



# Welcoming Environments: Is Your School Family-Friendly?

# Agenda



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## ➤ Why

- Pre-Session Assessment
- Core Beliefs

## ➤ What

- National PTA Standards for Family-School Partnerships

## ➤ How

- Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership Schools




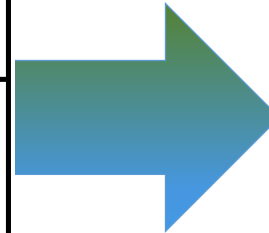
# How Family-Friendly Is Your School?



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**Please complete Column 1.**

 <p><b>How Family - Friendly Is Your School?</b> Part of the Georgia Family - Friendly Partnership School Initiative A partnership between Georgia Department of Education and Georgia Parental Information and Resource Center (GA PIRC)</p>	1	2
<p>Before viewing the Georgia Virtual Family - Friendly Partnership Schools , take a minute to complete this self assessment. <i>How family - friendly is your school?</i> In column one place a check mark beside the items you feel represent your school. Then, after viewing the Georgia Virtual Family - Friendly Partnership Schools review your choices . <i>Do you still think your school is family - friendly in those areas?</i> Now using column two place an X beside the items you would like to improve or implement in your school.</p>		
<p>1. The school is easy to find within the community and the front entrance of the building can be easily identified.</p>		
<p>2. The front of the school depicts a welcoming environment that naturally makes families and visitors feel accepted and at ease.</p>		
<p>3. The school provides various guest badges upon sign in representing either a parent, a volunteer, or a visitor.</p>		
<p>4. The front office staff is friendly and helpful. They assist and recognize visitors immediately, as well as answer the phone and treat visitors politely.</p>		



# Pre-Session Assessment



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- What does your school look like?
- Where are there areas of welcoming environments?
- Where are there areas for improvement?



# Core Beliefs

- Parents have dreams for their children and want the best for them.
- All parents have the capacity to support their children's learning.
- Parents and school staff should be equal partners.
- Responsibility for building partnerships between school and home rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders.



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*\*Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*, by Anne T. Henderson, Karen L. Mapp, Vivian R. Johnson, and Don Davies (New York, NY: The New Press, 2007).

# Why Welcoming Environments?



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***Welcoming environments*** provide parents with a reciprocal relationship where not only do they feel that they belong to the school, but also that the school belongs to them.

- Henderson, Mapp, Johnson, and Davies (2007)





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# PTA's National Standards for Family-School Partnerships



The focus is not what schools should do to engage parents—it is what parents, schools, and communities can do **together** to support student success.





