Targeted
Students &
Levels of
Support

Refine,
Refine,
Refine



Data Probe &
Guiding ?s

Gather Data,
Review, Share,
Celebrate



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GraduateFIRST | The Dropout Prevention Destination

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HOME FAMILIES STUDENTS **EDUCATORS** COMMUNITIES ORGS

Search

- About
- News
- Events
- Calendar
- Resources

- Academic
- Behavior
- Affective**
- Transition
- Attendance
- Family Engagement

EDUCATORS

Spotlight on: GraduateFIRST

Georgia's GraduateFIRST program has redefined the state's approach to raising graduation rates for students with disabilities with dramatic results—an increase of 37 percent in four years.

Click on the attachment below to access the Student Performance and Achievement (SPA) Priority Team Spotlight Brief which is intended to provide State Education Agency (SEA) and Local Education Agency (LEA) educators with a brief overview of the key components of graduateFIRST, a Georgia program targeting issues impacting school completion for students with disabilities.

GraduateFIRST: The Dropout Prevention Destination Webinar

Webinar participants will hear how schools have redesigned programs, adopted new practices, and implemented research-based strategies to become highly successful in preventing students with disabilities from dropping out of school.

Click on the attachments to access the Webinar flyer, the presentation powerpoint and accompanying handouts.

Math in the Fast Lane



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Tools and Resources



Fidelity of Implementation

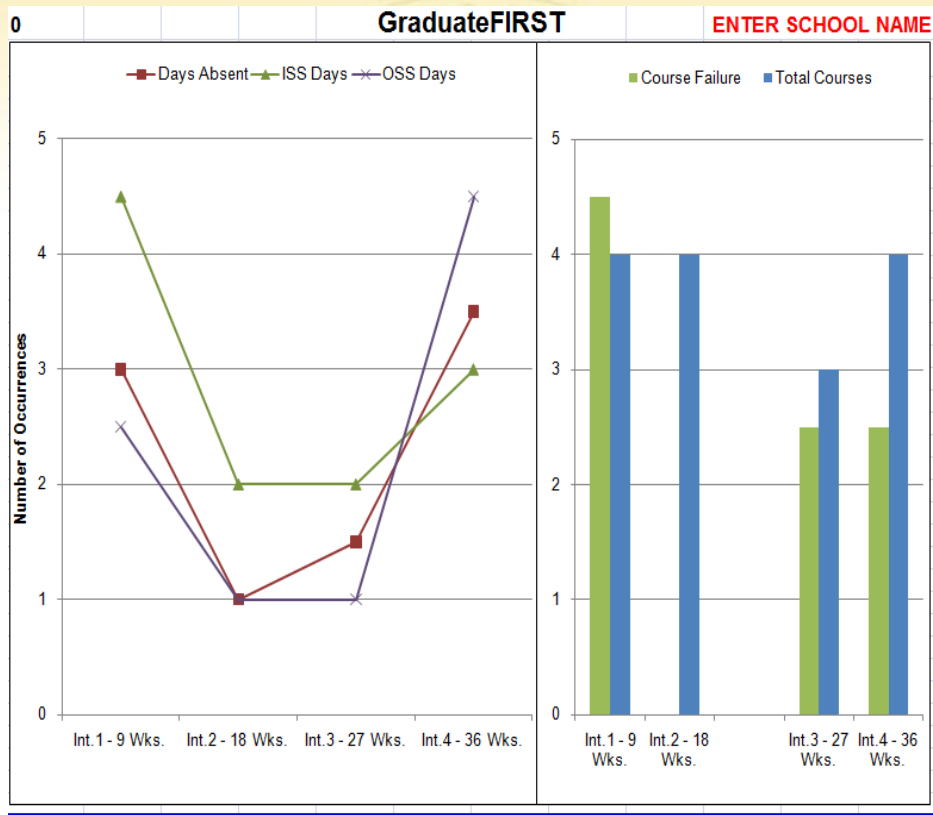
- Implementation Manual
- Data Probe
- Step-by-Step Process
- Professional Learning Communities
- Resources for Evidence-Based strategies
- Video Clips
- Robust Website
- Training with Follow-up

Coaching of the Process



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Assessment Tool Charting



STATE PERSONNEL DEVELOPMENT GRANT GEORGIA



GraduateFIRST

The Dropout Prevention Destination

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News

Who are the GraduateFIRST Partners?

What is the GraduateFIRST Graduation/Dropout Prevention Project?

