



Dr. John D. Barge, State School Superintendent
"Making Education Work for All Georgians"

Thank You Letter to Georgia's Parents

By DR. JOHN BARGE
State School Superintendent

November is Parent Engagement Month in Georgia, and schools across the state are highlighting the role parents play in students' education. In addition, November 20th is National Parent Involvement Day, a time for all parents to consider how they can get more involved in the education of their children.

So far, it's been a busy year. We are moving forward on various initiatives that all, at the core, have the same goal: making sure all of Georgia's students have access to a high-quality education that will prepare them for college and 21st-century careers.

These initiatives will not be successful unless you are actively engaged in their implementation. Research is clear on this point: when schools, families, and communities support each other, students of all backgrounds and ability levels achieve at the highest levels. Engaged parents can make the difference between a school that's barely getting by and a school that's thriving.

To assist you in this process, the Georgia Department of Education has launched the *I CAN Play a Role* Campaign for Title I schools and parents, with a goal of inspiring 50,000 parents to pledge greater involvement in their child's education. To participate in the campaign, choose from 15 different *I CAN Play a Role* pledge cards. Select the card that is the best match for you, or choose multiple cards and pledge to get involved in different ways.

To access printable *I CAN Play a Role* pledge cards or additional *Get the facts...get connected...GET INVOLVED!* resources such as brochures, videos, calendars, letters, and tip sheets provided by the GaDOE, please contact our Parent Engagement office at [404-656-2633](tel:404-656-2633) or visit our website at: <http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/Parent-Month.aspx>.

Also, during November, follow us on Twitter (@GaDOEParents) to receive daily strategies to improve family engagement in your school and like us on Facebook (GaDOEParentEngagement) to track the success of the campaign.

On behalf of our schools and school systems, I want to thank all the parents and families who have taken on the demanding job of being engaged in your child's education. Parents, the importance of your support is immeasurable. When we educators hit a bump, help us plow through it. We simply cannot succeed without you.

Dr. John Barge, a parent and a former school administrator, is Georgia's State School Superintendent.

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Showing How Much I Care

My Goal is to listen and talk with my child every day to better understand what they are learning in school.

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

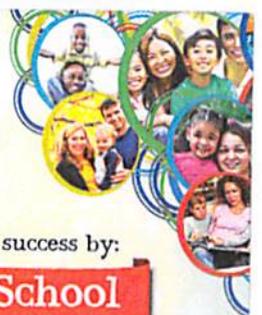
Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Volunteering at School

My Goal is to support my child's school by donating my time at least:

- Once a year
- Once a month
- Four times a year
- Once a week

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

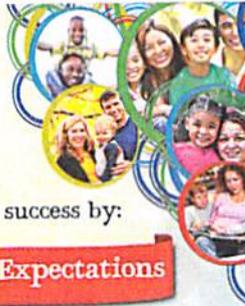
Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Expressing High Educational Expectations

My Goal is to talk with my child about the importance of a high school diploma and check my child's academic progress at least;

- Once a Month
- Once a Week
- Twice a Month
- Every Day

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

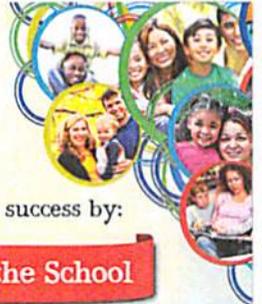
Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Keeping in Touch with the School

My Goal is to get to know school staff who interact with my child. I will reach out to them to see how my child is doing in school and learn ways to help by contacting them.

- Every Semester
- Twice a Month
- Once a Month
- Once a week

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

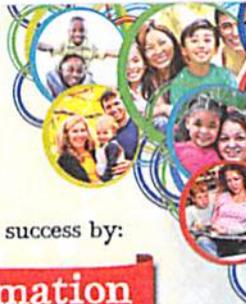
Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Seeking Out Information

My Goal is to sign up to receive announcements, text messages, emails, phone calls or notifications from my child's school on a regular basis.