# Georgia's Systems of Continuous Improvement



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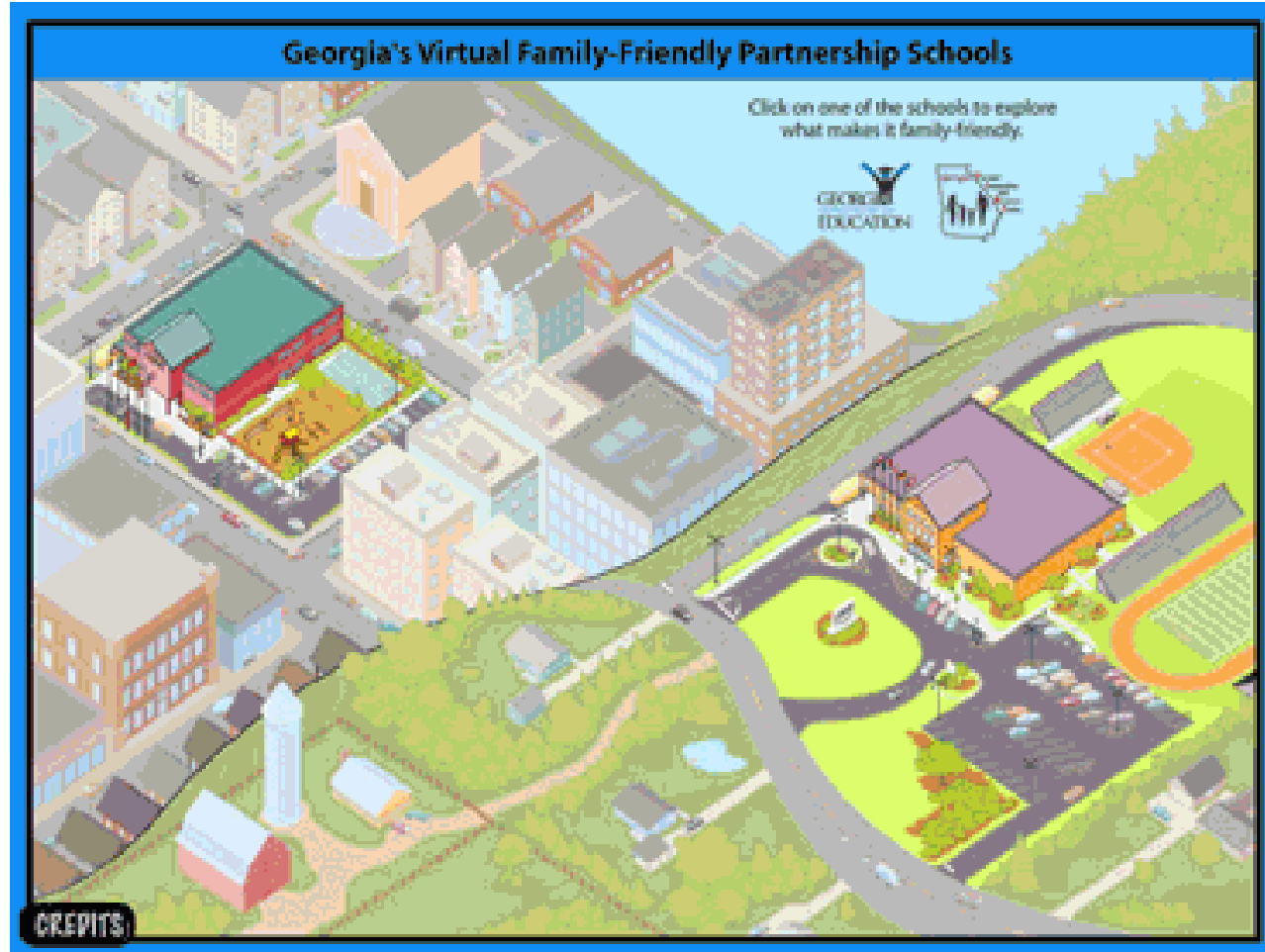


<http://www.gadoe.org/School-Improvement/Federal-Programs/Pages/default.aspx>

# Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership School Initiative



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# Previous Award Winning Schools



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# Where to Start: Data Based Decision Making

## Parent Survey

### Family - Friendly School Parent Survey

*Part of the Georgia Family - Friendly Partnership School Initiative  
A partnership between Georgia Department of Education and  
Georgia Parental Information and Resource Center (GA PIRC)*

For the following questions, please circle the answer that you agree with the most:				
I feel welcome and accepted at my child's school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
I enjoy visiting my child's school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school has parking spaces for parents.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
I am able to find my way easily around the school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school has opportunities that allow me to meet and speak with the staff at my child's school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
My child's principal and assistant principal are available and easy to approach.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
I am comfortable going to the front office when visiting my child's school.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school's front office staff is nice, polite, and helpful.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school has a translator for non-English speaking families when needed.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY
The school provides written materials in languages other than English for non-English speaking families.	YES	NO	NOT SURE	DOES NOT APPLY

# It's at partnerships.gadoe.org



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## Input

[ESSA State Plan](#)  
[Annual Evaluation](#)  
[State Superintendent's Parent Advisory Council \(PAC\)](#)

## Policies

## Compacts

## Building Capacity

[Academic Parent-Teacher Teams \(APTT\)](#)  
[Parent Capacity](#)  
[School Staff Capacity](#)

## Distribution

[Parent Notifications](#)  
[Annual Title I Parent Meeting](#)

## Georgia's Family-Friendly Partnership School Initiative

### Family-Friendly Partnership School Awards 2017 WINNERS AND FINALISTS ANNOUNCED

[Click here to learn who they are.](#)

### Why Create A Family-Friendly Partnership School?

According to the book *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide for Family-School Partnerships* by Anne Henderson, Karen Mapp, Vivian Johnson, and Don Davies (2007) welcoming environments provide parents with a reciprocal relationship where not only do they feel that they belong to the school, but the school belongs to them. Therefore, this sense of belonging motivates parents to be more active in their children's education, which in turn ultimately has a positive impact on student achievement!

