



## **ASPIRE to Improve Outcomes for Students with Disabilities**

Active Student Participation Inspires Real Engagement (**ASPIRE**) is the student-led IEP initiative project funded by the Georgia State Personnel Development Grant. (SPDG), Georgia Department of Education through a grant from the Office of Special Education Programs, United States Department of Education and is a collaboration with the Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities.

This project focuses on the student:

- Understanding his/her disability and appropriate accommodations
- Developing self advocacy skills and self-confidence
- Identifying strengths and weaknesses

The student participates in his/her own IEP meetings through a variety of means which may include activities such as:

- Inviting participants
- Creating a PowerPoint presentation
- Leading the meeting
- Sharing plans for the future
- Others as appropriate

The benefits of this project include:

- Increased parent involvement
- Increased student ownership and accountability
- Increased educational achievement and decreased discipline issues
- Increased understanding of IEP process by students, parents and teachers

Schools participating in ASPIRE:

- Assure participation by at least 3 teachers /9 students per school
- Select a team leader **and** a parent representative
- Arrange an on-site planning meeting
- Assure participation by administrators and teachers in 4 hour initial training
- Complete pre and post surveys for each student

**For additional information and/or to apply for participation in the 2011-2012 ASPIRE, contact: [elynych@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:elynych@doe.k12.ga.us)**