

# North Metro GNETS Newsletter



January 2020

## Director's Corner

Monthly North Metro GNETS Eggs and Issues Updates

Team North Metro GNETS,

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe that 2020 is here, but it is and now things will appear to move at lightning speed. This year North Metro GNETS will be one of the many local educational agencies and/or programs that will be Cross Functional Monitored (CFM) by the Georgia Department of Education (GaDOE). All educational agencies and/or programs who receive federal funds are required to be monitored on a cyclical basis and 2020 is our year and it will take place on May 12, 2020. The GaDOE CFM team will be reviewing our North Metro GNETS Special Education Supports and Services provided, effective implementation of IDEA, Professional Qualifications (PQ) of our staff, Right to Know Letters, 20-Day Notification Letters, teachers, leaders, our PLGs/PLPs, Due Process Checklist for Student Folder Review, IDEA Fiscal Monitoring Checklist for GNETS, North Metro GNETS Procedural Manual and Guidance Handbook in conjunction with the "GaDOE Special Education Rules Outline", and our Internal Controls, Expenditures, Inventory, Drawdowns, and Cost Principles procedures. The CFM in May is in addition to, not in place of the annual GNETS Strategic Plan review. Yes, this means we will have two different focus monitoring visits this year which will probably occur in May 2020. There is absolutely no need to worry. North Metro GNETS is the best of the best GNETS programs in the state of Georgia because of you and all that you do for our students. As always, I want to always be transparent and share with you what's going on in our program and behind the scenes. Teamwork makes the dreamwork and I appreciate each of you being a valuable member of our North Metro GNETS team. Stay tuned. More to come. Happy 2020!

*Cassandra Allen Holifield, PhD, RBT*

<https://nmgnets.org/>



### January 2020:

Complete the FY 20 NM GNETS Mid-Year School Climate Surveys (the links will be sent to all staff to complete by or before January 13, 2020)

Complete all NM GNETS PQ Notebooks to date and include all staff certifications, their master schedules/assignments, 20 Day Notification Letters, Right to Know letters, by or before your LKES mid-year/formative evaluation scheduled in January 2020 (Site Coordinators Only)

Complete all NM GNETS mid-year/formative evaluations for all staff by or before January 30, 2020.

Complete all student packets due this month

# Trauma Informed Care Update!



**North Metro is a Trauma Informed Care (TIC) program. TIC is a GNETS a state initiative. Here are a few trauma informed care techniques we can use with our students:**

1. Shift your mindset about your students. Instead of asking “What is wrong with John?” ask “What happened to this child to make him act this way?” You may not get the answers you want but understanding that trauma was experienced will help us know how to understand and support the student.
2. By creating awareness, we can better understand how to respond to trauma. Children who have experienced trauma respond out of fear, shame and guilt. The responses may look like defiant, manipulative and avoidant. We must understand that their responses are functional for the child to let us know what they want. By understanding behavior this way can help us rethink other ways for the students needs to be met.
3. Try to teach students about their brains. Empower them to utilize and learn their stress response system in order to use their coping skills in the classroom. Certain strategies can be mindful and deep breathing, learning what soothes them when upset and also simply asking for assistance.
4. Continue to build relationships with students not solely on academics. Learn their hobbies, favorite music and musical artists, movies. Once students know that you care about them as individuals, they are more likely to open up and be more forthcoming with their experiences.

## *Upcoming Due Dates:*

Complete all TKES and LKES evaluations in the TLSD and make sure you are up to date and ready for the Formative Evaluations and Conferences due by or before January 31, 2020

Complete all Contributing Professionals evaluations using paper and pencil and make sure they are up to date in the TKES, LKES, & Contributing Professionals Notebook due by or before January 31, 2020

Counter aggression and successful crisis management training for all schools are due on January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020

# Curriculum and Instruction and Compliance

## **High Leverage Practice of the Month:**

**HLP12** Systematically design instruction toward a specific learning goal.

Teachers help students to develop important concepts and skills that provide the foundation for more complex learning. Teachers sequence lessons that build on each other and make connections explicit, in both planning and delivery. They activate students' prior knowledge and show how each lesson “fits” with previous ones. Planning involves careful consideration of learning goals, what is involved in reaching the goals, and allocating time accordingly. Ongoing changes (e.g., pacing, examples) occur throughout the sequence based on student performance.

### **HLP13** Adapt curriculum tasks and materials for specific learning goals.

Teachers assess individual student needs and adapt curriculum materials and tasks so that students can meet instructional goals. Teachers select materials and tasks based on student needs; use relevant technology; and make modifications by highlighting relevant information, changing task directions, and decreasing amounts of material. Teachers make strategic decisions on content coverage (i.e., essential curriculum elements), meaningfulness of tasks to meet stated goals, and criteria for student success.

### **HLP14** Teach cognitive and metacognitive strategies to support learning and independence.

Teachers explicitly teach cognitive and metacognitive processing strategies to support memory, attention, and self-regulation of learning. Learning involves not only understanding content but also using cognitive processes to solve problems, regulate attention, organize thoughts and materials, and monitor one's own thinking. Self-regulation and metacognitive strategy instruction is integrated into lessons on academic content through modeling and explicit instruction. Students learn to monitor and evaluate their performance in relation to explicit goals and make necessary adjustments to improve learning.

#### **Curriculum, Instruction, and Compliance Tip:**

i-Ready Diagnostic Window 2 has closed. If students need to complete a re-test, please let your CIBC Coordinator know promptly and she will assist in this process. This also means it's time for the Site Coordinators to begin their Diagnostic Data Chats with each teacher! 😊. Reminder for the lead teachers to conduct i-Ready Online Data Chats and model at least one lesson with each teacher each month. Also, Site Coordinators & Lead Teachers, remember to be completing Student Packets as IEP meetings occur for your students. Data Binder Checks for Quarter 2 should be completed. Please complete any follow-up checks as needed.

## **Behavior Specialist**

#### **Tips of the Month:**

- **Next Mindset Trainings are January 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> at Haven**
- **Next RBT courses is documentation and reporting on 1/22/2020**
- **Begin scoring FBA/BIPs and complete BIP fidelity Walkthroughs for students who have IEPs in February and March.**
- **Review behavior plans for teachers who are not implementing them correctly**
- **Pairing and building relationships should be on-going**
- **Be sure to use frequent and or immediate reinforcers (for students who cannot go the whole day or end of the week without reinforcement ex. PBIS store).**

## **Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports**

Again, thank you to each of you for your commitment to PBIS through this year! NM GNETS is proud of all the progress we have made thus far towards creating more Role Models, who are Respectful & Responsible in school and their community! Continue to keep up the good work!

- Complete the drill down sheet and review the action plan at the next PBIS meeting.
- Since winter break is over, please schedule a mini booster training. Identify a mini booster training topic using the walkthrough, TFI, and SAS results.

## Special Announcements & KUDOS!

We would like to acknowledge Fulton County School Psychologist, Jennifer Laubach! Jennifer has started weekly sessions with the AU kiddos at Elkins Pointe, better known as “**Getting Jiggy with Jen!**” Each week, there is a different theme. She cooks with the students, explaining and implementing various recipes, utilizing different measuring and cooking utensils. The students absolutely love it!



We would like to give a huge Congratulations to Morgan Carter who is expecting a beautiful baby boy on May 1, 2020!!!



### MINDFULNESS MEDITATION OF THE MONTH....



<https://www.mindful.org/10-ways-to-define-mindfulness/>