## Contact

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### Parent Engagement Program Contact List

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## Handouts

- Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership School Award Handout



# It's at partnerships.gadoe.org



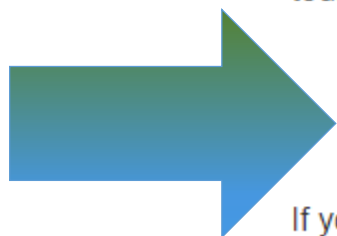
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## What Are Georgia's Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools?

To help schools, families, and communities work together in creating a Family-Friendly Partnership School, the Georgia Department of Education created Georgia's Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools. Georgia's Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools takes viewers on a virtual journey of an elementary and a middle-high school to show what makes a school family-friendly.

The intended audience includes educational leaders, school staff, parents, school, parent, or community organizations, and local business partners. Click on the handout materials on this webpage as a supplemental tool for building family-friendly schools.

To view Georgia's Virtual Family-Friendly Partnership Schools and begin your virtual tours, please click on the button below to download the program to your computer.

A rectangular button with rounded corners, a gradient from orange to red, and the text "Download Virtual Tour" in white. The button is circled with a yellow oval.

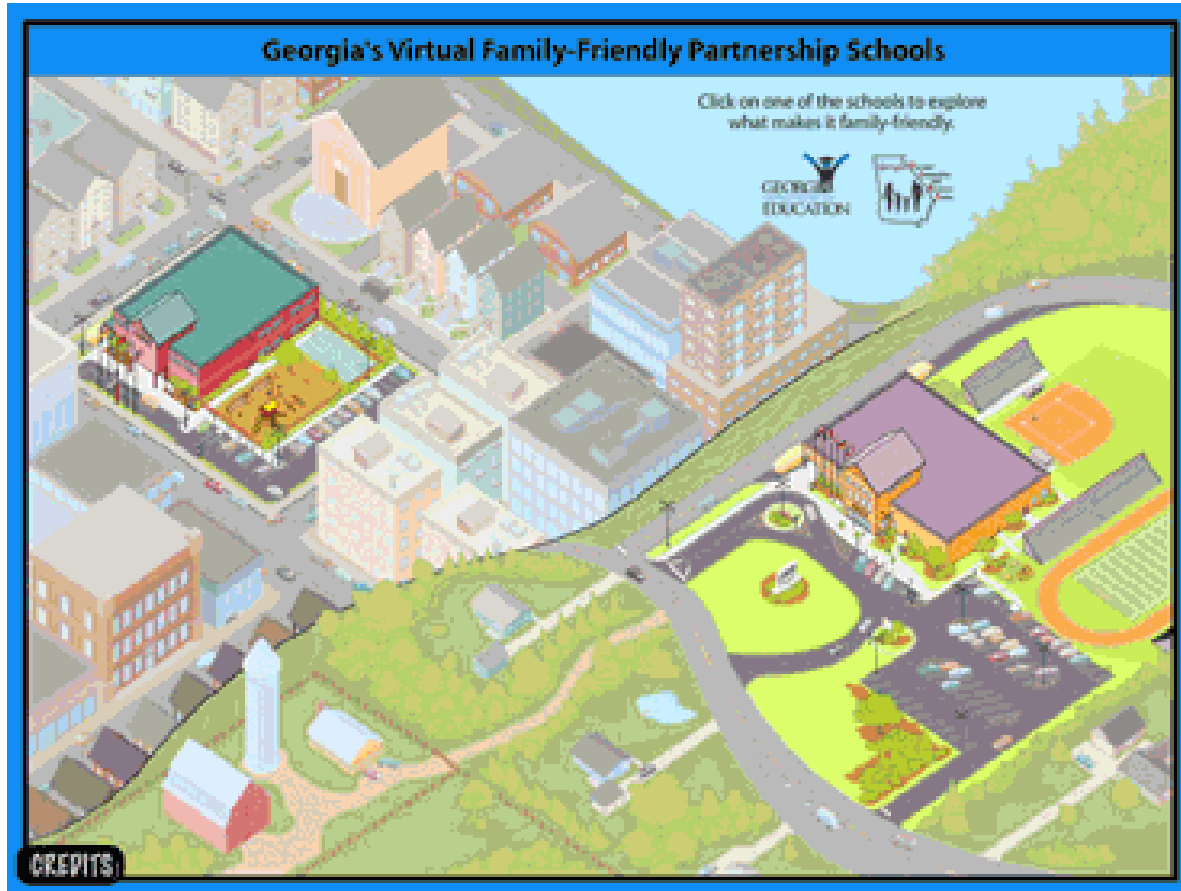
Download Virtual Tour

If you have trouble downloading the program to your computer, contact your Information Technology Specialist. You may also contact Jason Clay at [jclay@doe.k12.ga.us](mailto:jclay@doe.k12.ga.us).

# Virtual Tour



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➤ <http://partnerships.gadoe.org> or [http://bit.ly/ffps\\_learn](http://bit.ly/ffps_learn)

# Small Group Work



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## Handouts

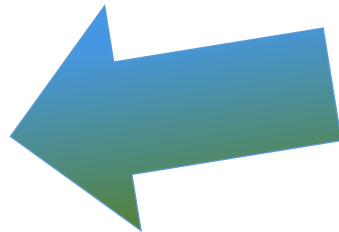