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

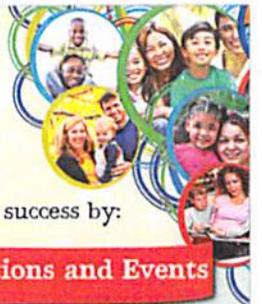
Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Attending School Meetings, Functions and Events

My Goal is to keep a calendar of important dates of school activities and attend at least

- 1 event each year
- 2 events each month
- 4 events each year
- 1 event each month

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Making School Important

My Goal is talk with my child's teachers to learn specific ways that I can help my child academically at home

- Every quarter
- Twice a month
- Once a month
- Once a week

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

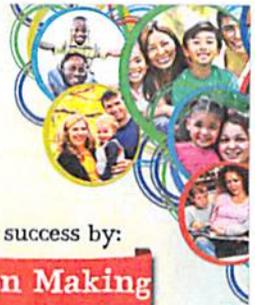
Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Participating in Decision Making

My Goal is attend a parent committee meeting at the school or talk with a committee representative at least;

- Once a month
- Twice a year
- Four times a year
- Once a year

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Being Informed and Responsive

My Goal is to keep a folder of important school information for my child and be responsive to the information that the school sends home each week.

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

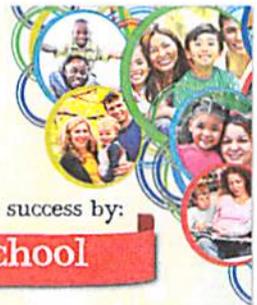
Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Being Seen at School

My Goal is to visit my child's teachers to introduce myself, share any concerns and ask questions. If my child's school has a Parent Resource Center, then I will visit it at least;

- Once a year
- Four times a year
- Twice a Year
- Once a month

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Participating in Workshops

My Goal is to learn new information by attending parent workshops and programs with my child's school. I will attend a parent workshop at least;

- Once a year
- Four times a year
- Twice a year

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

Name:

Date:

Signature:

I Can PLAY A ROLE

IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL



I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Visiting the School's Website

My Goal is to check the website every week for announcements and information from my child's school.

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

Name:

Date:

Signature:



I Can
PLAY A ROLE
IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

I Can Play a Role in my child's success by being available at:

After School or Extracurricular Activities

My Goal is to learn about the different after school programs and extracurricular activities available to help my child's growth and development as well as introduce myself to those staff members.

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

Name: _____
Date: _____ Signature: _____



I Can
PLAY A ROLE
IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Providing a Rich Learning Environment at Home

My Goal is to set aside time every week to review and discuss with my child the work that he/she brings home.

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

Name: _____
Date: _____ Signature: _____



I Can
PLAY A ROLE
IN My CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL

I Can Play a Role in my child's success by:

Inviting the Community to Partner with the School

My Goal is to ask a friend, colleague, or associate to join me at a school event or activity at least;

Twice a month Four times a year
 Once a month Two times a year

Please return this pledge card to your child's school and remember, **You Can** Play a Role!

Name: _____
Date: _____ Signature: _____

Get the facts....

The Title I, Part A Parent Engagement Program at the Georgia Department of Education is leading a statewide initiative to actively engage schools, parents and communities in academic enrichment activities during the month of November, which has been declared as **Parent Engagement Month** by Governor Nathan Deal. A calendar is being offered as a free resource and reminder that parents play a critical role in the lives of children and their education.

Every student in Georgia should have a strong support system that values and encourages educational achievement and there is no one that can support this effort better than *parents*.

All of the information you need is right here to start celebrating Parent Engagement Month with your family.



Get connected...

This calendar has been designed as a tool for parents to **GET INVOLVED** and stay connected in their children's education. Parents are encouraged to utilize this calendar to identify teachable moments at home and when participating in day-to-day activities with their children.

Three specialized calendars have been developed for the parents of elementary, middle and high school students to engage in meaningful conversations and positive interactions with their child(ren) daily. Although each calendar has been created based on school levels, parents are strongly encouraged to assess their child's ability to engage in these activities and check for age-appropriateness. Remember, it's important to **GET CONNECTED** everyday.

GET INVOLVED!

November is Parent Engagement Month in Georgia. It's a time for all parents to consider how they can get more involved in their children's education. Want to know what makes a huge difference in your child's education? You do and so does every parent that gets involved and stays connected.

