

ROOTED AND ROBUST: GROWING WITH PURPOSE



Middle Georgia State University, Macon, GA
 Tuesday, September 30 – Wednesday, October 1, 2025
 8:30am-3:00pm



DAY 1

8:30 am – 9:00 am Registration and Networking **Pre- Function**

9:00 am – 9:50 am Morning General Session

Welcome - Bonnie Morris (Walton County) & Anne Ladd (GaDOE) **Room 211**
Greetings from the State - Dr. Charity Roberts (GaDOE)
Keynote - Dr. MaryKay Berry (GCASE)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – ROUND 1 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM

Conversation with State Director (Directors/Designees only) **Room 211**
 Dr. Charity Roberts (GaDOE)

Holding Parents' Hands Through First Steps **Room 237**
 Missy Sullivan (Carrollton City) & Karen Tharpe (Appling County)

From Concern to Support: Helping Families Understand Dyslexia & HB 307 **Math Auditorium**
 Catherine Gossett (GaDOE) - Repeats in Round 2

RWS 2.0: Reimagining the Student Experience & Pathways to Partnerships **Room 212**
 Dennis "Chip" Medders (GVRA), Shannah Mabry (GVRA), Vince Bass (GVRA), Leigh Thrailkill (GVRA),
 Dr. Brandi Pardo (Houston County) - Repeats in Round 3

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – ROUND 2 11:00 AM - 11:50 AM

NOW & COMP Waivers: Eligibility, Application, Services **Room 237**
 Allen Morgan (DBHDD), Sarah Vidal McMurtry (DBHDD) - Repeats in Round 3

From Concern to Support: Helping Families Understand Dyslexia & HB 307 **Math Auditorium**
 Catherine Gossett (GaDOE) - Repeat

Supporting Families of Preschool Children **Room 239**
 Barbara Ross (GaDOE)

Managing PMP Finances & Navigating CFM Indicator 17.5 **Room 211**
 Andrew Britt (GaDOE)

Cultivating Transition with GVRA **Room 212**
 Rebecca Williamson (GVRA) & Elise James (GaDOE) - Repeats Day 2, Round 1

LUNCH 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

General Session **Room 211**
Greetings & Introduction - Shaun Owen, (GaDOE)
Keynote - Superintendent Richard Woods (GaDOE)
Phil Pickens Leadership Award Nomination Announcement - Superintendent Richard Woods (GaDOE),
 Jodie Zeuke (Oglethorpe County)

WHOLE GROUP SESSION 1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Supporting Families with Literacy Strategies & Materials **Math Auditorium**
 Dr. Amy Denty (GaDOE)

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – ROUND 3

2:30 PM - 3:30 PM

RWS 2.0: Reimagining the Student Experience & Partnerships

Dennis "Chip" Medders (GVRA), Shannah Mabry (GVRA), Vince Bass (GVRA), Leigh Thrailkill (GVRA), Dr. Brandi Pardo (Houston County Schools) - Repeat

Room 212

Home Harmony: Partnering with Parents to Manage Behaviors at Home

Tiera Bowen (Putnam County), Crystal Williams (Putnam County), Catreshia Brundage (Putnam County)

Room 237

NOW & COMP Waivers: Eligibility, Application, Services

Allen Morgan (DBHDD), Sarah Vidal McMurtry (DBHDD) - Repeat

Room 211

Rooted in Relationships, Growing Through Collaboration

Jennifer Brown (Monroe County), Christina Holland (Candler County)

Room 239

Rooted in Indicator 8: Harvesting Insights to Grow Engagement (Panel Discussion)

Jane Grillo (White County), Dawn Albanese (Gwinnett County), Doricia Thompson (DJJ), Anne Ladd (GaDOE)

Math Auditorium



DAY 2

8:30 am – 8:45 am Muffins and Networking

Pre- Function

8:45 am – 9:30 am Understanding the GAA 1% Rule

Anne Myer (GaDOE), Mary Nesbit-McBride (GaDOE)

Room 211

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – ROUND 1

9:40 AM - 10:30 AM

Empowering Growth: Toolkit for Purposeful Transition Planning

Dayna Holbel (Emory Autism Center) - Repeats in Round 2

Math Auditorium

School Social Work & SB 123: Partnering for Student Attendance

Lindsey Oliver (GaDOE) - Repeats in Round 2

Room 211

Reporting 101: GaPMP Framework & Toolkit

April Lee (GaDOE) - Repeats in Round 2 and Round 3

Room 239

Cultivating Transition with GVRA

Rebecca Williamson (GVRA) & Elise James (GaDOE)

Room 212

Rooted in Support: The Parent Resource Room

Genevieve Harris (Douglas County), Tosanna Rahim (Henry County), Katherine Rule (Henry County)

Room 237

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – ROUND 2

10:40 AM - 11:30 AM

Georgia's High School Diploma & State-Defined Alternate Diploma

Anne Myer (GaDOE), Elise James (GaDOE)

Room 212

Empowering Growth: Toolkit for Purposeful Transition Planning

Dayna Holbel (Emory Autism Center) - Repeat

Math Auditorium

School Social Work & SB 123: Partnering for Student Attendance

Lindsey Oliver (GaDOE) - Repeat

Room 211

Reporting 101: GaPMP Framework & Toolkit

April Lee (GaDOE) - Repeat

Room 239

Supporting Families of English Learners with Disabilities (Panel Discussion)

Margaret Baker (GaDOE), Antoinette Ricardo (Forsyth County), Yesenia Lopez (Paulding County), Erin Arledge (Whitfield County), Mariella Holmes (Whitfield County)

Room 237

LUNCH

11:40 AM - 12:40 PM

General Session

Visionary Award Presentation - Elise James (GaDOE), Anne Ladd (GaDOE)

Room 211

Keynote - Patti Solomon (GaPMP Founder)

Phil Pickens Leadership Award - Amy Wadley (Barrow County), Missy Sullivan (Carrollton County), PPA Award Committee

CONCURRENT SESSIONS – ROUND 3

12:50 PM - 1:40 PM

Rooted for Resilience: Supported Decision-Making

Dana Lloyd (GA Advocacy Office), Grace Sherman (GAO Youth Ambassador),
Malachi Parker (GAO Youth Ambassador)

Room 212

Reporting 101: GaPMP Framework & Toolkit

April Lee (GaDOE) - Repeat

Room 239

Parent to Parent of GA: Cultivating Collaboration

Anika Johnson (P2P), Melinda Evans McKendrick (P2P)

Room 211

Dispute Prevention & Resolution in Special Education

Jamila Pollard (GaDOE)

Room 237

CLOSING SESSION

1:50 pm - 2:45 pm Keynote: Language as a Missing Link

Dr. Garry McGiboney (Sharecare)

Room 211

2:45 pm - 3:00 pm Closing

GaPMP Leadership Council

Room 211