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- Winners and Finalists
- 2016 Georgia Family-Friendly Partnership Schools Awards Booklet
- Welcoming Environments Overview Powerpoint
- Workshop Handout
- Pre-Session Self Assessment
- Parent Survey - English
- Parent Survey - Spanish
- Parent Survey for Virtual Schools - English
- Parent Survey for Virtual Schools - Spanish
- Walk-Through Exercise
- Elementary Scenarios
- Middle-High Scenarios

➤ Elementary Scenarios

➤ Middle-High Scenarios

➤ <http://partnerships.gadoe.org> or  
[http://bit.ly/ffps\\_learn](http://bit.ly/ffps_learn)



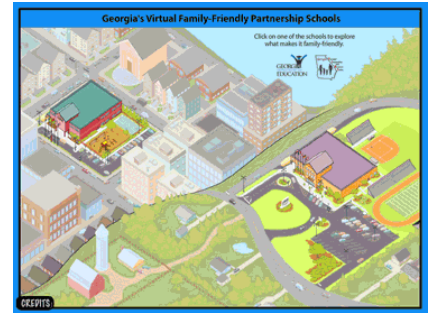


# Scenarios—Small Groups



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- Form small groups of 2-3 people.
- Read the scenario.
- Discuss with your small group what are some changes that can be made to improve the welcoming environment.
- Be prepared to summarize what your group discussed.



# Walk-Through Exercise



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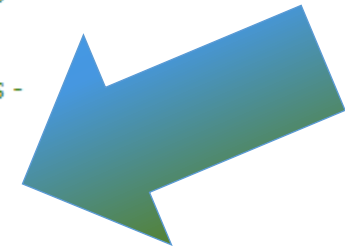
➤ Invite members of the school staff, the community, and other parents to walk through the school together using the handout.

➤ <http://partnerships.gadoe.org>  
or [http://bit.ly/ffps\\_learn](http://bit.ly/ffps_learn)

## Handouts

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# References



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[gadoe.org](http://ga.gov/gadoe)

- Georgia Department of Education's Family-Friendly Partnership Schools Initiative at [http://bit.ly/ffps\\_learn](http://bit.ly/ffps_learn)
- Henderson, A.T., Mapp, K.L., Johnson, V., Davies, D. (2007). Beyond the bake sale: The essential guide to family-school partnerships. New York, NY: The New Press.
- Parent Teacher Association. (n.d.). National standards for family-school partnerships. Retrieved from [http://www.pta.org/national\\_standards.asp](http://www.pta.org/national_standards.asp)

# Questions



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