It doesn't matter where you are, on the scene at school or behind the scenes at home, your participation is a crucial part of your child's success. Show your child that you care by volunteering, making school important and having high expectations for your child.

And when November's over, keep doing those things all year round. Get the facts and be informed, get connected, and above all, **GET INVOLVED!**



NOVEMBER 2014

Elementary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Help your child write 1 a poem describing all the best things about autumn.
Teach your child to be responsible by seeking ways to volunteer in the community. 2	Help your child make a list of things they want to accomplish in the future, such as go to college or go to space. 3	Teach your child about fruits and vegetables by visiting the grocery store or farmer's market. 4	Teach your child how to recycle and explain all the wonderful benefits of recycling. 5	Write a story, do a math problem, or draw a picture with sidewalk chalk. 6	Take your child to a pumpkin patch and see who can find the biggest one. 7	Make plans to participate in an upcoming community or school event with your child. 8
Collect fall leaves in various sizes, shapes, and colors. Discuss the differences and similarities. 9	Visit and learn about places in your neighborhood (fire station, police station, post office, etc.). 10	Help your child interview an older relative about what life was like when they were young. 11	Teach your child about your job and take them to work if possible. 12	Show your child their baby photos and tell them a funny baby story. 13	Make a bird house out of popsicle sticks. Apply math and science skills by determining accurate dimensions. 14	Work with your child to develop a solid homework and study routine. 15
Visit a zoo or aquarium to learn about animals. Don't have one nearby? Explore the creatures in the great outdoors. 16	Discover different species of birds by going to a local park and birdwatching. 17	Count to 500 by 5's, 10's, and 20's starting at an unexpected number such as 23. 18	Have a board game night and play Scrabble or Monopoly. 19	Go to the library with your child and check out a book. 20	Make a kite together and then fly it in a park. 21	Engage in a word scramble challenge: INCE NATH CHPEA LXO TUME NAPL LACL KECHC 22
Ask your child to solve math problems mentally and explain their strategy to you. 23	Create a family book club. 24	Ask them how they would run the country if they were president. 25	See how many sub-words you can create out of EDUCATION. 26	Teach your child to say 'please' and 'thank you' in as many different languages as possible! 27	Draw a map to scale and have a treasure hunt. 28	Prompt your child to write the following decimals into words: 3.75, 0.324, 45.81. 29
Use your imaginations to paint pictures of places that you want to visit. 30						

NOVEMBER 2014

Middle School

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						Help your child with 1 a school project.
Prompt your child 2 to simplify the following: $89 + 34.1$, $47 + 4-3$, $31 - 4 + 99$, $40 - 1.2$	Show your child 3 where your ancestors are from and share fun family facts.	Teach your child 4 about city government by visiting your local city or town hall.	Discover different 5 plants and animals by exploring your neighborhood.	Practice your 6 origami skills and make objects to decorate your child's room.	Teach your child 7 about botany by planting a garden of herbs and veggies.	Learn about a 8 different culture by making a recipe from a different country.
Ask them what the 9 difference is between mean, median, and mode.	Help you child 10 write and film a news story about something that is happening in the neighborhood.	Do a random act 11 of kindness for a stranger.	Make a time 12 capsule and bury it in your backyard.	Help your child 13 convert the following decimals to fractions: .25, 1.5, .10, 2.75.	Teach your child 14 compassion by volunteering at an animal shelter.	Complete a jigsaw 15 puzzle together.
Have them invite 16 their friends over for a spelling bee.	Talk with your child 17 about school for at least 30 minutes with no interruptions.	Find something 18 new that you can teach your child today.	Donate 19 non-perishable food items from different states to a local food bank.	Stage an A to Z 20 scavenger hunt, where you have to find something that starts with every letter.	Use the distributive 21 property to solve $9 \times (62 + 4)$.	Help your child 22 write a family newsletter capturing the fun times from November.
Learn about 23 astronomy by identifying as many constellations as possible.	Sit down with your 24 child to discuss online safety.	Learn a magic 25 trick together and put on a show for the whole family.	Make a music 26 video to one of your child's favorite songs.	Make a list of all of 27 the things you both are thankful for. See if you can reach 100.	The Great Wall of 28 China is 5,500 miles long. Help your child convert that to feet and then inches.	Teach your child 29 about saving for the future and set up a savings account with them.
Challenge your 30 child to complete the crossword puzzle in the Sunday paper.						



