
Richard Woods, State School Superintendent

Georgia School for the Deaf

Leslie Jackson,
Superintendent

**PRIORITY SCHOOL & INTRADISTRICT TRANSFER OPTION
PARENT NOTIFICATION
*July 27, 2016***

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s)/Student:

The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) of 1965 requires that parents or guardians who have children attending a Title I school be notified of how well their school is preparing its students for college and/or a career, as well as the school's designation status under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver.

Under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver, certain Title I schools are designated as Reward, Priority, Focus, or Alert schools. The Waiver also allows the use of the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI), which serves as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia. The CCRPI provides a score between 0-100 for each school, and that score measures how well the school is doing in preparing its students to be successful in college and/or a career.

The Georgia School for the Deaf (GSD) does not have enough students to generate a CCRPI score.

Despite the progress made by our students, the Georgia School for the Deaf has been designated as a Priority School under Georgia's ESEA Flexibility Waiver for the 2016-17 school year. This designation is based on our school's performance in 2011, and we keep this designation for three years, having begun in 2012.

A Priority School receives its designation in one of two ways: 1) It is in the lowest performing 5 percent of Title I schools in the state based on student test scores, and there has been a lack of growth in these test scores over a number of consecutive years, or 2) It is a Title I-participating or Title I-eligible high school with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of consecutive years.

As you know, GSD students tend to struggle in academic performance due to language delays. Although trend lines in every tested area continue to show increased achievement in standard scores, it continues to be difficult to achieve State expectations in percentage of students meeting or exceeding the standards on State assessments. Also, although GSD continues to produce graduates with regular diplomas (100% in 2013-14), we do not have enough students to form a calculable cohort, and our students often require additional time to achieve this milestone.

As a Priority School, we will work together with parents/guardians, our community, and the Georgia Department of Education (GADOE) to develop a school plan that delivers the necessary support to address the learning needs of our students and increase their academic success.

GSD continues to address student achievement gaps through providing appropriate, grade-level instruction to

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