What is the GraduateFIRST Website?

2010 GraduateFIRST Fall Institute

How Does Elbert County Plan to Improve their Graduation Rate with a "Little Drive"?

more

Events

No Events Scheduled Today.

What is the GraduateFIRST Website?

This website is developed through Georgia's State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG). Materials and resources for families, students, educators, and organizations are focused on helping students with disabilities stay in school and graduate.

What is the GraduateFIRST Graduation/Dropout Prevention Project?

The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE) State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) Graduation/Dropout Prevention Project is a major component of a five-year grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP).

Who are the GraduateFIRST Partners?

The GraduateFIRST project partners include The National Dropout Prevention Center - Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD), The United States Department of Education - Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), The Georgia Learning Resource Systems (GLRS), and other divisions of The Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE).



Video Training Series



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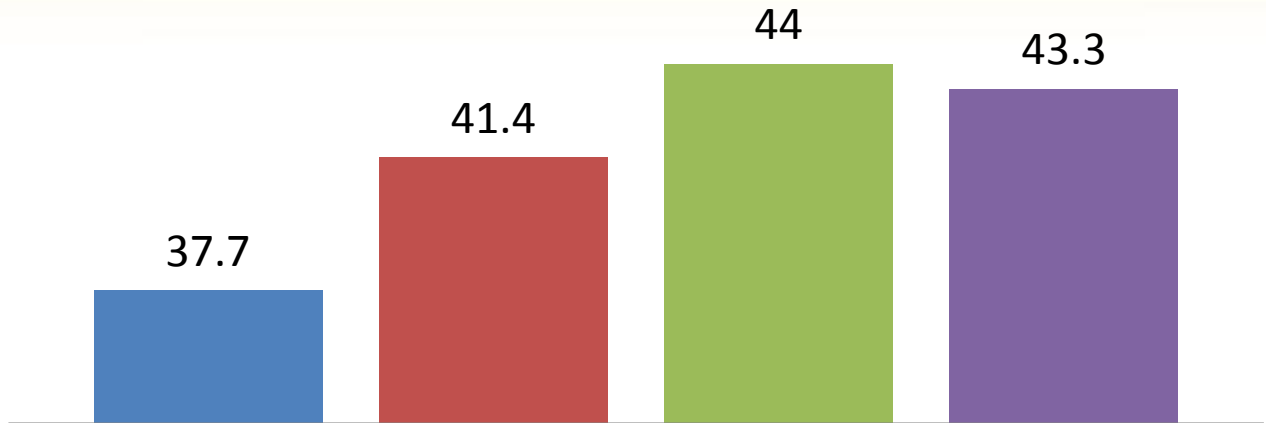
Data Support the Process



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GA's Graduation Rate for Students with Disabilities

■ 2008 ■ 2009 ■ 2010 ■ 2011



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GraduateFIRST Cohort 1

Middle Schools

- R/ELA CRCT % Passing
- Math CRCT % Passing
- # of ISS Full Day Referrals
- # of OSS Referrals

High Schools

- GHSGT Math % Passing
- % Absent 15+ Days
- Graduation - All & SWD
- Dropout Rate – All
- # of OSS Referrals

Differences from baseline that were determined to be Significant



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GraduateFIRST Cohort 2

Middle Schools

- R/ELA CRCT % Passing
- Math CRCT % Passing
- % Absent 15+ Days

High Schools

- GHSGT Math % Passing
- Graduation - All
- Dropout Rate – All
- # of ISS Referrals
- # of OSS Referrals

Differences from baseline that were determined to be Significant



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Celebrate Successes

- Celebrate regionally & collect success stories
- Celebrate with communities
- Highlight during webinars and conferences
- Share through mass media
- State-wide celebrations (*Best Practice Forum*)



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Lessons Learned

- Determine School Readiness
- Build Local Capacity
- Make Coaching Sustainable
- Develop Partnerships
- Be Flexible & Responsive
- Creatively Deploy Resources
- Utilize Technical Assistance Providers



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Next Steps

- **A**lign with Career and College Readiness initiatives
- **B**uild strategic partnerships
- **C**reate supports for students at the middle school
- **S**ecure resources to continue the work



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Dropout Prevention Starts Early



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"Making Education Work for All Georgians"
www.gadoe.org

www.graduatefirst.org

Julia Causey

jcausey@doe.k12.ga.us

Laura Brown

lbrown@pioneerresa.org

Faith Huff

fhuff@pioneerresa.org



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