PLAY A ROLE

IN YOUR CHILD'S SUCCESS IN SCHOOL.

Get the facts...get connected...GET INVOLVED!

Schools understand that parents are busy people, but there are many different ways you can get involved in your child's education. No matter how little or how much time you have, there are many ways you can positively impact your child's education at school and at home. Remember, when parents get involved and stay involved, all students achieve at higher levels.

1. VOLUNTEER AT SCHOOL

Schools often send home lists of various ways that parents can volunteer. If they don't, let your child's teachers, principal, or counselors know your special skills and ask what you can do to help.

2. SHOW YOUR CHILD THAT YOU CARE

Have a conversation with your child about school and homework regularly. Ask specific questions that inform you about your child's day. Know what classes your child is taking, who your child's friends are, and other essential information.

3. KEEP IN TOUCH WITH THE SCHOOL

Get to know your child's teachers, principal, counselors and school's parent involvement coordinator. Make it a point to stay in contact with them throughout the school year.

4. EXPRESS HIGH EDUCATIONAL EXPECTATIONS

Encourage your child to take challenging courses and monitor your child's academic performance (homework, grades, and test scores) throughout the year. Emphasize effort and achievement.

5. ATTEND SCHOOL MEETINGS, FUNCTIONS, AND EVENTS

Make time to attend parent-teacher conferences, parent fairs, curriculum nights, award ceremonies and other school events. Your attendance and support matters to your child.

6. SEEK OUT INFORMATION

Request a meeting with your child's teacher regarding any aspect of your child's education. If you have other questions, ask the school by calling or sending a note so they can link you with the appropriate person who can respond to your needs.

7. BE AN ACTIVE PART OF DECISION MAKING COMMITTEES

Participate in parent or school leadership organizations. Ask your school about the Parent Teacher Association or Parent Teacher Organization, school council, parent advisory committee or other parent organizations and then join one.

8. MAKE SCHOOL IMPORTANT

Talk positively about school with your child. Send your child prepared for school each day with pens, pencils, notebooks, and homework completed. Make school a priority by ensuring they are at school every day and arrive on time.

9. BE SEEN AT SCHOOL

Arrange a visit to your child's classroom, have lunch with your child at school, or visit the Parent Center. Your presence matters and shows the school that you are invested in your child's education.

10. BE INFORMED

AND RESPONSIVE Ask, collect, read, and respond, if needed, to all information (school policies, field trip information, student handbook, etc.) that is sent from your child's school or teacher. If you need to receive information in a language other than English, call or visit the school.

11. VISIT YOUR

SCHOOL'S WEBSITE Access all kinds of information, including homework assignments, class schedules, lesson plans, test dates, and grades on your child's school website. If you don't know your school's Website, ask your child's teacher or the school.

12. PARTICIPATE IN WORKSHOPS THAT ARE OFFERED

Look for great opportunities to meet other parents at school through workshops that cover topics such as child development, school standards, and other shared parent concerns. If workshops are not offered regularly, help plan one or suggest ideas to your school counselors or parent involvement coordinator.

13. PROVIDE A RICH LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

AT HOME Make time for meaningful dinner conversations, trips, games, reading time, family sports, and daily routines. Activities like these will contribute to your child's academic achievement at school.

14. DROP IN ON AFTER SCHOOL OR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Pick your child up from after-school activities or stop by a few minutes early to watch your child in action, if you are unavailable during the school day. It is also important to know your child's after school teacher, instructor, or coach.

15. INVITE THE COMMUNITY TO PARTNER WITH THE SCHOOL

Encourage local businesses, churches, clubs, or civic organizations that you are involved with to volunteer or financially support the school. Have community partners provide schools and families with information about services and resources they provide that support student learning such as mentoring, tutoring, and service learning activities.

